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English B – Higher level – Paper 2 – Reading comprehension
Anglais B – Niveau supérieur – Épreuve 2 – Compréhension écrite
Inglés B – Nivel Superior – Prueba 2 – Comprensión de lectura

5 November 2024 / 5 novembre 2024 / 5 de noviembre de 2024

Zone A afternoon	Zone B afternoon	Zone C afternoon
Zone A après-midi	Zone B après-midi	Zone C après-midi
Zona A tarde	Zona B tarde	Zona C tarde

1 h

Text booklet – Instructions to candidates

- Do not open this booklet until instructed to do so.
- This booklet accompanies paper 2 reading comprehension.

Livret de textes – Instructions destinées aux candidats

- N'ouvrez pas ce livret avant d'y être autorisé(e).
- Ce livret accompagne la partie de l'épreuve 2 portant sur la compréhension écrite.

Cuadernillo de textos – Instrucciones para los alumnos

- No abra este cuadernillo hasta que se lo autoricen.
- Este cuadernillo acompaña a la parte de comprensión de lectura de la prueba 2.

Text A

Microchips and drones: Kenyan conservationists' high-tech fight against poachers

- 1** Kenyan wildlife officials are planning to implant microchips into the horns of every rhino in the country in order to combat poaching. It's hoped that the chips will not only allow the rhinos to be more effectively monitored, but that the ability to track horns individually will help crack down on illegal smuggling and provide evidence for prosecutors. "With poachers getting more sophisticated in their approach it is vital that conservation efforts embrace the use of more sophisticated technology to counter the killing of wildlife", said the Kenyan Wildlife Service (KWS).
- 2** The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has donated chips and five scanners for the project at a cost of 1.3 million Kenyan shillings, but tracking and fitting the devices in the country's 1,000 plus rhino population will cost much more than this.
- 3** Poaching in Kenya has increased significantly in recent years, with hunters targeting elephants as well as rhinos. Since the beginning of 2013 poachers have killed 34 rhinos, a 17 per cent increase from the whole of 2012 and in August this year a rhino was even killed in Nairobi's national park, one of the most guarded sites in the country.
- 4** The demand for rhino horns comes mainly from other countries where people believe the horn to be an effective medicine. Rhino horns are made from keratin, the same material as human fingernails and hair, and although the animals can survive having their horn chopped off, poachers often kill them to make the collection of the horn easier. The KWS has said that the project's success would not only safeguard Kenya's rhino population but help combat the groups of organized criminals that profit from the illegal trade and secure Kenya's economically vital tourism industry.
- 5** Other high-tech conservation efforts in Kenya include a project launched last year by Google and the WWF using drones to track endangered species including rhinos and elephants. A \$5 million grant from Google's Global Impact Award program is funding the operation, with conservationists controlling autonomous aircraft with tablet computers. Although the drones' intended use was to provide aerial coverage, it's been reported that they have a secondary use in herding elephants away from danger—be that poachers or areas where conflict with humans is possible. Wildlife researchers believe that the elephants confuse the buzzing noise produced by the drones for a swarm of bees, and run away whenever they hear the devices approaching.



Text B

Be our guest: Welcome to London's greenest hotel

- 1** The opening of The Corner London City in Aldgate last autumn brought something different to this part of east London. Formerly the Qbic, transformed from a derelict office block into an eco-minded hotel, the rebrand brings changes, both architectural—knocking down walls to create an open-plan space—and sustainable, with multiple measures taken to give the hotel an even greener lease of life. I'm keen to learn how green a 183-room urban hotel can really be.



- 2** The hotel's greenery is in good hands. French manager Mohamed Mezaga is passionate about plants. He's so green-fingered, the hotel's gardener even turns to him for tips, he adds with a smile. He explains how he takes cuttings from existing plants to add to the growing collection. Some guests ask to take the plants from their room home or even bring in their own, less-pampered versions for the hotel to tend. Mohamed plans to install beehives on the rooftop, with 250 plants and flowers for the bees to feed on, so expect sweet, home-harvested honey on future menus and in cocktails.
- 3** The hotel's dazzling eco achievements are colourfully illustrated on a wall near the lift. The Corner produces 67 per cent fewer CO2 emissions than the UK industry average, thanks to sensor LED lighting and 40 solar panels tucked up on the roof. Not only that, but they use 41 per cent less water due to airdrop shower heads, which mix air with water to reduce consumption by 25 per cent, plus water filtration, among other measures. They're currently awaiting confirmation of B Corp status, a stringent certification that measures a company's social and environmental performance.
- 4** What's also different here from any other hotel I have stayed in is that everyone multitasks. It's part of the hotel's ethos, meaning increased skill sets for all and includes English lessons for foreign-born cleaners, on the house. As a guest, it feels homely to have the same person who checked you in bringing you your dinner.
- 5** Each room is different, but all share a similar theme: locally sourced fixtures and fittings and ingenious sleeping/bathing pods that take a nifty, time-saving six hours to assemble. Much of the furniture is made by Dutch designer Sander Bokkinga, who uses reclaimed wood for clothes stands and old hosepipes twisted into funky lamps. So far, so good for the planet. Thirsty? There are glass bottles of filtered water. There's also a recycling bin—all plastic, paper and glass is recycled—and organic toiletries in reusable containers. And, of course, plenty of plants. The effect is relaxing, energizing and impressive. It silently raises the question: why aren't all hotels trying this hard? Whichever room type you stay in, choose not to get it cleaned and you'll be handed a £5 voucher for a drink at the bar. If that's not an incentive to be eco-friendly, I don't know what is.

Text C

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- Text A** Vincent, J., 2013. Microchips and drones: Kenyan conservationists' high-tech fight against poachers. *The Independent*, [online] 17 October. Available at: <https://www.independent.co.uk/tech/microchips-and-drones-kenyan-conservationists-hightech-fight-against-poachers-8887236.html> [Accessed 23 September 2023]. Source adapted.
- JasonPrince, 2010. *White rhinocerus thinking*. [image online] Available at: <https://www.gettyimages.co.uk/detail/photo/white-rhinoceros-thinking-royalty-free-image/125921705> [Accessed 3 May 2024]. Source adapted.
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