

The English School

Diagnostic Examination 2025

ENGLISH

Time Allowed: 1hr

General Instructions:

1. Answer all questions
2. Write neatly
4. Check your work carefully at the end

Time Guidance:

Section A: Information Retrieval and Vocabulary (32 marks) – 20 mins

Section B: Usage (43 marks) – 20 mins

Section C: Writing Task (25 marks) – 20 mins

Good Luck!

Section A: Information Retrieval and Vocabulary

(32 marks)

Read the following adapted article, *'The Iberian Lynx'* and answer the questions that follow.



The Iberian Lynx

Spain's rewilding of Iberian lynx at risk after efforts by hunters and farmers

Regional governments give in to pressure from agricultural industry.

Twenty-five years ago the Iberian lynx was close to extinction, having been classed, along with wolves, as pests. After the efforts of different governments including the EU, Spain, Portugal and local people, its position was changed last year from "endangered" to "vulnerable". Only last year it was considered a protection success story: the Iberian lynx, which had been close to extinction, had sprung back to life thanks to a two-decade-long effort to grow the population.

Now, however, that progress is at risk after several local governments in Spain gave in to pressure from farmers and hunters to block the reintroduction of the species into the wild.

Those against the lynx have made discoveries, threatening to undo efforts that helped its population grow to about 2,000 across Spain and Portugal.

In Aragón, disapproval to the lynx programme was led by the then agriculture minister, Mr Samper. Mr Samper claimed the wildcats were attacking sheep. Mr Pérez, Spain's specialist on the lynx, says attacks on livestock are practically non-existent.

Mr Valero, the head of the Aragón government's hunting and fishing department, was against the reintroduction of the lynx, saying: "It's wrong to bring them back just because they were here 20 or 100 years ago. It makes us look like Jurassic Park."

But it is not only there that Spain's native wildcat is under pressure. Last month the Catalan government agreed to block the introduction of wolves, bears and lynx, despite there being too rabbits in the region. Mr Pérez says rabbits make up 90% of the lynx's diet.

The plan was to release lynx, where there has been an explosion in the rabbit population. However, the Catalan government has allowed farmers to remove the rabbits with chemicals such as aluminium phosphide.

"The hunters don't want them, nor do the farmers," said Mr Martín. "They say they will attract more tourism but it's not worth it for the impact it has on our way of life."

Answer the questions that follow, in complete sentences where necessary.

1. How many Iberian lynxes were there about 25 years ago?

Number of lynxes _____

(1 mark)

2. List three reasons why farmers and hunters are worried about the Iberian lynx.

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____
(3 marks)

3. Do experts believe that lynx attacks on farm animals happen often? Explain why or why not.

(2 marks)

4. Circle the correct answer to the following questions:

i. What was the Iberian lynx's status changed to last year?

- A) Endangered
- B) Vulnerable
- C) Extinct
- D) Safe

ii. Who led the disapproval of the lynx programme in Aragón?

- A) Mr Pérez
- B) Mr Valero
- C) Mr Samper
- D) Mr Martín

iii. What percentage of the lynx's diet is made up of rabbits?

- A) 50%
- B) 70%
- C) 90%
- D) 100%

iv. Why did the Catalan government block the introduction of wolves, bears, and lynx?

- A) There were too many rabbits.
- B) Farmers and hunters opposed it.
- C) It would attract more tourism.
- D) It was too expensive.

v. What chemical did the Catalan government allow farmers to use to remove rabbits?

- A) Aluminium phosphide
- B) Pesticides
- C) Herbicides
- D) Fertilizers

vi. What did Mr Valero compare the reintroduction of the lynx to?

- A) A zoo
- B) Jurassic Park
- C) A safari
- D) A nature reserve

vii. What is the main reason farmers and hunters oppose the reintroduction of the lynx?

- A) They believe it will harm livestock.
- B) They think it will disrupt their way of life.
- C) They fear it will decrease tourism.
- D) They worry about the cost.

viii. Who claimed that attacks on livestock by lynx are practically non-existent?

- A) Mr Samper
- B) Mr Valero
- C) Mr Pérez
- D) Mr Martín

(8 marks)

5. When was the Iberian lynx's status downgraded from "endangered" to "vulnerable"?

(1 mark)

6. What is the main diet of the Iberian lynx according to experts?

(1 mark)

7. Tick if the following statements are true or false, according to the passage.

Statement	True	False
The Iberian lynx was almost extinct 25 years ago.		
Farmers and hunters support the reintroduction of the lynx.		
The Vox party is against the lynx reintroduction.		
The lynx mostly eat sheep.		
The lynx program was stopped in Aragón.		
The lynx is not affected by political arguments.		
The Catalan government allowed farmers to use chemicals to remove rabbits.		
Mr Pérez says attacks on livestock by lynx are practically non-existent.		

(8 marks)

8. Using your own words, explain what the writer means by each of the words below. They have also been underlined in the passage for your easy reference:

i. extinction:

(1 mark)

ii. vulnerable:

(1 mark)

iii. reintroduction:

(1 mark)

iv. pressure:

(1 mark)

v. explosion:

_____ (1 mark)

vi. tourism:

_____ (1 mark)

9. Find a word or phrase from the last paragraph of the passage which suggests the same idea as the words below.

i. bring in: _____

ii. effect: _____

(2 marks)

Section B: Usage

(43 marks)



1. Write five sentences describing the Iberian lynx.

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

(5 marks)

2. Write a paragraph (around 50 words) about a time when you learned about an animal that is endangered (at risk of no longer existing).

You may write about the following:

- What animal it was;
- Why it was endangered (at risk of no longer existing).

(8 marks)

3. Imagine you have been asked to write a visitor's guide to a wildlife reserve.

Fill in the gaps to the sentences below which you will include in your guide.

e.g. In the wildlife reserve, you can (to see) see many different animals.

The reserve is perfect for (to watch) _____ animals in their natural habitat.
While (to walk) _____ along the trails, you'll enjoy the beauty of nature.
Don't forget (to bring) _____ a camera to capture the amazing wildlife.
Visitors (to learn) _____ about conservation efforts at the reserve.
Before leaving, make sure (to visit) _____ the information centre for more details.
As you (to explore) _____ the reserve, you might see rare animals like the Iberian lynx.
The reserve offers guided tours for those interested in (to understand) _____ more about the ecosystem.
While (to relax) _____ at the picnic areas, you can enjoy the sounds of nature.
Remember to (to respect) _____ the wildlife and keep a safe distance from the animals.

(9 marks)

4. Write the questions to the following answers like in the example:

e.g. The place is very different.

What makes the place special?

a) The Iberian lynx population grew to about 2,000.

b) Experts say lynx attacks on livestock are very rare.

c) The lynx mostly eat rabbits

d) The Vox party stopped the lynx reintroduction in some areas.

e) Yes, the lynx is still at risk

f) The lynx programme was stopped in Aragón.

(12 marks)

5. Read each sentence carefully. Identify any errors in grammar, punctuation, or word usage. Correct the sentences by rewriting them accurately.

e.g. *The cat chased it's tail around and around.*

The cat chased its tail around and around.

a) Farmers is worried about the lynx eating their livestock.

b) The lynx population have grown to about 2,000.

c) Experts says lynx attacks on livestock are rare.

d) The government decided to kill rabbits with chemicals instead of bring in lynx.

e) The lynx mostly eats rabbit and partridges.

f) The lynx programme was stop in Aragón.

g) The lynx is caught up in political arguments and unrelated issue.

h) Hunters doesn't want the lynx because they think it will reduce the number of animals they can hunt.

i) The future of the Iberian lynx are uncertain again.

(9 marks)

Section C: Writing Task

(25 marks)

Write about a time when you met someone from a different country.

Write around 200 words.

- Explain where you met them
- Describe what you talked about
- Make sure you include your feelings about the experience

[illegible]

[illegible]

- This is the end of the examination –