

Read Passage A and Passage B and then answer all the questions which follow.

Passage A

- 1 The dead elephant lay on his side, right leg curled as if in wrenching pain. It was a sight I had seen hundreds of times in central Africa. As I passed my hand over his body from trunk to tail, tears poured down my cheeks. This elephant's ancestors had survived centuries of raiding by the armies of Arab and African sultans from the north in search of slaves and ivory. He had lived through civil wars and droughts, only to be killed today for a few pounds of ivory to satisfy human vanity in some distant land. Souleyman Mando, the commander of our detachment of mounted park rangers, was silent. I sensed a dark need for revenge. The feeling was mutual. 5
- 2 In Zakouma National Park, anti-poaching is dangerous business. Officially, guards are allowed to defend themselves if poachers shoot. Unofficially, it is shoot-to-kill on both sides, so better to be the first to pull the trigger. In the past eight years, six guards have been killed by poachers, and at least six poachers by guards. 10
- 3 There is little love lost between our ragtag fighting force – a mix of sedentary tribesmen from local villages – and the mounted Arab nomads who are the main culprits in the killing of Zakouma's elephants. Souleyman contemplated tracking the poachers, but now his men had a new obsession: ivory. Finding ivory in the bush provokes a fever in most Africans I have known; the guards, dedicated as they were to protecting the park, were no different. 15
- 4 By now, other guards had joined us, and pity for the dead bull gave way to a frenetic chopping of tusks. Extracting a deeply embedded conical tooth – easily marred by a stray blow – was precise, delicate work. Finally, after nearly an hour, the tusk broke free from tons of flesh and bone with a loud, painful crack. The men began to chop the second tooth from the skull. This ivory was all they had to show for four days of hard pursuit to protect the park, and it was not even theirs to keep. It would be locked away at headquarters in a depot filled with a growing pile of confiscated tusks. Ivory taken by poachers either follows a path from the bush to regional cities, where it is sold as sculptures and jewellery, or finds its ways to Asia through a network of black market traders. 20 25
- 5 In the dry season, the landscape of Zakouma National Park in southeastern Chad holds a nomad's treasure – the first permanent water south of the Sahara. Somehow, despite a tumultuous history of slavery, colonialism, and civil war, humans have found a place in their hearts to make a refuge for wild life here. Even today, as refugees stream into Chad from Sudan, elephants live in Zakouma in relative peace. The natural world persists in abundance, while thousands of our own are dying. 30
- 6 But Zakouma is tiny, and every year as the dry season relaxes its grip, some 3,500 elephants leave the park to find better forage. Danger awaits them. In a Texas-size region stretching from southern Sudan to the edge of the Congo forests, humans have been responsible for a precipitous decline of elephants, from perhaps 300,000 in the early 1970s to some 10,000 today. 35

Adapted from 'Ivory Wars' by J. Michael Fay, National Geographic (March 2007)

Passage B

- 1 Under the blazing sun outside Harbin, in northeast China, Tiger No. 31 pounces at a live chicken chucked out by the driver of a van packed with tourists. Cameras snap away in morbid fascination.
- 2 If a proposed lifting of a Chinese ban on the sale of tiger parts goes through, the fate of Tiger No. 31, a resident of this tiger park and breeding farm, may not be much better than the chicken's. After he dies, his bones will be crushed up into potions for treating rheumatism. His skin will be turned into a jacket. His reproductive organs – the original Viagra, according to some Chinese – will be slurped up in soup by an aging believer looking to revive his sex life. 5
- 3 By some accounts, the market in tiger-driven medicine brought in more than \$12 million a year before China banned the sale of tiger parts in 1993, helping to stabilise wild-tiger populations that were perilously close to extinction. Now some Chinese officials – under fierce lobbying from tiger farmers and would-be parts peddlers – want to lift the injunction to regain that lost market. That has alarmed conservationists, who fear that scrapping the ban could undo the progress of the last 14 years. 10 15
- 4 On its surface, creating a regulated market for tiger parts has a certain appeal. Chinese officials and others note that demand for such parts persists regardless of the ban. "It will be a waste if the resources of dead tigers aren't used for traditional medicine," said wildlife-conservation official Wang Wei. Legalising the trade, they argue, could actually help protect wild tigers by reducing the incentive for illegal poaching. Free-market proponents point to the case of wild crocodiles. For the past few decades, many countries have allowed a regulated trade in captive-bred crocodile skins and other parts from farms or ranches. Even many conservationists agree this has helped save some wild-crocodile populations from poachers. 20
- 5 But comparisons between crocs and tigers do not hold, in part because tigers are far more expensive to raise than crocodiles, upping the incentive to poach instead of farm. In India a tiger can be poisoned for less than a dollar, while raising one in captivity will cost \$3,500 to \$10,000. What is more, say conservationists who almost unanimously supported a U.N. resolution against lifting the ban, tiger parts from places like India could be trafficked to China. There buyers would have no way to distinguish illegal parts from legal ones, which means poached tigers and parts could be "laundered" as farmed ones. "Law-enforcement controls are not in place in China to police the tiger-farm trade," says the World Wildlife Fund's chief scientist, Eric Dinerstein. 25 30
- 6 Some inside and outside China raise another question: should the Chinese government be giving official sanction to a trade that sceptics say is based on pseudo-science? "Tiger parts have no proven effect as drugs or medicine – they're useless," says Zu Shuxian, retired professor of epidemiology and outspoken critic of traditional Chinese medicine. Zu and others argue that lifting the ban could jeopardise wild tigers in order to supply a market that is fundamentally fraudulent. 35
- 7 Others say the Chinese should note Russia's strategy in preserving its wild Siberian tigers. Only a few dozen strong 50 years ago, the population is now some 500 in the wild, thanks to huge nature reserves that were created for the tigers, a well-enforced hunting ban and "buffer areas" to separate tiger and human populations. Conserving wild tigers is really about proper landscape-use and getting people to change their behaviour. 40

8 Such efforts are more likely to help wild tigers than a risky experiment in selling organs and parts whose medical benefits are questionable. Conservationists and diplomats are now appealing to the Chinese government to keep the ban in place. The fate of Tiger No. 31 – and his wild cousins – will hang on Beijing's decision. 45

Adapted from 'Tigers by the Tail' by Jonathan Adams, Newsweek (July 30 2007)

Read Passage A and Passage B and then answer **all** the questions which follow below.

You are recommended to answer the questions in the order set.

Mistakes in spelling, punctuation and grammar may be penalised in any part of the paper.

NOTE: When a question asks you to answer in your own words, YOU MUST NOT COPY THE WORDS IN THE PASSAGE IN YOUR ANSWER.

From Passage A

From paragraph 1:

- 1 (a) Which phrase tells us that there has been a long history of attacks on elephants? [1]
(b) What was ironic about the elephant's death? [2]
(c) According to the writer, why was the commander of the detachment silent? [2]

From paragraph 2:

- 2 Explain in your own words why 'anti-poaching is dangerous business'. [1]

From paragraph 3:

- 3 'Souleyman contemplated tracking the poachers, but now his men had a new obsession: ivory'. In your own words as far as possible, give **two** other reasons why you think the guards did not have more success with tracking the poachers. [2]

From paragraph 4:

- 4 (a) Explain fully why extracting the tusk was 'precise, delicate work'. [1]
(b) Why did the guards extract the tusks? [2]

From paragraph 5:

- 5 (a) From a historical perspective, give **two** reasons why the writer finds it amazing that "humans have found a place in their hearts to make a refuge for wild life" in Zakouma. **Answer in your own words.** [2]
- (b) "...thousands of our own are dying." Who is the writer referring to? [1]

From paragraph 6:

- 6 Why does danger still await the elephants? [1]

From Passage B

From paragraph 1:

- 7 Explain fully why the writer describes the tourists' actions of taking photos as a form of 'morbid fascination'. [2]

From paragraph 3:

- 8 Which expression in this paragraph carries the same idea as 'scrapping the ban'? [1]

From paragraph 6:

- 9 Why do sceptics say that the trade of tiger parts is based on pseudo-science? [1]

From paragraph 8:

- 10 What decision will the wild tigers' fate depend on? [1]

From Passage A and Passage B

- 11 For each of the following words, give **one** word or short phrase (of not more than **seven** words) which has the same meaning that the word has in the passage. [5]

From Passage A

1. contemplated (line 16)
2. frenetic (line 19)
3. precipitous (line 37)

From Passage B

4. appeal (line 16)
5. fraudulent (line 39)

From Passage B

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Using your own words as far as possible, summarise the arguments for and against lifting the Chinese ban on the sale of tiger parts.

USE THE MATERIAL IN PASSAGE B FROM LINE 10 TO LINE 44.

Your summary, which must be in continuous writing (not note form), must not be longer than **150 words** (not counting the words given to help you begin).

Begin your summary as follows:

Tiger farmers and parts peddlers want the ban lifted because ...

End of Paper

Answer Sheets

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Passage A

- Q1a) The phrase is 'centuries of raiding'.
- Q1b) The elephant managed to survive through many years of local natural calamities and man-made hunting atrocities but now succumbed to an act of human vanity, merely for that few pounds of ivory in the form of its tusks.
- Q1c) The commander fell silent as he was angered by the elephant killing and probably also had a great urge to hit back at the poachers for their incorrigible act.
- Q2. It is a serious dangerous business as poachers are not afraid to kill a fellow human to satisfy their greed. The guards and poachers are literally hunting each other down with 'live' arms, endangering their own lives for their separate causes, as seen from the number of casualties from either side sustained so far.
- Q3. The local guards were not at all motivated by hunting down the poachers as they will not stand to gain anything by hunting them down. Also the guards will have to endanger their lives in the process of hunting the poachers down upon contact with them, which they would rather avoid for now.
- Q4a) The tusk has to be extracted slowly and carefully from its deeply embedded position to allow for easier loosening from the skull. Also, care has to be taken too as any stray blow will break the tusk at unwanted positions, destroying the completeness and quality of the tusk.
- Q4b) The guards have to extract the tusks to prevent poachers from retrieving their loot upon uncovering the dead elephant effortlessly. Also, the tusks being national property will have to be confiscated by the local authorities for safeguarding.
- Q5a) The writer finds it amazing as throughout history, much violence had gone by, be it civil war or slavery. In spite of such violence in the hearts of the humans, they still have a little conscience to care for the affected wildlife. Also, humans themselves have no permanent place that they can call home and yet they still allocate a permanent thriving place for the wildlife in the area, very much an amazing feat.
- Q5b) The writer was referring to humans or refugees, dying of civil war and at the mercy of the natural calamities.
- Q6. The elephants move out of the 'safe' region in search of better land, however, men lie in wait to hunt down the elephants' tusks for monetary gains, yet again.

Passage B

- Q7. The tourists were fascinated by the hunting of a chicken by Tiger No. 31 and started clicking at their cameras to capture the moment of the morbid killing of the animal.
- Q8. The expression is 'lift the injunction'.
- Q9. Sceptics say that the trade of tiger parts was pseudo science as there was no medically proven effects the tiger parts had for its claimed purpose.
- Q10. The wild tigers' fate will depend on China's decision to either continue enforcing or retracting the ban on the sale of tiger parts.
- Q11. i) Considered thoroughly
ii) Frantic
iii) Extremely steep
iv) Attraction
v) Dishonest

- Q13. Points Should Include:

For lifting:

- Tiger-driven sales will bring additional revenue in for China
- Demand for tiger medicine still exists regardless of the ban
- Legalizing the tiger trade may protect wild tigers by reducing the incentive for illegal poaching
- Sale of stockpiled dead tiger parts can appease the market's demand
- Hunted and trafficked tiger parts may be laundered as farmed parts to fuel the demand eventually, defeating the purpose of the ban altogether.

Against lifting:

- Wild tiger populations may be driven to extinction again
- Farming tigers may help conserve the population of wild tigers
- Tiger medicine has no proven medical effects and the sale of it merely jeopardizes wild tiger population with this dishonest cause
- A continuation of the ban and stronger enforcement such as implementing stricter segregation of tigers and humans will in time, change the mindset of the people and bring benefits to the protection