

## TEST EXERCISE 5

### QUESTION 1: COMPREHENSION

Read the following extract (TEXT A) and answer the questions that follow:

	<b>‘No one is allowed to go out’: stories about the coronavirus outbreak</b>
1	The outbreak of the new coronavirus is <u>wreaking havoc</u> worldwide. In China, the <u>epicentre</u> of the epidemic, the virus has infected tens of thousands of people and killed more than 2,100. Unprecedented measures meant to contain the spread have brought millions of daily lives to a halt, and the effects have touched economies and global supply chains.
2	The restrictions have also brought unique challenges to scientists. Some have suspended their usual research to study the coronavirus. Others have had their work or personal lives disrupted by lab closures, travel restrictions or problems sourcing equipment and reagents from suppliers in China.
3	In a <i>Nature</i> reader poll, more than 600 people wrote to us to share their stories. Here are three of them.
	<b>‘People are dying’</b>
4	I was born in Wuhan, China, but I now live in Canada. I learnt about most of what was happening through reading the news, similar to everyone else. It really hit me that these are real, normal, innocent people who are dying when my grandmother started crying as she told me her best friend had passed away after getting COVID-19, within ten days of the first symptoms showing. There were not enough hospital beds, and her son wasn’t able to get her admitted in time.
5	The outbreak might have changed my career trajectory. I am currently doing field work in the Bahamas and am trying to answer fundamental questions in ecology and evolution. But one chapter of my PhD thesis involves developing a method to identify endangered animals in steeped alcohol — such as tiger-bone wine — a form of traditional Chinese medicine. I am now hoping to expand the scope to incorporate viral metagenomics to look for associations between host animals and viruses in illegally trafficked wildlife products; research has suggested that the new coronavirus could have emerged from a wild animal. I have become interested in human-health aspects of wildlife conservation, and I hope to contribute to this field in my postdoc position by using the molecular-ecology methods I have been trained in to help to prevent future catastrophes related to illegal wildlife trafficking. <i>Charles C. Y. Xu, McGill University, Montreal, Canada</i>
	<b>Amphibian breeders thwarted</b>
6	I started my lab in China a few months ago, but I was abroad when the number of transmissions surged. The university recommended that I avoid going back until further notice. My students are isolated at home and are unable to start their projects — despite the lab’s focus on amphibians and the fact that their breeding season will boom over the next few weeks. <i>Amaël Borzée, Nanjing Forestry University, China</i>
	<b>‘It’s impossible to get a visa’</b>
7	I am from Indonesia, but am now pursuing a PhD at a research institute in China. Before the outbreak happened, I applied for a visa to attend an overseas conference that I won a bursary for. But it’s impossible to get a visa now owing to office closures, so I won’t be able to get to the conference. Many research institutes and universities in China are closed.
8	In my city, we are on lockdown inside our homes, and my productivity has hit

rock bottom. People don't feel like working; every day, we check the news to follow the number of cases and deaths, and get updates on the situation. It simply isn't possible to concentrate on work. *Anonymous, China*

This text was adapted from the original by Emma Stoye:  
<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-00478-7>

- 1.1 From which type of publication was this extract taken?  
Give a reason for your answer. (1)
- 1.2 Who is the target audience for this text? (1)
- 1.3 Refer to par. 1. Which ONE of the following statements is most similar in meaning to the phrase, "wreaking havoc"?
- A causing massive damage or destruction
  - B spreading rapidly
  - C having an energising effect
  - D influencing research (1)
- 1.4 Explain the meaning of the word "epicentre" as it is used in par. 1. (1)
- 1.5 Quote ONE word from par. 1 that tells us that the current reaction to the spreading of the coronavirus is quite different to measures taken in the past. (1)
- 1.6 Refer to par. 4. How does the reader know that the coronavirus epidemic has become a really serious health problem? (1)
- 1.7 Refer to par. 5. The narrator of this personal account believes that the coronavirus could have "emerged from a wild animal". How credible is this person's opinion?  
Substantiate your answer by referring to the text. (2)
- 1.8 Refer to the heading of par. 6. Explain the meaning of the phrase "amphibian breeders thwarted" within the context of this paragraph. (2)
- 1.9 Refer to paragraphs 7 and 8. How do you think the speaker's inability to get a visa to attend an overseas conference will affect his or her career? (2)
- 1.10 Refer to the passage as a whole. What do all the narrators of the three personal accounts about the coronavirus have in common? Mention two facts. (2)
- 1.11 Refer to the final paragraph of this text. Why do you think the narrator of this story would prefer to remain anonymous? (1)

[15]

# MEMORANDUM

## COMPREHENSION

### QUESTION 1

1.1 From which type of publication was this extract taken?  
Give a reason for your answer. **It is an article from a website called "nature.com"** ✓ (1)

1.2 Who is the target audience for this text? (1)

**Nature lovers, people interested in international health issues or world news.** ✓

1.3 Refer to par. 1. Which ONE of the following statements is most similar in meaning to the phrase, "wreaking havoc"? **A causing massive damage or destruction** ✓ (1)

1.4 Explain the meaning of the word "epicentre" as it is used in par. 1. (1)

**It is the area or place where the problem is felt most – where the coronavirus is most prevalent.** ✓

1.5 Quote ONE word from par. 1 that tells us that the current reaction to the spreading of the coronavirus is quite different to measures taken in the past. **Unprecedented** ✓ (1)

1.6 Refer to par. 4. How does the reader know that the coronavirus epidemic has become a really serious health problem? **The hospital did not have enough beds** ✓ (1)

1.7 Refer to par. 5. How credible is this person's opinion? Substantiate your answer by referring to the text. **It is very credible because he is a highly qualified scientist with doctor's degree and lots of experience in his field. This makes him an expert who knows what he is talking about.** ✓✓ (2)

1.8 Refer to the heading of par. 6. Explain the meaning of the phrase "amphibian breeders thwarted" within the context of this paragraph. (2)

**Preventing people from breeding with animals that live in water and on land (like frogs).** ✓✓

1.9 Refer to paragraphs 7 and 8. How do you think the speaker's inability to get a visa to attend an overseas conference will affect his or her career? (2)

**Not getting a visa will prohibit him/her from attending the conference. This means that he/she will not stay up to date with the newest information and might lose out on other research opportunities.** ✓✓

1.10 Refer to the passage as a whole. What do all the narrators of the three personal accounts about the coronavirus have in common? Mention two facts. **They are very intelligent and experienced researchers who are highly qualified in their fields.** ✓✓ (2)

1.11 Refer to the final paragraph of this text. Why do you think the narrator of this story would prefer to remain anonymous? (1)

**He/she wants to protect his/her identity from public exposure. This person wants to stay private.** ✓

[15]

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