

**ĐỀ CHÍNH THỨC**

Thời gian làm bài: 180 phút (không kể thời gian giao đề)  
(Đề thi có 10 trang)  
Ngày thi: 07 tháng 12 năm 2020

**PART I - LISTENING: (50 points)**

You will hear each recording twice.

**I. Listen to the recording and do the following tasks. (20 points)**

**Questions 1 – 3**

Answer the following questions using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR NUMBERS** for each answer.

1. How long will the customer's course last? .....
2. Which course has the customer already taken at the school? .....
3. How much discount can returning students qualify for? .....

**Questions 4 – 6**

Complete the following sentences using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR NUMBERS** for each gap.

4. The customer's address is .....
5. The customer can contact his former teacher by .....
6. There are .....hours of classes each day, Monday to Friday.

**Questions 7 – 10**

Answer the following questions using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer.

7. What is the customer's impression of the female Arabic teacher?  
.....
8. What other languages can the customer speak?  
.....
9. What does the customer decide is the third factor in choosing a school?  
.....
10. What does the customer say the reception area should be like?  
.....

**Your answers:**

1.	2.
3.	4.
5.	6.
7.	8.
9.	10.

**II. For questions 11 – 15, you will hear the beginning of a radio interview with Stephen Perrins, a composer of musicals. Listen and indicate the most appropriate response, A, B, C, or D. (10 points)**

11. The light songs Stephen wrote at college weren't published because \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. he couldn't interest a publisher in them  
B. he was afraid of people's reactions  
C. his family advised him against it  
D. he didn't think they would sell
12. Stephen and Jenny's original reason for writing *Goldringer* was that \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. they wanted to include it in their college show

- B. it was commissioned for a school concert
  - C. they wanted to find out if they were able to do so
  - D. a music publisher asked them to write a musical
13. Stephen prefers not to write the lyrics for his shows because he \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. would rather work with someone else
  - B. finds it difficult to write them
  - C. thinks they are of poor quality
  - D. is only interested in writing music
14. Stephen's purpose in mentioning Helen Downes is to convince listeners that \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. he has strong views about productions of his musicals
  - B. Helen Downes was an unsuitable director
  - C. the design for a particular show was of too low a standard
  - D. the director has ultimate responsibility for a production
15. Stephen claims that reason why some newspapers criticize him is that \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. they think he is conceited
  - B. they don't like his music
  - C. he isn't interested in publicity
  - D. he tries to control his public image

**Your answers:**

11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
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**III. Listen to the news and then fill in each blank with NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS. (20 points)**

16. Because of a war counter to Israel, OPEC had to \_\_\_\_\_ opposed to the US and its allies.
17. The cost of petroleum \_\_\_\_\_ bringing about the lack of gas across America and Europe.
18. Many wars known as "oil wars" broke out against \_\_\_\_\_ as some countries wanted to control that resource.
19. Bush administration was the leader of \_\_\_\_\_ of Iraq.
20. \_\_\_\_\_ as well as the former Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel have since leaked out that oil control played a dominating role in the decision to invade.
21. An investigation showed that countries with aggressive leaders and \_\_\_\_\_ are two-and-a-half time likely to see military conflict.
22. Thanks to oil, producers made a good profit whilst \_\_\_\_\_ the rest of the world.
23. Despite OPEC's effort, it is still opposed to the United States oil leading to further conflict and \_\_\_\_\_.
24. It is hoped that this renewable energy finally takes this \_\_\_\_\_ off the bargaining table entirely.
25. While \_\_\_\_\_ are competing to have the most oil as we mentioned, the resource is slowly dwindling.

**Your answers:**

<b>16.</b>	<b>21.</b>
<b>17.</b>	<b>22.</b>
<b>18.</b>	<b>23.</b>
<b>19.</b>	<b>24.</b>
<b>20.</b>	<b>25.</b>

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**PART 2 – GRAMMAR – VOCABULARY – LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS (30 points)**

***I. Choose the best answer. (20 points)***

- The government has made no \_\_\_\_\_ in the fight against inflation; indeed, the situation has worsened recently.  
A. headway      B. effect      C. avail      D. triumph
- The completion of the new Town Hall has been \_\_\_\_\_ owing to a strike.  
A. held off      B. held down      C. held up      D. held on
- People under 21 years old are not \_\_\_\_\_ to join this club.  
A. desirable      B. eligible      C. advisable      D. admissible
- News of the attempted coup began to \_\_\_\_\_ through to the outside world.  
A. pour      B. filter      C. broadcast      D. drip
- My secretary was \_\_\_\_\_ to have typed those letters already.  
A. asked      B. supposed      C. requested      D. ordered
- If I had invented the book, I would be \_\_\_\_\_ as a genius.  
A. accosted      B. hailed      C. exalted      D. addressed
- The film was a bit \_\_\_\_\_ on plot but the special effects were great.  
A. poor      B. bad      C. short      D. small
- Some authors use their novels as a \_\_\_\_\_ to put over a message.  
A. carriage      B. method      C. cover      D. vehicle
- Her eyes were tired from gazing at the \_\_\_\_\_ screen of her computer all day.  
A. flickering      B. twinkling      C. glimmering      D. sparkling
- They were able to \_\_\_\_\_ over their meal and enjoy it instead of having to rush back to work.  
A. loiter      B. stay      C. linger      D. dwell
- Don't get yourself \_\_\_\_\_ up over such a trivial matter.  
A. done      B. worried      C. whipped      D. worked
- My sunburnt nose made me feel rather \_\_\_\_\_ for the first few days of the holiday.  
A. self-effacing      B. self-centered      C. self-conscious      D. self-evident
- There was a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ as throngs of people tried to see the famous actor walking through the mall.  
A. stamina      B. discipline      C. counsel      D. commotion
- When the ship docked at Hamburg, they found a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ in the hold.  
A. gate-crasher      B. stowaway      C. interloper      D. trespasser
- He wants to pay the bill himself, but I won't hear \_\_\_\_\_ it.  
A. from      B. about      C. of      D. for
- When his parents are away, his eldest brother \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. knocks it off      B. calls the shots      C. draws the line      D. is in the same boat
- He's a nice guy, always ready to do somebody a good \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. present      B. play      C. turn      D. pleasure
- Family relationships later \_\_\_\_\_ a much significance on his life  
A. took on      B. kept up      C. take up      D. take on
- When John was arrested for drunken driving, he expected to lose his driving license, but he was \_\_\_\_\_ with a fine.  
A. let through      B. let off      C. let out      D. let down
- Young children often ask many questions because they are naturally \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. intriguing      B. inquisitive      C. ingenious      D. captivating

**II. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in brackets (10 points).**

**THE ROLE OF EDUCATION IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD**

Levels of illiteracy and (1. NUMBER) \_\_\_\_\_ remain startlingly high in the developing world, and continue to be so until the West provides or sponsors new education initiatives, preferably also getting directly involved. A better education is a prerequisite should the (2. POVERTY) \_\_\_\_\_ masses of Africa ever wish to hold any genuine hope of gaining their (3. EMANCIPATE) \_\_\_\_\_ from the metaphorical shackles of poverty. Education initiatives for young people as well as life-long learning programmes will also help to breach the gulf that separates the working classes from their ruling elite, a (4. PRIVILEGE) \_\_\_\_\_ few who enjoy the (5. TRAP) \_\_\_\_\_ of Western wealth and the lifestyle that goes with it, while those in their midst are completely preoccupied with the daily struggle for survival. Furthermore, we must promote a culture of (6. TOLERATE) \_\_\_\_\_ of corruption, and help to create a new generation for whom education rather than a(n) (7. SCRUPLE) \_\_\_\_\_ nature will reap the true rewards. Education will also help to bridge another gap; that of the cultural one which separates the West from its brethren in the developing world. The slums and shanty towns are a hotbed of religious and political (8. EXTREME) \_\_\_\_\_, but hopefully education will serve to create a better sense of understanding between all the peoples of the world, (9. RESPECT) \_\_\_\_\_ of background. And this will especially be the case if the education programmes themselves are administered by Western professionals, who, in much the same way as they can teach a thing or two to their counterparts in the developing world, have also, no doubt, much to learn from them in the process as well. Cooperation between people from different cultures of the West and the developing world will also, hopefully, help to reduce levels of prejudice, bigotry, xenophobia and racial tensions. And, last but not by any means least, educating women will (10. POWER) \_\_\_\_\_ them to claim their rightful place in the social hierarchy in up-to-now male-dominated cultures. Their aspirations can shift realistically higher, and young female students can hope to go on to become tomorrow's politicians, diplomats and political leaders, or whatsoever they choose.

**PART 3 – READING (50 points)**

***I. Read the following passage and decide which option A, B, C or D best fits each sentence. (10 points)***

Nearly 200 of the 1500 native plant species in Hawaii are at risk of going extinct in the near future because they have been (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to such low numbers. Approximately 90 percent of Hawaii's plants are found nowhere else in the world but they are (2) \_\_\_\_\_ by alien invasive species such as feral goats, pigs, rodents and (3) \_\_\_\_\_ plants.

The Hawaii Rare Plant Restoration Group is striving to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the extinction of the 182 rare Hawaiian plants with fewer than 50 individuals remaining in the (5) \_\_\_\_\_. Since 1990, (6) \_\_\_\_\_ a result of their "Plant Extinction Prevention Program", sixteen species have been brought into (7) \_\_\_\_\_ and three species have been reintroduced. Invasive weeds have been removed in key areas and fencing put up in order to (8) \_\_\_\_\_ plants in the wild.

In the future the Hawaii Rare Plant Restoration Program aims (9) \_\_\_\_\_ collecting genetic material from the remaining plants in the wild for storage as a safety net for the future. They also aim to manage wild populations and where possible reintroduce species into (10) \_\_\_\_\_.

- |                     |               |                  |               |
|---------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1. A. developed     | B. reduced    | C. disappeared   | D. increased  |
| 2. A. conserved     | B. guarded    | C. invested      | D. threatened |
| 3. A. native        | B. national   | C. international | D. non-native |
| 4. A. prevent       | B. influence  | C. encourage     | D. stimulate  |
| 5. A. wild          | B. sky        | C. hole          | D. atmosphere |
| 6. A. so            | B. due        | C. as            | D. but        |
| 7. A. contamination | B. production | C. cultivation   | D. generation |
| 8. A. derive        | B. vary       | C. remain        | D. protect    |
| 9. A. at            | B. on         | C. with          | D. for        |
| 10. A. shelters     | B. reserves   | C. gardens       | D. halls      |

## II. Read the following passage and choose the best answer. (10 points)

That large animals require a luxuriant vegetation, has been a general assumption which has passed from one work to another; but I do not hesitate to say that it is completely false, and that it has vitiated the reasoning of geologists on some points of great interest in the ancient history of the world. The **prejudice** has probably been derived from India, and the Indian islands, where troops of elephants, noble forests, and impenetrable jungles, are associated together in every one's mind. If, however, we refer to any work of travels through the southern parts of Africa, we shall find allusions in almost every page either to the desert character of the country, or to the numbers of large animals inhabiting it. The same thing is rendered evident by the many engravings which have been published of various parts of the interior. Dr. Andrew Smith, who has lately succeeded in passing the Tropic of Capricorn, informs me that, taking into consideration the whole of the southern part of Africa, there can be no doubt of its being a sterile country. On the southern coasts there are some fine forests, but with these exceptions, the traveller may pass for days together through open plains, covered by a poor and scanty vegetation. Now, if we look to the animals inhabiting these wide plains, we shall find their numbers extraordinarily great, and their bulk immense. We must enumerate the elephant, three species of rhinoceros, the hippopotamus, the giraffe, the bos caffer, two zebras, two gnus, and several antelopes even larger than these latter animals. It may be supposed that although the species are numerous, the individuals of each kind are few. By the kindness of Dr. Smith, I am enabled to show that the case is very different. He informs me, that in lat. 24', in one day's march with the bullock-wagons, he saw, without wandering to any great distance on either side, between one hundred and one hundred and fifty rhinoceroses - the same day he saw several herds of giraffes, amounting together to nearly a hundred. At the distance of a little more than one hour's march from their place of encampment on the previous night, his party actually killed at one spot eight hippopotamuses, and saw many more. In this same river there were likewise crocodiles. Of course it was a case quite extraordinary, to see so many great animals crowded together, but it evidently proves that they must exist in great numbers. Dr. Smith describes the country passed through that day, as 'being thinly covered with grass, and bushes about four feet high, and still more thinly with mimosa-trees.' Besides these large animals, everyone the least acquainted with the natural history of the Cape, has read of the herds of antelopes, which can be compared only with **the flocks of migratory birds**. The numbers indeed of the lion, panther, and hyena, and the multitude of birds of prey, plainly speak of the abundance of the smaller quadrupeds: one evening seven lions were counted at the same time prowling round Dr. Smith's encampment. As this able naturalist remarked to me, the **carnage** each day in Southern Africa must indeed be terrific! I confess it is truly **surprising** how such a number of animals can find support in a **country producing so little food**. The larger quadrupeds no doubt roam over wide tracts in search of it; and their food chiefly consists of underwood, which probably contains much nutriment in a small bulk. Dr. Smith also informs me that the vegetation has a rapid growth; no sooner is a part consumed, than its place is supplied by a fresh stock. There can be no doubt, however, that our ideas respecting the apparent amount of food necessary for the support of large quadrupeds are much exaggerated. The belief that where large quadrupeds exist, the vegetation must necessarily be luxuriant, is the more remarkable, because the converse is far from true. Mr. Burchell observed to me that when entering Brazil, nothing struck him more forcibly than the splendor of the South American vegetation contrasted with that of South Africa, together with the absence of all large quadrupeds. In his Travels, he has suggested that the comparison of the respective weights (if there were sufficient data) of an equal number of the largest herbivorous quadrupeds of each country would be extremely curious. If we take on the one side, the elephants hippopotamus, giraffe, bos caffer, eland, five species of rhinoceros; and on the American side, two tapirs, the guanaco, three deer, the vicuna, peccary, capybara (after which we must choose from the monkeys to complete the number), and then place these two groups alongside each other it is not easy to conceive ranks more disproportionate in size. After the above facts, we are compelled to conclude, against **anterior probability**, that among the mammalian there exists no close relation between the bulk of the species, and the quantity of the vegetation, in the countries which they inhabit.

Adapted from: *Voyage of the Beagle*, Charles Darwin

1. The author is primarily concerned with \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. discussing the relationship between the size of mammals and the nature of vegetation in their habitats
  - B. contrasting ecological conditions in India and Africa
  - C. proving the large animals do not require much food
  - D. describing the size of animals in various parts of the world
2. According to the author, the '**prejudice**' has led to \_\_\_\_\_.
    - A. errors in the reasoning of biologists
    - B. false ideas about animals in Africa
    - C. doubt in the mind of the author
    - D. incorrect assumptions on the part of geologists
  3. The author uses information provided by Dr. Smith to \_\_\_\_\_.
    - A. supply information on quality and quantity of plant life in South Africa
    - B. indicate the presence of large numbers of animals
    - C. give evidence of numbers of carnivorous animals
    - D. A, B and C are correct
  4. The flocks of migratory birds are mentioned to \_\_\_\_\_.
    - A. describe an aspect of the fauna of South Africa
    - B. indicate the abundance of wildlife
    - C. contrast with the habits of the antelope
    - D. suggest the size of antelope herds
  5. The '**carnage**' refers to the \_\_\_\_\_.
    - A. number of animals killed by hunters
    - B. number of prey animals killed by predators
    - C. number of people killed by lions
    - D. amount of food eaten by all species
  6. To account for the '**surprising**' number of animals in a '**country producing so little food**', Darwin suggests all of the following as partial explanations except \_\_\_\_\_.
    - A. food requirements have been overestimated
    - B. rapid regrowth of plant material
    - C. large area for animals to forage in
    - D. mainly carnivorous animals
  7. The author makes his point by reference to all of the following except \_\_\_\_\_.
    - A. historical documents
    - B. published illustrations
    - C. private communications
    - D. recorded observations
  8. Darwin quotes Burchell's observations in order to \_\_\_\_\_.
    - A. describe a region of great splendor
    - B. counter a popular misconception
    - C. account for a curious situation
    - D. illustrate a well-known phenomenon
  9. Darwin apparently regards Dr. Smith as \_\_\_\_\_.
    - A. reliable and imaginative
    - B. observant and excitable
    - C. intrepid and competent
    - D. foolhardy and tiresome
  10. Anterior probability refers to \_\_\_\_\_.
    - A. what might have been expected
    - B. ideas of earlier explorers
    - C. likelihood based on data from India
    - D. hypotheses of other scientists

**III. The reading passage below has eight paragraphs, A-H. Reading the passage and do the tasks below. (20 points)**

### **The great survivor**

TV has coped well with technological change. Other media can learn from it

**A.** NEWSPAPERS are dying; the music industry is still yelping about iTunes; book publishers think they are next. Yet one bit of old media seems to be doing rather well. In the final quarter of 2009 the average American spent almost 37 hours a week watching television. Earlier this year 116m of them saw the Super Bowl—a record for a single programme. Far from being cowed by new media, TV is colonising it. Shows like “American Idol” and “Britain's Got Talent” draw huge audiences partly because people are constantly messaging and tweeting about them, and discussing them on Facebook.

**B.** Advertising wobbled during the recession, shaking the free-to-air broadcasters that depend on it. But cable and satellite TV breezed through. Pay-television subscriptions grew by more than 2m in America last year. The explosive growth of cable and satellite TV in India explains how that country has gone from two channels in the early 1990s to more than 600 today. Pay-TV bosses scarcely acknowledge the existence of viewers who do not subscribe to multichannel TV, talking only of people who have “yet to

choose” a provider. This is not merely bluster. As our special report this week explains, once people start paying for greater television choice, they rarely stop.

**C.** It helps that TV is an inherently lazy form of entertainment. The much-repeated prediction that people will cancel their pay-TV subscriptions and piece together an evening's worth of entertainment from free broadcasts and the internet “assumes that people are willing to work three times harder to get the same thing”, observes Mike Fries of Liberty Global, a cable giant. Laziness also mitigates the threat from piracy. Although many programmes are no more than three or four mouse clicks away, that still sounds too much like work for most of us. And television-watching is a more sociable activity than it may appear. People like to watch programmes when everybody else is watching them. Give them devices that allow them to record and play back programmes easily, and they will still watch live TV at least four-fifths of the time.

**D.** Yet these natural advantages alone are not enough to ensure television's survival. The internet threatens TV just as much as it does other media businesses, and for similar reasons. It competes for advertising, offering firms a more measurable and precise way of reaching consumers. Technology also threatens to fracture television into individual programmes, just as it has ruinously broken music albums into individual tracks. TV has endured because it has responded better to such threats than other media businesses.

**E.** One of the lessons from TV is to accept change and get ahead of it. Broadcasters' initial response to the appearance of programmes online was similar to the music industry's reaction to file-sharing: call in the lawyers. But television firms soon banded together to develop alternatives to piracy. Websites like Hulu, a joint venture of the American broadcasters ABC, Fox and NBC, have drawn eyeballs away from illicit sources. Gradually it has become clear that these websites pose a threat to the TV business in themselves, and that they are not bringing in as much advertising money as might be expected (which is similar to the problem faced by the newspaper business). So television is changing tack again.

**F.** With impressive speed, TV firms are now building online subscription-video services. The trendiest model is authentication: prove that you subscribe to pay-television and you can watch all the channels that you have paid for on any device. Such “TV Everywhere” services are beginning to appear in America and Canada. It is likely that Hulu will become a “freemium” service—mostly free, but with some shows hidden behind a paywall. The move from an ad-supported model to a mixture of subscriptions and advertising is tricky, but logical. It shows that it is not enough to embrace technological change. Businesses must also work out how to build digital offerings that do not cause their analogue ones to collapse.

**G.** Television has domesticated other disruptive technologies. Ten years ago digital video recorders like TiVo promised to transform the way people watched TV. The devices made it easy to record programmes and play them back, zooming through ads. The TV networks responded by running advertisements that work at high speed. Cable and satellite companies built cheap digital video recorders into set-top boxes and charged viewers extra for them. In effect, money flowed back to the television business. In Britain those boxes will soon be deployed to deliver targeted advertising, enabling the living-room television to compete with the internet.

**H.** Other outfits are learning from TV. Record labels sound terribly innovative when they talk about bundling music together with broadband subscriptions. Yet this model comes from television. For the past few years ESPN, a sports giant, has been showing games on its website. The cost is buried in monthly broadband bills. Hulu-style joint ventures are all the rage in media, too. Magazine publishers have set up Next Issue Media, which is trying to shape the evolution of digital devices to suit their needs. The Digital Entertainment Content Ecosystem aims to do the same for films.

**I.** That box might appear to be sitting in the corner of the living room, not doing much. In fact, it is constantly evolving. If there is one media business with a chance of completing the perilous journey to the digital future looking as healthy as it did when it set off, it is television.

**Choose the correct heading for each paragraph, A-G from the list of headings below. Write the correct number, i-xi next to Questions 1-6. There is an example for paragraph C**

List of Headings

- i. How people subscribe TV channel
- ii. Changes in services offered by TV firms
- iii. A good example for other businesses
- iv. A kind of media that never failed
- v. Comparison between TV and internet
- vi. How TV business survived despite advertising declination
- vii. The advantage of indolence
- viii. Valuable experience gained from TV business
- ix. Superiority over other media business in competition
- x. Benefits from the adoption of threatening technology
- xi. Successful operation of an old media business

1. Paragraph A

2. Paragraph B

*Example: Paragraph C - vii*

3. Paragraph D

4. Paragraph E

5. Paragraph F

6. Paragraph G

**Questions 7-10: Do the following statements agree with the claims of the writer in the reading passage?**

Write

**TRUE** if the statement agrees with the claims of the writer

**FALSE** if the statement contradicts the claims of the writer

**NOT GIVEN** if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this

7. TV business is declining as other media such as newspaper, music industry and book publisher.

8. TV audiences will cancel pay-TV subscription to turn to the Internet program.

9. The reason for TV business to survive is that new technology does not pose as much threat as other media businesses.

10. Websites like Hulu have not brought large profits to television business as expected.

**IV. You will read an article about various birds in Britain and choose from the birds (A-D). The birds may be chosen more than once. (10 points)**

**Of which birds are the following stated?**

1. On a number of occasions, fears concerning it have been expressed.	
2. Its population growth is a reflection of how tough it is	
3. It is known for following a routine	
4. Its situation was improved by an initiative that has been referred to as unique	
5. There is statistical evidence to support the view that it is a very popular bird	
6. It can easily identified by its outline	
7. A common perception of its has proved inaccurate	
8. Growth in its number has been much more gradual than desired	
9. There is reason to believe that its progress in a particular region will be maintained	
10. Measures taken in the running of a certain type of countryside have assisted in the growth of it population	



## WINGED WINNERS AND LOSERS

Birds in Britain come under scrutiny in a massive new study, *Birds Britannica*. A record of the avian community in the 21st century, it reveals a continually evolving pattern. Mark Cocker, the principal author of the tome, selects some cases.

### A. Red Kite

The red kite's recent rise from a mere handful to several thousands is among the great stories of modern conservation. Testimony to its flagship status is a recent Royal Society for the Protection of Birds poll which ranked it with the golden eagle and song thrush in the nation's list of favourite birds.

The dramatic spread has hinged on a reintroduction scheme at six sites in England and Scotland using kites originally taken from Spain and Sweden. The English releases began in the Chilterns in 1989 and when these had achieved a healthy population, subsequent introductions were made in Northamptonshire and Yorkshire using mainly English birds. The Scottish releases in the 1980s and 1990s have resulted in populations totalling more than 50 pairs. Altogether there are now about 3,000 kites in Britain.

The formation of a "Kite committee" by members of the British Ornithologists Club in 1903 was central to the bird's recovery. It endured for 90 years and has been described as being "without parallel in the annals of bird protection anywhere in the world".

### B. Dartford Warbler

This highly-attractive bird is confined to just five Western European countries as well as the north African littoral, and has the smallest world range of any of our breeding birds. It is also a highly sedentary bird and a major cause of decline is its great susceptibility to the cold. The worst case occurred in the two successive hard winters of 1961 and 1962 when the numbers fell from 450 pairs to just 10.

Memories of this calamitous decrease, coupled with the bird's own tiny size and seeming delicacy, have cemented our sense of an overarching vulnerability. It is one of the best British examples where a species' local rarity has been assumed to equal almost constitutional weakness. Typical of our pessimism was a 1960s prediction that its breeding range would be virtually restricted to the New Forest "in the foreseeable future". There was a similar anxiety in the proposal to trap large numbers ahead of severe winter weather so that they could be safely released the following spring.

All the caution is perfectly understandable as an expression of our protective instincts towards a much-loved bird. Yet it sits oddly with the warbler's continuing rise and expansion to a population of 1,925 pairs by the year 2000. It has undoubtedly been helped by mild winters as well as the intensive management and protection of England's lowland heath. Yet the Dartford Warbler's recent history illustrates how easy it is to underestimate the resilience of a small rare bird.

### C. White-tailed Eagle

It is difficult to judge which is the more exciting conservation achievement - the reintroduction of this magnificent bird or of red kites. By wingspan and weight, this the largest eagle in Europe and one of the biggest of all birds in Britain. However, if the species itself is on a grand scale, the size of the reintroduced population is tiny and the pace of increase agonizingly slow. Almost 30 years after the species was first released, there are just 23 pairs holding territory, and from 17 occupied eyries in 2001, no more than 11 young fledged.

The project involved a remarkable team effort by various UK environmental groups, as well as the Norwegian conservationists who organized the capture of the donated birds. Between 1975 and 1985, they released 82 eagles (39 males and 43 females) from a special holding area on the Inner Herbridean island of Rhum. Eight were later recovered dead, but in 1983 came the first breeding attempt.

Two years later, a pair of white-tailed eagles produced the first British-born chick in 69 years and every subsequent breeding season has seen a small incremental improvement. There is now an established breeding nucleus spread between the islands of Skye and Mull as well as the adjacent mainland, and their recent history suggests that the white-tailed eagle's increase will continue throughout north-west Scotland.

#### **D. Spotted Flycatcher**

Even the greatest fans of this lovely bird, with its mouse-grey upper parts and whitish breast and belly, would have to admit that it is rather drab. They have no more than a thin, squeaky, small song. However, spotted flycatchers compensate with enormous character.

The birds are instantly recognizable because of their large-headed, top-heavy shape that is distinctive even in silhouette, and by the habit of returning to the same perch after their agile, twisting, aerial sallies for insects.

They are adept at catching large species such as day-flying moths, butterflies, bees and wasps, whose stings they remove by thrashing the victim against the perch. Their specialized diet means that they are among the latest spring migrants to return and are now in serious decline because of half a century of pesticide use. In the past 25 years, their numbers have declined by almost 80 per cent, but they are still sufficiently numerous (155,000 pairs) to be familiar and are often birds of large gardens, churchyards or around farm buildings.

#### **PART 4 – WRITING: (40 points)**

**Write an essay of about 250 words to express your opinion on the following topic:**

***“Many people believe that social networking sites (such as Facebook) have had a huge negative impact on both individuals and society. To what extent do you agree?”***