**Assessment Task for Reading**

**Topic: Bats: Love Them or Hate Them?**

This assessment task focuses on developing senior secondary students’ reading skills.

This set of materials contains the following:

* **The reading text**
* **A set of questions**
* **Suggested answers**
* **Annotated text**

**Reading Text**

**Bats: Love them or Hate them?**

**[1]** ‘Bats - ugh, nasty creatures - and they can be dangerous too, can’t they?’ That is probably the reaction of most people to the topic. Why is the general opinion so negative? To our eyes bats are rather ugly creatures with strangely proportioned faces; they fail to fit neatly into the usual categories of mammals with the behaviour of birds. Their liking for dark places and underground spaces can lead to their being associated with death. In ancient Babylon and in parts of Africa bats have been considered to be the souls of the dead. Bats’ blood is also often thought of as an ingredient in a witch’s evil potion in western culture. Perhaps the worst enemy of the bat was the author Bram Stoker, who in his famous novel, recalling the vampire bats of Mexico, made bats companions of Dracula so that they are now part of Halloween traditions. Bats are also commonly believed to suffer from rabies.

**[2]** What then is the truth about bats? They belong to the order Chiroptera, of which there are over 1200 species, comprising roughly 25% of the mammal total. These can be found everywhere apart from at the North and South Poles. There are two main types: the megabats, which feed off fruit and flowers, using sight and smell to locate their food, and the microbats, which are insectivorous relying mainly on echolocation when hunting. These bats emit high pitch sounds as they fly. If the sound waves hit anything, they bounce back and the bats can work out where any insects are and how to catch them. With so many different species of bats it is no surprise that they vary widely. There are solitary bats, which spend their days alone in dark safe places such as the tops of trees, and colonial bats which live in communities that can range from a few hundred to the famous one in Bracken Cave in Texas which consists of anything from 20 to 40 million animals. The Giant Flying Fox of Indonesia can have a wing span of 1.8 m while one species only found in West Thailand manages a mere 3 cm.

**[3]** Bats also, of course, have similarities. Almost all are nocturnal. Staying hidden in secret places during the day certainly keeps bats safe from most predators. Avoiding sunlight is also wise as their wings, proportionately larger than those of birds, could easily overheat. They also have little competition when they are feeding. Bats need to rest fairly high up as they cannot take off but need to start flying as they fall - hence their liking for tree tops, high buildings and the roofs of cave systems is not a surprise. Female bats usually produce one pup a year. The pup clings onto its mother until it is about four months old and can fly properly.

**[4]** From the human point of view, are bats desirable or not? We can ignore the superstitious ideas, and the fear of rabies is unnecessary. Only about 0.5% of the creatures are infected and you would have to handle a sick bat and get bitten before you are put at risk - understandably few people do and the problem is nearly non-existent. Vampire bats are small, live only in Mexico and feed not like imaginary vampires but by biting a large mammal such as a cow and licking the blood which comes out, no more than a spoonful. On the positive side the megabats are essential to the life cycles of many types of tropical fruit, for instance, bananas, mangoes, guavas, avocados, figs and durians - the last mentioned are almost totally dependent on them. The microbats are possibly the principal control on insect numbers. An average bat can eat about a thousand insects an hour [and that might be a thousand mosquitoes]. A campaign against fruit bats in Israel, where farmers wanted to protect their fruit, led to the appearance of millions of moths, which did far more damage than the bats had ever done. A US researcher calculates the beetles which 150 big brown bats [a small colony] eat would if left alone lay 33 million eggs and all those new beetles would feed off corn roots. And bat control is organic and far better for us and the land than pesticides, the alternative. Bat communities also create very rich ecosystems. The solid waste they excrete is a rich fertiliser and forms the basic building block of biodiversity in the large cave systems they inhabit.

**[5]** Bats really need to be treasured. The numbers of many species have been falling as people seal up mines and caves where they gather. This can be especially disastrous in the case of species which form large colonies. For example, half of all the bats in the State of Alabama live in one cave system. One can easily imagine what would happen if that one space were closed. Bats are also threatened by the use of pesticides - particularly sad as their good health should mean we need to use far fewer. Bats have their lovable side - they have been observed feeding sick bats unable to leave their caves to hunt. Even the vampire bats have been useful as an important drug to prevent blood clotting has been developed from their saliva. Many countries are realising the need to protect their bats - in the UK it is a crime to disturb bats even if they make a home in your roof. Hong Kong probably has more bats than most people realise. There are 26 species here. 14 of these live in underground tunnels and structures while other types hang unnoticed in trees or find nice corners of air conditioning ducts to crawl into.

**[6]** A final word on Batman - at least he is good for the image of bats. Bruce Wayne tirelessly fights crime, has no strange super powers and has entertained millions in his seventy and more years of existence. Think of him when you see a bat - not of Dracula!

**END OF READING TEXT**

**Questions**

**Read the text *‘Bats: Love them or Hate them?’* and answer questions 1-25. Blacken the circle when appropriate. (65 marks)**

1. What is the writer’s purpose in starting with the quotation *‘Bats - ugh, nasty creatures - and they can be dangerous too, can’t they?’*?

He wants to …

A. shock the readers.

B. make the readers hate the bats.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | B | C | D |
| ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ |

C. present the view he is going to argue against.

D. show his dislike for bats.

2. What does ‘Their’ in line 4 refer to?

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. According to the writer, why do people dislike bats?

1. They smell bad.
2. Their appearance is unpleasant.
3. They are very dark.
4. They remind us of ghostly things.
5. They have diseases.
6. 1, 2 and 3

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | B | C | D |
| ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ |

1. 1, 4 and 5
2. 2, 3 and 4
3. 2, 4 and 5
4. Identify the facts and opinions about bats presented by the writer in Paragraph 1. One example has been given. (6 marks)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Facts**  |  | **Opinions** |
| 1. *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*1. *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* |  | 1. *Bats are nasty, dangerous and ugly.*

*b)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**c)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**d) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**e) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* |
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1. Why was Bram Stoker considered the worst enemy of the bat?

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6. From the information given in Paragraph 2, decide if the following statements are True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG). (7 marks)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| a) | There are nearly 5000 species of mammals.  |  |
| b) | Bats have very little use of their eyes.  |  |
| c) | Some bats do not like living in groups. |  |
| d) | Bat sounds are painful to humans.  |  |
| e) | Some bats hunt other types of bats. |  |
| f)  | Some bat species are very small.  |  |
| g) | Only a few microbats live at the North and South Poles.  |  |

7. Name the place well-known for the huge numbers of bats.

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Based on the information in Paragraph 2, match the types of bat with the respective features given below. Write the letter(s) in the space provided. (7 marks)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Types of Bat** | **Features** | **Types of Bat** | **Features** |
| *Megabats* |  | *Solitary bats* |  |
| *Microbats* |  | *Colonial bats* |  |
| *The Giant Flying Fox* |  |  |  |

C. “*Insects are my only prey*.”

B. “*I prefer to live on my own*.”

1. “*I eat mainly flowers and fruit*.”

G. “*I navigate in the dark using sound when I hunt*.”

E. “*My wings could be nearly 2m in length*.”

D. “*My eyes and nose help me hunt*.”

F. “*My kin and I live in a pack*.”

1. Find words in Paragraphs 2 and 3 that mean the same as the following: (3 marks)
2. consisting of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. calculate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. [happening](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english-chinese-traditional/happening_1) in or [active](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english-chinese-traditional/active_1) during the [night](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english-chinese-traditional/night_1), or [relating](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english-chinese-traditional/relate_1) to the [night](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english-chinese-traditional/night_1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. Complete the following summary using the ideas in Paragraph 3. Use one word for each blank. The words may or may not appear in the text. (7 marks)

Being nocturnal has a number of advantages for bats. During the (a) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when animals which might (b) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ them are active, they are (c) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_away where they cannot be reached. Bats must also keep out of the (d) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to avoid getting too (e) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as a result of the (f) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ surface area of their wings. Finally, at night they can feed without (g) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from other animals.

1. Why do bats need to rest in high spots?

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\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. According to Paragraph 3, which one of the following statements about baby bats is TRUE?
2. Baby bats can fly once they are born.
3. A female bat can give birth to a few baby bats each time.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | B | C | D |
| ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ |

1. Baby bats stay close to their mothers in the first few months they are born.
2. A female bat can deliver another baby bat every four months.
3. Give an example of one of the superstitious ideas mentioned at the start of Paragraph 4.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What is the writer’s purpose of giving the facts about vampire bats in Paragraph 4? What attitude of the writer towards vampire bats does this reveal? (2 marks)

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. How important are bats to durians?
2. Durian is the main source of food for bats.
3. Without bats, there will be no durians.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | B | C | D |
| ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ |

1. Bats prey on insects which eat durians.
2. The seeds of durians are spread by bats.
3. Why do you think the writer mentions the story about Israel in Paragraph 4? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Illustrate the vicious cycle mentioned in Paragraph 5 using the diagram below. (2 marks)

1. Underline the correct options according to the information in Paragraph 5. (4 marks)

Bats will **(a) fight/help/carry** other bats which are **(b) prevented/taught/found** by

**(c) weather/age/illness** from going out to **(d) breathe/roost/hunt.**

1. ‘…*in the UK it is a crime to disturb bats even if they make a home in your roof*.’ (lines 51-52) What arguments do you think people might have to this rule? (2 marks)

For: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Against: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What does the writer mean by talking about ‘*nice corners of air conditioning ducts*’ (line 54)?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Do bats bring any benefits to humans and nature? Give TWO examples from the text. (2 marks)

Benefit brought to humans: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Benefit brought to nature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Tick the pictures that have been mentioned in the text. (5 marks)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| dog.jpg | avocado.jpg | cave.jpg | fox.jpg |
|  |  |  |  |
| mosquito.jpg | Britain.jpg | vampire.jpg | cactus.jpg |
|  |  |  |  |

1. What is the tone of Paragraph 6?
2. academic
3. light-hearted

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | B | C | D |
| ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ |

1. worried
2. dramatic
3. Match the correct sub-headings to the paragraphs in the text. Write the letter in the space provided. (One of the sub-headings is NOT used.) (5 marks)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Paragraphs** |  | **Sub-headings**  |
| Paragraph 1 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Paragraph 2 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Paragraph 3 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Paragraph 4 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Paragraph 5 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |  | 1. Spot the differences
2. Things in common
3. Friends of humans & nature
4. The need to preserve
5. The mysterious myths
6. Enemy of bats
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|  |
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1. Suggest a way in which Hong Kong can help protect its bats.

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**END OF QUESTIONS**

**Suggested Answers to the Reading Task**

1. What is the writer’s purpose in starting with the quotation *‘Bats - ugh, nasty creatures - and they can be dangerous too, can’t they?’*?

He wants to …

A. shock the readers.

B. make the readers hate the bats.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | B | C | D |
| ⭘ | ⭘ | ⚫ | ⭘ |

**C. present the view he is going to argue against.**

D. show his dislike for bats.

2. What does ‘Their’ in line 4 refer to?

 Bats’

3. According to the writer, why do people dislike bats?

1. They smell bad.
2. Their appearance is unpleasant.
3. They are very dark.
4. They remind us of ghostly things.
5. They have diseases.
6. 1, 2 and 3

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | B | C | D |
| ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ | ⚫ |

1. 1, 4 and 5
2. 2, 3 and 4
3. **2, 4 and 5**
4. Identify the facts and opinions about bats presented by the writer in Paragraph 1. One example has been given. (6 marks)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Facts**  |  | **Opinions** |
| *a) Bats like dark places and underground spaces.* *b) Bats have become part of Halloween traditions.*  |  | *a) Bats are nasty, dangerous and ugly.(example)* *b) Bats are associated with death.* *c) Bats are souls of the dead.* *d) Bats’ blood is an ingredient in a witch’s evil potion.* *e) Bats suffer from rabies.*  |
|  |
|  |

1. Why was Bram Stoker considered the worst enemy of the bat?

It was because his novels connected vampire bats to Dracula /made vampire bats companions of Dracula.

1. From the information given in Paragraph 2, decide if the following statements are True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG). (7 marks)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| a) | There are nearly 5000 species of mammals.  | T |
| b) | Bats have very little use of their eyes.  | F |
| c) | Some bats do not like living in groups. | T |
| d) | Bat sounds are painful to humans.  | NG |
| e) | Some bats hunt other types of bats. | NG |
| f)  | Some bat species are very small.  | T |
| g) | Only a few microbats live at the North and South Poles.  | F |

1. Name the place well-known for the huge numbers of bats.

Bracken Cave, Texas

1. Based on the information in Paragraph 2, match the types of bat with the respective features given below. Write the letter(s) in the space provided. (7 marks)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Types of Bat** | **Features** | **Types of Bat** | **Features** |
| *Megabats* | A, D | *Solitary bats* | B |
| *Microbats* | C, G | *Colonial bats*  | F |
| *The Giant Flying Fox* | E |  |

C. “*Insects are my only prey*.”

B. “*I prefer to live on my own*.”

1. “*I eat mainly flowers and fruit*.”

G. “*I navigate in the dark using sound when I hunt*.”

E. “*My wings could be nearly 2m in length*.”

D. “*My eyes and nose help me hunt*.”

F. “*My kin and I live in a pack*.”

1. Find words in Paragraphs 2 and 3 that mean the same as the following: (3 marks)
2. consisting of comprising
3. calculate work out
4. [happening](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english-chinese-traditional/happening_1) in or [active](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english-chinese-traditional/active_1) during the [night](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english-chinese-traditional/night_1), or [relating](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english-chinese-traditional/relate_1) to the [night](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english-chinese-traditional/night_1) nocturnal
5. Complete the following summary using the ideas in Paragraph 3. Use one word for each blank. The words may or may not appear in the text. (7 marks)

Being nocturnal has a number of advantages for bats. During the (a) **day/daytime** when animals which might (b) **eat/hunt** them are active, they are (c) **hidden** away where they cannot be reached. Bats must also keep out of the (d) **heat/sun/sunlight** to avoid getting too (e) **hot** as a result of the (f) **large** surface area of their wings. Finally, at night they can feed without (g) **competition** from other animals.

1. Why do bats need to rest in high spots?

A bat cannot rise from the ground on its wings. / A bat needs to fall from a high ground and start flying as it drops down.

1. According to Paragraph 3, which one of the following statements about baby bats is TRUE?
2. Baby bats can fly once they are born.
3. A female bat can give birth to a few baby bats each time.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | B | C | D |
| ⭘ | ⭘ | ⚫ | ⭘ |

1. **Baby bats stay close to their mothers in the first few months they are born.**
2. A female bat can deliver another baby bat every four months.
3. Give an example of one of the superstitious ideas mentioned at the start of Paragraph 4.

(Any one of the ideas from Paragraph 1) Bats are associated with death./ In ancient Babylon and in parts of Africa bats are considered to be the souls of the dead./ Bats’ blood are thought of as an ingredient in a witch’s evil potion./ Bats are related to Dracula.

1. What is the writer’s purpose of giving the facts about vampire bats in Paragraph 4? What attitude of the writer towards vampire bats does this reveal? (2 marks)

They are given to lessen/remove people’s fear of vampire bats. It reveals that the writer has a positive attitude towards vampire bats.

1. How important are bats to durians?
2. Durian is the main source of food for bats.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | B | C | D |
| ⭘ | ⚫ | ⭘ | ⭘ |

1. **Without bats, there will be no durians.**
2. Bats prey on insects which eat durians.
3. The seeds of durians are spread by bats.
4. Why do you think the writer mentions the story about Israel in Paragraph 4?

To illustrate the very serious side-effects caused by not conserving bat population.

1. Illustrate the vicious cycle mentioned in Paragraph 5 using the diagram below. (2 marks)

1. Underline the correct options according to the information in Paragraph 5. (4 marks)

Bats will **(a) fight/help/carry** other bats which are **(b) prevented/taught/found** by **(c) weather/age/illness** from going out to **(d) breathe/roost/hunt.**

1. ‘…*in the UK it is a crime to disturb bats even if they make a home in your roof*.’ (lines 51-52) What arguments do you think people might have to this rule? (2 marks)

For: We need to protect bats as they are important to both humans and nature.

Against: The bats may cause structural damage to people’s home and will certainly bring noise and dirt.

1. What does the writer mean by talking about ‘*nice corners of air conditioning ducts*’ (line 54)?

The writer takes the point of view of a bat to point out that the corners of air conditioning ducts are a safe, dark and comfortable place for the bats to live in.

1. Do bats bring any benefits to humans and nature? Give TWO examples from the text. (2 marks)

Benefit brought to humans: The saliva of vampire bats is used to develop an important drug to prevent blood clotting in the human body.

Benefit brought to nature: Megabats are essential to the life cycles of many types of tropical fruit./

Bat communities create very rich ecosystems.

1. Tick the pictures that have been mentioned in the text. (5 marks)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| dog.jpg | avocado.jpg | cave.jpg | fox.jpg |
|  | ✓ | ✓ |  |
| mosquito.jpg | Britain.jpg | vampire.jpg | cactus.jpg |
| ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |  |

1. What is the tone of Paragraph 6?
2. academic
3. **light-hearted**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | B | C | D |
| ⭘ | ⚫ | ⭘ | ⭘ |

1. worried
2. dramatic
3. Match the correct sub-headings to the paragraphs in the text. Write the letter in the space provided. (One of the sub-headings is NOT used.) (5 marks)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Paragraphs** |  | **Sub-headings**  |
| Paragraph 1  **E** Paragraph 2 **A** Paragraph 3 **B** Paragraph 4 **C** Paragraph 5  **D**  |  | 1. Spot the differences
2. Things in common
3. Friends of humans & nature
4. The need to preserve
5. The mysterious myths
6. Enemy of bats
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1. Suggest a way in which Hong Kong can help protect its bats.

(Suggested answers) There should be public education on the usefulness of bats. // We must make sure the many tunnels and caves in Hong Kong are kept open and safe for bats.

**END OF SUGGESTED ANSWERS**

**Annotated Text**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [1] ‘Bats - ugh, nasty creatures - and they can be dangerous too, can’t they?’ That is probably the reaction of most people to the topic. Why is the general opinion so negative? To our eyes bats are rather ugly creatures with strangely proportioned faces; they fail to fit neatly into the usual categories of mammals with the behaviour of birds. **Their** liking for dark places and underground spaces can lead to their being associated with death. In ancient Babylon and in parts of Africa bats have been considered to be the souls of the dead. Bats’ blood is also often thought of as an ingredient in a witch’s evil potion in western culture. Perhaps the worst enemy of the bat was the author Bram Stoker, who in his famous novel, recalling the vampire bats of Mexico, made bats companions of Dracula so that they are now part of Halloween traditions. Bats are also commonly believed to suffer from rabies. [2] What then is the truth about bats? They belong to the order Chiroptera, of which there are over 1200 species, **comprising** roughly 25% of the mammal total. These can be found everywhere apart from at the North and South Poles. There are two main types: the megabats, which feed off fruit and flowers, using sight and smell to locate their food, and the microbats, which are insectivorous relying mainly on echolocation when hunting. These bats emit high pitch sounds as they fly. If the sound waves hit anything, they bounce back and the bats can **work out** where any insects are and how to catch them. With so many different species of bats it is no surprise that they vary widely. There are solitary bats, which spend their days alone in dark safe places such as the tops of trees, and colonial bats which live in communities that can range from a few hundred to the famous one in Bracken Cave in Texas which consists of anything from 20 to 40 million animals. The Giant Flying Fox of Indonesia can have a wing span of 1.8 m while one species only found in West Thailand manages a mere 3 cm.[3] Bats also, of course, have similarities. Almost all are **nocturnal**. Staying hidden in secret places during the day certainly keeps bats safe from most predators. Avoiding sunlight is also wise as their wings, proportionately larger than those of birds, could easily overheat. They also have little competition when they are feeding. Bats need to rest fairly high up as they cannot take off but need to start flying as they fall - hence their liking for tree tops, high buildings and the roofs of cave systems is not a surprise. Female bats usually produce one pup a year. The pup clings onto its mother until it is about four months old and can fly properly.  | Q1Q3Q2, Q4 Q3 Q3, Q4Q4Q5Q4, Q5, Q22Q3, Q4Q6a, Q9a Q6g Q6b, Q8Q8Q6d, Q8Q9bQ6c, Q8Q8Q7Q8Q6fQ9c, Q10cQ10a. Q10bQ10d, Q10fQ10e, Q10gQ11Q22Q12Q12 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [4] From the human point of view, are bats desirable or not? We can ignore the superstitious ideas, and the fear of rabies is unnecessary. Only about 0.5% of the creatures are infected and you would have to handle a sick bat and get bitten before you were put at risk - understandably few people do and the problem is nearly non-existent. Vampire bats are small, live only in Mexico and feed not like imaginary vampires but by biting a large mammal such as a cow and licking the blood which comes out, no more than a spoonful. On the positive side the megabats are essential to the life cycles of many types of tropical fruit, for instance, bananas, mangoes, guavas, avocados, figs and durians - the last mentioned are almost totally dependent on them. The microbats are possibly the principal control on insect numbers. An average bat can eat about a thousand insects an hour [and that might be a thousand mosquitoes]. A campaign against fruit bats in Israel, where farmers wanted to protect their fruit, led to the appearance of millions of moths, which did far more damage than the bats had ever done. A US researcher calculates the beetles which 150 big brown bats [a small colony] eat would if left alone lay 33 million eggs and all those new beetles would feed off corn roots. And bat control is organic and far better for us and the land than pesticides, the alternative. Bat communities also create very rich ecosystems. The solid waste they excrete is a rich fertiliser and forms the basic building block of biodiversity in the large cave systems they inhabit. [5] Bats really need to be treasured. The numbers of many species have been falling as people seal up mines and caves where they gather. This can be especially disastrous in the case of species which form large colonies. For example, half of all the bats in the State of Alabama live in one cave system. One can easily imagine what would happen if that one space were closed. Bats are also threatened by the use of pesticides - particularly sad as their good health should mean we need to use far fewer. Bats have their lovable side - they have been observed feeding sick bats unable to leave their caves to hunt. Even the vampire bats have been useful as an important drug to prevent blood clotting has been developed from their saliva. Many countries are realising the need to protect their bats - in the UK it is a crime to disturb bats even if they make a home in your roof. Hong Kong probably has more bats than most people realise. There are 26 species here. 14 of these live in underground tunnels and structures while other types hang unnoticed in trees or find nice corners of air conditioning ducts to crawl into.[6] A final word on Batman - at least he is good for the image of bats. Bruce Wayne tirelessly fights crime, has no strange super powers and has entertained millions in his seventy and more years of existence. Think of him when you see a bat - not of Dracula! | Q13Q14Q21Q15, Q22Q22, Q16Q21Q22Q17Q18 Q18Q21Q22Q19Q20Q23Q22 |

**END OF ANNOTATED TEXT**