

Part3 Reading Comprehension

Reading Sectionに挑戦しよう。Directionsは省略されている。【制限時間 22分】

Questions 1-10

There's no doubt that genetic engineering can be an invaluable tool in maintaining genetic diversity among captive endangered species. The real problems begin when it comes time to set those captive populations free. Eight out of ten attempts to reintroduce endangered
 Line 5 species to their native habitats have failed. Even the few efforts that are considered successful — the reintroduction of the Arabian oryx to the desert in Oman, for example, and the golden lion tamarin to the Atlantic coastal rain forest in Brazil — have subsequently developed serious problems. The oryx is again being poached, while the tamarin
 10 population, which underwent a hugely expensive reintroduction effort, is still suffering as a result of inbreeding. There are only between 100 and 200 of them in the wild today.

Even assuming that the factors that cause endangerment can be brought under control, returning captive-bred animals to the wild is an
 15 expensive, prolonged and problematic endeavor. This is not to say that reintroductions should never be attempted — just that they are a conservation tool of last resort, to be used only when more cost-effective measures have failed.

Whether the animals have been bred in zoos or preserved through
 20 laboratory work, many of the problems associated with a limited gene pool remain, and the essential survival behavior has often eroded. Having been protected from predators, parasites and diseases, these animals have no further part to play in the ongoing drama of evolution. In the meantime, the human encroachment or other threat that
 25 reduced the species in the first place may well have continued, limiting the choice of suitable habitats. As a conservation tool, elaborate methods of artificial reproduction are the equivalent of keeping a terminally ill patient alive on life-support — and almost as expensive. The golden lion tamarin conservation program, for

Line 30 example, has spent an estimated \$22,000 per surviving specimen. When we reach that stage, we have already lost the battle.

[Q1]

Which of the following best expresses the main idea of the passage?

- (A) Keeping endangered animals in captivity is becoming too costly.
- (B) Introducing endangered species back into the wild is often unsuccessful.
- (C) Human encroachment on wild species must be stopped.
- (D) Reintroductions of rare animals to the wild should be funded.

[Q2]

Look at the word “poached” in line 9. Which word or phrase below is closest in meaning to “poached”?

- (A) raised
- (B) hunted illegally
- (C) reproduced
- (D) captured

[Q3]

According to the passage, what can be inferred about the reintroduction of the Arabian oryx?

- (A) The number of wild oryx has increased.
- (B) The wild oryx has been displaced from its native habitat.
- (C) The wild oryx has suffered from inbreeding.
- (D) The number of wild oryx has decreased.

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