

## II. Written Essay

A newspaper has been printing opinion pieces about our relationship with technology, especially smart phones and tablets. For the next issue they have asked for texts discussing the amount of time young children are spending using such devices. Write a short opinion piece (article) about the question given below. Your article should be between 175 and 200 words and pay particular attention to the following criteria:

- appropriate tone and style
- clearly organised and expressed ideas
- correct use of vocabulary
- correct use of grammar
- correct spelling and punctuation

Plan and organise your essay (use the rough paper provided). Write your definitive version in the space below, then read it carefully and make corrections if necessary.

**Are young children getting too much screen time? Should we do something about it?**



Facultat  
de Traducció  
i Interpretació

## ENGLISH ENTRANCE EXAM: JUNE 18, 2019

*Time allowed for this exam: 3 Hours*

*Before starting, please read the following carefully:*

- ☞ *All mobile phones must be turned off*
- ☞ *No internet devices are permitted.*
- ☞ *There are three parts to this exam:*
  - I. Resum en català / Resumen en Castellano (50%)*
  - II. Language Work (25%)*
  - III. Written Essay (25%)*
- ☞ *Write all your answers in this exam booklet. Use the spaces provided.*
- ☞ *All rough paper will be collected after the exam.*

### ***POLITE WARNING!***

***ANY TALKING, COPYING OR USE OF NON-AUTHORISED DEVICES DURING THE EXAM  
WILL MEAN AUTOMATIC AND IMMEDIATE DISQUALIFICATION***

**I. Resum en català / Resumen en castellano (50%)** \_\_\_\_\_

**II. Language Work (25%)** \_\_\_\_\_

**III. Written Essay (25%)** \_\_\_\_\_

# The butterfly effect: what we can learn from one species?

1 Conservationist Giles Wood pauses on our walk. He hopes to show me a butterfly called the Duke of Burgundy, popularly known as “duke”, a small gold-coloured insect that seven years ago was hurtling towards extinction in Britain. In 2012, it could be found in 160 colonies, which sounds plenty, however, there were fewer than 10 butterflies recorded in over half of them and the species had already vanished from at least 260 other sites. At that time the duke was not only disappearing from its traditional habitats, but its population had also fallen by 84% compared to records from the 1970s. It was spiralling into non-existence. Extinction experts have observed how endangered species enter a kind of death dive in their final years and are especially vulnerable to disease and climate change. The duke seemed destined to follow suit.



15 The term “Insectageddon” has entered popular vocabulary; it gives a name to the terrifying loss of insect life upon which, ultimately, the complex web of life on Earth depends. Global studies published earlier this year suggested that more than 40% of insect species are declining. A survey on German nature reserves found that the flying insect population has declined by 76% over the last 27 years, leading to warnings of an ecological disaster. Back in Britain, chemical farming and climate breakdown are increasingly recognised as key drivers of the decline in butterfly species: in general, they fell by 58% on farmed land in England between 2000 and 2009, despite the government doubling spending on conservation.

20 Yet in recent years the duke has staged a miraculous comeback. Last summer, its numbers increased by 65%, but this wasn’t a seasonal fluke: the butterfly has bounced back in Kent, revived in Sussex and is also booming in North Yorkshire. The fact that it has come back from the brink of extinction is cause for celebration, but even more so because it is known for having rather specific environmental preferences compared to most butterflies. In fact, it is nicknamed the “Goldilocks” of the butterfly world precisely for this. The duke caterpillar usually only eats cowslips – a common wildflower, but not found everywhere. In addition to its diet, as a butterfly it is likewise fussy about its habitat: it doesn’t like the open flat areas favoured by most butterflies, nor does it thrive in dense woods or forests. Instead the duke prefers grass land or lightly populated woods or forests.

25 The revival of the duke is mainly due to human intervention. Efforts to save them in Yorkshire began in the early 00s, when new areas were cleared to create an environment suited to this butterfly. The key was to connect existing habitats, where they are declining, to neighbouring spaces that have been adapted for them. For example, these connecting “corridors” are planted with cowslip seeds, the flower which duke caterpillars and butterflies like to feed on. This encourages them to move towards another area where they are more likely to survive. Volunteers have also been crucial in this endeavour, monitoring numbers to show which corridors are working and which aren’t. So far it has been a major success. This method of connecting habitats through which wildlife can spread has come under criticism, but the duke’s expansion is proof that it actually works. Recorded sightings of the duke using the corridors created in North Yorkshire, Sussex and Kent are clear evidence of its success, and even more impressive given how fussy this insect is about its habitat.

30 The conservationist corridor approach also helps other species adapt to the climate crisis. Dry spells resulting from climate change are a danger to many insects because flowers die before their time. Last summer was a classic example: eggs laid on hot, south-facing hills failed as the plants died. But flowers were then planted on the cooler north and west-facing hillsides encouraging the insect population to migrate. This year insect numbers have increased slightly in these new areas. Climate-proofing is common sense strategy in a conservation programme, because it anticipates more extreme weather events, and the only way to mitigate against that is to build big, well-connected populations that are able to respond and move.

35 The duke’s revival may be heartening, but can we really halt Insectageddon one species at a time? According to ecologist Phoebe Miles, some individual species trigger emotional responses among the general public, which leads to funding, volunteering and other actions. She points out that every single species conservation effort has helped other species, with examples of certain plants and birds in the United States, while in the UK, the work to save the duke is also benefitting other butterflies.

40 Saving the duke has not, however, halted the decline of other important insect species – the bees that people notice are now missing from their gardens. These disappearances are the consequences of major policy-level decisions by governments over time concerning pesticides, atmospheric pollution and climate change. But we should not think that simply forcing governments to intervene is the only option. Species-based conservation offers hope and shows people they have a choice about the sort of world they want to live in.

## I. Language Work

Explain briefly in English the meaning of the following words / phrases according to the context in which they appear in this article – use the space provided (4 points)

Example:

halt (l. 49): stop

1. death dive (l. 9):
2. destined to follow suit (l. 10):
3. fluke (l. 19):
4. fussy (l. 23, 35):

Find a synonym (word or phrase) in the text for the following, which has the same grammatical function (noun, adjective, adverb, verb etc.) (4 points):

Example:

commonly: (l. 2) “popularly”

1. reason:
2. edge:
3. short periods of time:
4. generate:

What do the following words / phrases refer to? (2 points)

Example:

It (l. 11): refers back to “Insectageddon”

1. upon which (l. 12):
  2. this (l. 19):
  3. this (l. 22):
  4. these disappearances (l. 50):
-

Etiqueta: \_\_\_\_\_

Resumiu en  **català**  el contingut de l'article (aprox. 250 paraules).  
La versió definitiva en net del resum en català l'heu d'escriure en aquest full.

Etiqueta: \_\_\_\_\_

Resumid en **castellano** el contenido del artículo (aprox. 250 palabras).  
Escribid la versión definitiva en limpio del resumen en castellano en esta hoja.