

**English Exam  
Grade 11 H – ES /120 minutes  
February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

---

**Reading Comprehension: (37 pts)**

**The Third Chimpanzee**

It is obvious that humans are unlike all animals. It is also obvious that we are a species of big mammals, down to the minutest details of our anatomy and our molecules. That contradiction is the most fascinating feature of a human species. It is familiar, but we still have difficulty grasping how it came to be and what it means.

On the one hand, between ourselves and all other species lies a seemingly unbridgeable gulf that we acknowledge by defining a category called “animals”. It implies that we consider centipedes, chimpanzees and clams to share decisive features with each other but not with us and to lack features restricted to us, among these characteristics unique to us are the abilities to talk, write, and build complex machines. We depend completely on tools, not just on our bare hands, to make a living. Most of us wear clothes, and enjoy art and many of us believe in a religion. We are distributed over the whole Earth, command much of its energy and production, and are beginning to expand into the ocean depths and into space. We are also unique in darker attributes, including genocide, delight in torture, addictions to toxic drugs, and extermination of other species by the thousands. While a few animal species have one or two of these attributes in rudimentary form (like tool use), we still (like tool use), we still eclipse animals even in those respects.

Thus, for practical and legal purposes, humans are not animals. When Darwin intimated in 1859 that we had evolved from apes, it is no wonder that most people initially regarded his theory as absurd and continued to insist that we had been separately created by God. Many people, including a quarter of all American college graduates, still hold to that belief today.

On the other hand, we obviously are animals, with the usual animal body parts, molecules and genes. It is even clear what particular type of animal we are. Externally, we are so similar to chimpanzees that eighteenth-century anatomists who believed in divine creation could already

recognize our affinities. Just imagine taking some normal people, stripping off their clothes, taking away all their other possessions, depriving them of the power of speech and reducing them to grunting without changing their anatomy at all. Put them in a cage in the zoo next to the chimp cages, and let the rest of us clothed and talking people visit the zoo. Those speechless caged people would be seen for what we all really are a chimp that has little hair and walks upright. A zoologist from outer space would immediately classify us as just a third species of chimpanzee, along with the pygmy chimp of Zaire and the common chimp of the rest of tropical Africa.

Molecular genetic studies over the last half-a-dozen years have shown that we continue to share over ninety-eight per cent of our genes with the other two chimps. The overall genetic distance between us and chimps is even smaller than the distance between such closely related bird species as red-eyed and white-eyed vireos, or willow warblers and chiffchaffs. So we still carry most of our old biological baggage with us. Since Darwin's time, fossilized bones of hundreds of creatures variously intermediate between apes and modern humans have been discovered, making it impossible for a reasonable person to deny the overwhelming evidence. What once seemed absurd - our evolution from apes - actually happened.

Yet the discoveries of many missing links have only made the problem more fascinating, without fully solving it. The few bits of new baggage we acquired - the two per cent of our genes that differ from those of chimps - must have been responsible for all of our seemingly unique properties. We underwent some small changes with big consequences rather quickly and recently in our evolutionary history. In fact, as recently as a hundred thousand years ago that zoologist from space would have viewed us as just one more species of big mammal. Granted, we had a couple of curious behavioral habits, notably our control of fire and our dependence on tools, but those habits would have seemed no more curious to the extraterrestrial visitor than would the habits of beavers and bowerbirds. Somehow, within a few tens of thousands of years - a time that is almost infinitely long when measured against one person's memory but is only a tiny fraction of our species' separate history - we had begun to demonstrate the qualities that make us unique and fragile.

What were those few key ingredients that made us human? Since our unique properties appeared so recently and involved so few changes, those properties or at least their precursors must already be present in animals. What are those animal precursors of art and language, of genocide and drug abuse?

Our unique qualities have been responsible for our success as a species. No other large animal is native to all the continents, or breeds in all habitats from deserts and the Arctic to tropical rainforests. No large wild animal rivals us in numbers. But among our unique qualities are two that now jeopardize our existence: our propensities to kill each other and to destroy our environment. Of course, both propensities occur in other species: lions and many other animals kill their own kind,

while elephants and others damage their environment. However, their propensities are much more threatening in us than in other animals because of our technological power and exploding numbers.

**1- Find words in the text that mean the same as: (6 pts)**

Very small and thorough (p. 1): minutest

Understanding (p. 1): grasping

Similarities (p. 4): affinities

Ancestors, predecessors (p. 7): precursors

To endanger and threaten (p. 8): jeopardize

Booming (p. 8): exploding

**2- Are these statements True (T) or False (F)? Answer then justify quoting the text.  
(5 pts)**

1- Some believe that animals don't share any characteristics with people.

True: (1.6/7)

- We consider centipedes, chimpanzees and clams to share decisive features with each other but not with us.

2- People unlike animals do not enjoy harming nor killing.

False: (1.12-13)

- We are also unique in darker attributes, including genocide, delight in torture...

3- We are in no respect close to chimpanzees.

False: (1.21 / 1.36 / 1.30-31)

- Externally, we are similar to chimpanzees.
  - We continue to share over ninety-eight percent of our genes with the other two chimps.
- 4- Our evolution results from major changes in our genetic makeup.

False: (1.38 / 1.41 / 1.49-50)

- The few bits of new baggage we acquired – the two per cent
  - We underwent some small changes with big consequences.
  - Since our unique properties appeared so recently and involved so few changes.
- 5- Animals live only under certain conditions and their habitats are limited.

True: (1.52)

- No other large animal is native to all continents, or breeds in all habitats from deserts and the Arctic to tropical rainforests.

### **ANSWER IN YOUR OWN WORDS**

#### **3- Rephrase the controversy stated in paragraph one. (maximum 15 words) (2 pts)**

Despite the fact that we have evolved from animals/chimpanzees, we have become different or a complete new species.

#### **4- According to the text, what does the “unbridgeable gulf” (l. 5) refer to? Include at least 5 arguments. (40 words) (5 pts)**

The gulf represents our ability to acquire a language, create and innovate, use tools, wear clothes, have beliefs/religions, have an evil nature, be refined, inhabit all earth, control the resources and our environment.

#### **5- “We still far eclipse animals even in those respects.” (l. 15)**

**Do you agree with the writer’s point of view? Why/Why not? (3 pts)**

Personal

#### **6- Summarize the reasons why a zoologist from outer space would classify humans as a third species of chimpanzee. (50 words) (3 pts)**

Physically, people and Chimpanzees are very much alike. Hence, if incarcerated and deprived of tools, clothes and the ability to talk, people would look exactly like

chimpanzees. The only difference would be the fact that we are less hairy and walk straight. The zoologist would see us for what we really are: a new species of chimpanzees.

**7- Do you believe our “exploding numbers” (1.58) pose a real threat to the future of our planet? (50 words) (3 pts)**

Personal

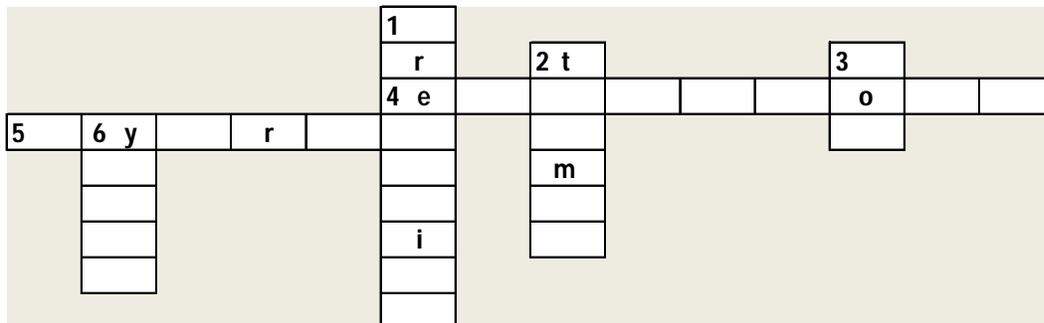
**8- To what extent do you agree with the following statement? Provide at least 2 arguments in your answer. (100 words max.) (10 pts)**

**“Our technology has exceeded our humanity”**

Personal

**Vocabulary and Grammar: (35 pts)**

**1- Complete the crossword: (6 pts)**



ACROSS

- 4. Showing discrepancies in the results ..... Erroneous .....
- 5. Results from a cross between two different species ... hybrid .....

DOWN

- 1. Hunting amongst animals ... predation .....
- 2. When the ground shakes ... tremor .....
- 3. Piece of equipment found in wheels ... cog .....
- 6. The amount of something produced... yield .....

**2- Cross the odd word out: (3 pts)**

- a- Lush            Fertile            Barren            Dense
- b- Wipe out        Sustain            Annihilate        Degenerate
- c- Bonanza        Diversity        Staunch        Abundance
- d- Core            Fault            Crust            Orbit
- e- Shed            Squander        Discharge        Dispose of
- f- Shatter        Disintegrate    Decay            Dismantle

**3- Complete the sentences with words from the box. (10 pts)**

replenish	erosion	droughts	fumes	exhausts	hoard
exploit	landfill	sewage	repercussions	avert	
perilous	vulnerable	bleak	curb	impending	
disparities	stem	cluster	contaminated		

- 1- Our planet is now weak and vulnerable due to a cluster of problems such as contaminated water supplies, soil erosion and severe droughts
- 2- The Disparities in the levels of development between countries stem from political, social and economic factors.

- 3- It is vital we \_\_\_\_ **curb** \_\_\_\_\_ population growth and try to **replenish** \_\_\_\_\_ fossil fuels reserves in order to avoid catastrophic \_ **repercussions** \_\_\_\_ in the future.
- 4- Safe disposal of \_\_\_\_ **Sewage** \_\_\_\_\_ is a good measure to \_\_\_\_ **avert** \_\_\_\_\_ ecological disasters.
- 5- \_\_\_\_ **Fumes** from car \_\_\_\_ **exhausts** \_\_\_\_\_ and factories pollute the air.
- 6- It is common for people to \_\_\_\_ **hoard** \_\_\_\_\_ food and different supplies in \_\_\_\_ **perilous** \_\_\_\_\_ times.
- 7- It is unthinkable to create a \_\_\_\_ **landfill** \_\_\_\_\_ in a residential area.
- 8- It is imperative for governments to try to \_\_\_\_ **exploit** \_\_\_\_\_ new sources of energy to face the \_\_\_\_ **impending** \_\_\_\_\_ crisis so as not to reach a \_\_\_\_ **bleak** \_\_\_\_\_ future.

**4- Rewrite the following sentences starting with the word(s) given: (12 pts)**

1. She was always confident about her skills to become a talented writer.

**At no time did she have any doubts about her skills to become a talented writer.**

2. They have never been able to understand their children.

**Never have they been able to understand their children.**

3. The Indian guru is extremely optimistic; he always looks at the bright side of things.

**So optimistic is the Indian guru that he always looks at the bright side of things**

4. I hope he leaves before dark.

**It is desirable he leave before dark**

5. I wanted Amy to hand in her homework that week.

**I insisted Amy hand in her homework that week**

6. My suggestion is that they buy more safety gears for the adventure.

**I suggest they buy more safety gears for the adventure**

7. It is high time you told the truth about the incident.

**If I were you, I would tell the truth**

8. The spectators didn't only cheer during the game; they also came up with a special dance.

**Not only did the spectators cheer, but they also came up with a special dance**

9. John wouldn't be in trouble if Mark hadn't convinced him to cheat.

**Had Mark not convinced John to cheat, John wouldn't be in trouble**

10. They only realized the gravity of the situation when they couldn't find the keys.

Only when **they couldn't find the keys did they realize the gravity of the situation**

11. After Mary left her apartment, she noticed she had forgotten to bring her briefcase.  
Hardly **had Mary left her apartment when she noticed she had forgotten to bring her briefcase.**

12. He must be informed about the new product.

It is vital **he be informed about the new product**

**5- Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets: (4 pts)**

- 1- I am sure the thief didn't come in through the window, I remember **locking**(lock) it.
- 2- I intend **to leave** (leave) my country as soon as I have a chance.
- 3- Diana yearned **to reach** (reach) her destination on time.
- 4- Never postpone **doing** (do) what ought to be done today.
- 5- He stopped **to admire** (admire) the beauty of the landscape.
- 6- I have always vowed **to stay** (stay) true to my vocation.
- 7- In order not to give up, one needs **to be reminded** (remind) by friends and family of the importance of success.
- 8- We always let our students **drink** (drink) during long exams.

---

***Good Luck!***