

Skills test 2

READING

The world's most extreme animals

There are some animals that can survive almost anything – they can be frozen solid or boiled alive and yet still do not die! We asked some scientists to talk about their favorites.

The Himalayan jumping spider

"This small spider is able to live at amazingly high altitudes (up to 20,000 feet); it can survive on the highest slopes of Mount Everest, one of the most hostile environments to live. It is possibly the highest-dwelling creature on Earth. It feeds on insects, such as the springtail, which live lower down and are blown up the mountainside. (1) ____ Its legs are also extremely powerful, enabling the spider to jump long distances."

The Arctic woolly bear caterpillar

"Some animals can survive being frozen solid, including several types of frog and many insects. (2) ____ The Arctic woolly bear caterpillar spends 5% of its time eating (during June only) and 5% in a cocoon. The cocoon protects the caterpillar from being eaten by predators, and also conserves energy which will be needed later on to synthesize essential compounds to combat the extreme cold. This unusual creature spends the remaining 90% of its life frozen. It hibernates in temperatures as low as -90° Fahrenheit, and even allows its blood to freeze."

The Sahara desert ant

"This ant comes out from its underground burrow at the hottest point in the day, when temperatures are around 140° Fahrenheit. It is able to figure out where it is in relation to the sun, and can thus find its way back to its burrow again. (3) ____ Its main prey are dead insects which have died of the heat. Its long legs enable it to scuttle quickly across the sand, hardly touching it at all – and this protects its body from the extreme heat. It will also climb up plants in order to cool off, whenever it gets the opportunity."

The Pompeii worm

"This amazing animal was discovered off the coast of the Galapagos Islands around 30 years ago. (4) ____ It lives in hard tubes near hydrothermal vents on the seabed. It sticks its head out of the tube into cooler water to eat and breathe, but its tail rests in water reaching temperatures of 175° Fahrenheit. We don't really know how its tail survives this, but we are doing research into the furry bacterial coating on the worm's back, which may act as a barrier to the heat."

The water bear

"While these tiny water-dwelling creatures might look rather humble, they are actually a super-species when it comes to extreme living. They have been found in hot springs, in the mountains of the Himalayas, and under thick sheets of ice. (5) ____ They can survive extremes of radiation, pressure, heat, and cold.

They can live without food or water for very long periods of time (up to ten years, in fact). In the lab, these fascinating critters have been subjected to temperatures as low as absolute zero (-459°Fahrenheit). The change in their body composition was observed and recorded as changing from 85% water to only 3%. This deliberate dehydration stops the water bear from being torn apart by the freezing ice."

- 1 Read a magazine article about extreme animals. Match the animals 1–5 with the descriptions a–g. There are two descriptions you do not need to use.**

- 1 spider ____
2 caterpillar ____
3 ant ____
4 worm ____
5 water bear ____

- a moves so fast that it doesn't burn its feet
b can survive the coldest and the hottest conditions on Earth
c were discovered in the Himalayan foothills and the Galapagos Islands
d athletic with amazingly strong legs
e might be covered with a heat-protective layer
f spends only a very small proportion of its time eating
g can be found in rivers and oceans around the world

2 points for each correct answer 10

- 2 Read the article again. Five sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A–F the ones which fit each blank (1–5). There is one sentence you do not need to use.**

- A This is very important because it's only possible to survive out in the blisteringly hot sun for a few minutes at a time.
B It has eight eyes, including an incredibly powerful central pair, in order to spot prey from far away.
C If humidity is high, the creature cannot sweat and this makes it feel awful.
D One of the most amazing examples is this little creature – which can be found within the Arctic Circle, Greenland, and Canada.
E Scientists have even sent them into outer space!
F It has also been found more recently, in the Pacific Ocean, near Costa Rica.

2 points for each correct answer 10

Skills test 2

3 Match the underlined words in the text with the definitions. The noun definitions are given in the singular.

- 1 done on purpose _____
- 2 an opening that allows air, gas, or liquid to escape _____
- 3 part of a mountain or hill _____
- 4 an animal that is hunted or killed for food _____
- 5 a living creature _____

1 point for each correct answer

	5
--	---

Reading total

	25
--	----

WRITING

1 Write a description of an interesting or unusual place in your town or city. Include some of these details:

- where it is located.
- why you think it's special.
- some examples or an anecdote to support your opinion.
- any history you know about the place.
- the type of people you might meet there.
- the atmosphere (e.g., peaceful).

Write your description in 100–150 words.

Shorter writing task

	10
--	----

2 Write an article about an actor or singer that you like or admire. Use the paragraph plan to help you.

Paragraph 1

- who he/she is
- how old he/she is
- any relevant and/or important facts about his/her early life
- how long you have known about him/her
- what he/she is famous for
- how famous he/she is in your country or internationally

Paragraph 2

- the best thing he/she has done
- what he/she has been doing recently

Paragraph 3

- what you particularly like or admire about this person

Write your article in 150–220 words.

Longer writing task

	15
--	----

Writing total

	25
--	----

LISTENING

1 Listen to a radio interview with Mark talking about his job. Check (✓) five points that he mentions.

- 1 He didn't mind going to prison. ☐
- 2 The worst crime he committed was burglary. ☐
- 3 He didn't do well at school. ☐
- 4 He decided to turn over a new leaf. ☐
- 5 He didn't know which subject to study. ☐
- 6 He was a fast learner. ☐
- 7 He loves riding horses. ☐
- 8 The apprenticeship was a turning point. ☐

1 point for each correct answer

	5
--	---

2 Listen again. Are the following statements true (T), false (F), or not stated (NS)?

- 1 The second time he went to prison, it was for eight months. ____
- 2 He was friends with people who had also been to prison. ____
- 3 He went to prison a third time for selling drugs to his friends. ____
- 4 He left school at 15 without graduating. ____
- 5 The prison offered a large number of courses. ____
- 6 Mark was interested in many different courses. ____
- 7 Cooking and car mechanics were more popular than Equine Management. ____
- 8 At level 1, Mark learned some basic elements of veterinary medicine. ____
- 9 He set up his own business as soon as he left prison. ____
- 10 Mark can't explain why his business has been a success. ____

2 points for each correct answer

	20
--	----

Listening total

	25
--	----

Skills test 2

SPEAKING

1 Ask and answer the questions with a partner.

- Do you think thrillers make good or bad movie viewing? Give reasons to support your answer.
- When was the last time you felt either really excited or really upset about an event, for example a meeting, party, or trip? Describe it.
- What's your opinion of advertising on the Internet? Describe whether you think it can be useful or whether it's just annoying and a waste of time and money.
- If you were going to start up a new business, what would it be? How would you raise money and market it?
- What do you think you'll be doing ten years from now? Give reasons for your answer.

max. 1 point for each topic

5



2 Look at the photos. Compare the different types of products and decide how you would advertise them. In your opinion, which products are easier to sell and which products are more difficult. Why?

max. 10 points

10



3 Discuss the statements. Do you agree or disagree?

- "Advertising aimed at children should be banned."
- "Advertising in general is a waste of a company's time and money."

max. 5 points for each topic

10

Speaking total 25

Skills test 2A total 100