

PASSAGE SET - 1

The savanna landscape is typified by tall grass and short trees. It is rather misleading to call the savanna 'tropical grassland', because trees are always present with the luxuriant tall grass. The terms 'parkland' or 'bush-veld' perhaps describe the landscape better. Trees grow best towards the equatorial humid latitudes or along river banks but decrease in height and density away from the equator. They occur in clumps or as scattered individuals. The trees are deciduous, shedding their leaves in the cool, dry season to prevent excessive loss of water through transpiration, e.g. acacias. Others have broad trunks, with water-storing

devices to survive through the prolonged drought such as baobabs and bottle trees. Trees are mostly hard, gnarled and thorny and may exude gum like gum arable. Many trees are umbrella shaped, exposing only a narrow edge to the strong winds. Palms which cannot withstand the drought are confined to the wettest areas or along rivers. Vegetative luxuriance reaches its peak in the rainy season, when trees renew their foliage and flower. In true savanna lands, the grass is tall and coarse, growing 6 to 12 feet high. The elephant grass may attain a height of even 15 feet! The grass tends to grow in compact tufts and has long roots which reach down in search of water. It appears greenish and well-

nourished in the rainy season but turns yellow and dies down in the dry season that follows. The grass lies dormant throughout the long, rainless period and springs up again in the next rainy season. In between the tall grass are scattered short trees and low bushes. As the rainfall diminishes towards the deserts the savanna merges into thorny scrub. In Australia, this scrubland is particularly well represented by a number of species: mallee, mulga, spinifex grass and other bushes. The savanna, particularly in

Africa, is the home of wild animals. It is known as the 'big game country' and thousands of animals are trapped or killed each year by people from all over the world. Some of the animals are tracked down for their skins, horns, tusks, bones or hair, others are captured alive and sent out of Africa as zoo animals, laboratory specimens or pets. There is such a wealth of animal life in Africa that many of the animal films that we see at the cinema are actually taken in the savanna. There are, in fact, two main groups of animals in the savanna, the grass-eating herbivorous animals and the fleshing-eating carnivorous animals. The herbivorous animals are often very

alert and move swiftly from place to place in search of green pastures. They are endowed with great speed to run away from the savage flesh-eaters that are always after them. The leaf and grass-eating animals include the zebra, antelope, giraffe, deer, gazelle, elephant and okapi. Many are well camouflaged species and their presence amongst the tall greenish-brown grass cannot be easily detected. The giraffe with such a long neck can locate its enemies a great distance away, while the elephant is so huge and strong that few animals will venture to come near it. It is well equipped with tusks and trunk for defence. The carnivorous animals like the,

lion, tiger, leopard, hyena, panther, jaguar, jackal, lynx and
puina have powerful jaws and teeth for attacking other
animals. Their natural colorings of light yellowish-brown
often with stripes like the tiger or spots like the leopard,
match perfectly with the tawny background of the savanna.
They often hide themselves in shady spots up in the branches
or amidst the tall bushes, and many wild animals, as well as
hunters themselves, are caught unawares in this manner.

Q.1. Why is Savanna in Africa called the "Big Game Country"?

- (a) There are both carnivores and herbivores.
- (b) Thousands of animals are hunted here.
- (c) Animal movies are particularly shot here.
- (d) It is home to many wild animals.

Q.2. The main theme of the passage is

- (a) Life in Savanna grassland
- (b) Grasses of the grassland Savanna
- (c) Vegetation and animal life in Savanna
- (d) Wealth of animal life in Africa

Q.3. What kind of a passage is it?

- (a) Analytical
- (b) Informative
- (c) Narrative
- (d) Literary

Q.4. Match the words with their meanings.

Words - a. luxuriant, b. dormant, c. prolonged

Meanings - 1. continued, 2. lush, 3. sleeping

(a) a-3, b-2, c-1

(b) a-2, b-1, c-3

(c) a-2, b-3, c-1

(d) a-1, b-3, c-2

Q.5. What helps an elephant fight its enemies?

- (a) its legs and ears
- (b) its tusks and trunk
- (c) its size and strength
- (d) its neck and tail

Q.6. Which of the following trees has water storing capacity in its broad trunk?

- (a) Acacia
- (b) Baobab
- (c) Palm
- (d) Gum arable

Q.7. Which species of vegetation is NOT found in Australian Savanna?

- (a) mallee
- (b) mulga
- (c) elephant grass
- (d) spinifex grass

Q.8. Select the most appropriate meaning of the underlined word as it is used in the text. Palms which cannot withstand the drought are confined to the wettest areas or along rivers.

- (a) Endure
- (b) Convert
- (c) Undergo
- (d) Suffer

Q.9. Select the carnivorous animal from the following.

(a) zebra

(b) lynx

(c) okapi

(d) gazelle

Q.10. What is the main feature of Savanna landscape?

- (a) tall grass and short trees
- (b) dense forests with tall trees
- (c) dry grass and low bushes
- (d) tall trees and short grass

Q.1- (b)

Q.2- (c)

Q.3- (b)

Q.4- (c)

Q.5- (b)

Q.6- (b)

Q.7- (c)

Q.8- (a)

Q.9- (b)

Q.10- (a)

PASSAGE SET - 2

New Delhi -India is set to surpass China as the world's most populous country in 2023, with each counting more than 1.4 billion residents this year, a United Nations report said on Monday, warning that high fertility would challenge economic growth. The world's population, estimated to reach 8 billion by November 15 this year, could grow to 8.5 billion in 2030, and 10.4 billion in 2100, as the pace of mortality slows, said the report released on World Population Day. India's population was 1.21 billion in 2011, according to the domestic census, which is conducted once a decade. The

government had deferred the 2021 census due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The world's population was growing at its slowest pace since 1950, having fallen below 1% in 2020, UN estimates showed. In 2021, the average fertility of the world's population stood at 2.3 births per woman over a lifetime, having fallen from about 5 births in 1950. Global fertility is projected to decline further to 2.1 births per woman by 2050. Referring to an earlier World Health Organization report estimating about 14.9 million deaths relating to the Covid-19 pandemic between January 2020 and December

2021, the UN report said global life expectancy at birth fell to 71 years in 2021 from 72.8 years in 2019, mostly due to the pandemic. The United Nations said more than half of the projected increase in the global population up to 2050 will be concentrated in eight countries - Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines and Tanzania. Countries of sub-Saharan Africa are expected to contribute more than half of the increase anticipated through 2050. However, the population of 61 countries is projected to decrease by 1% or more between 2022 and 2050, driven by a fall in fertility.

Q.1. After reading the above passage it can be inferred that it is

- (a) a news item
- (b) a research report
- (c) a magazine article
- (d) a survey report

Q.2. What will be the consequence of high fertility?

- (a) low economic growth
- (b) high economic growth
- (c) low mortality
- (d) high mortality

Q.3. Which statement is NOT correct according to the passage?

- (a) Since 1950, world population was growing at its a slowest speed.
- (b) The countries of Asia will contribute more than half of the increase anticipated through 2050.
- (c) The population of 61 countries will decrease by 1% or more between 2022 and 2050.
- (d) World population is estimated to reach 10.4 billion in 2100.

Q.4. According to the UN report, fertility rate in 1950 stood at how many average births per woman?

- (a) 2.3 births per woman
- (b) 2.1 births per woman
- (c) 3 births per woman
- (d) 5 births per woman

Q.5. The passage presents the findings of a United Nations report which is mainly regarding

- (a) the population in African countries
- (b) the population in China
- (c) the world population
- (d) the population in India

Q.1- (a)

Q.2- (a)

Q.3- (b)

Q.4- (d)

Q.5- (c)

PASSAGE SET - 3

From language to cultures there are annals about India's diversity writ in bold. At the heart of everything we hold close is our love for food; the aroma from warm hearths wafts in the air, a heady mix of history and meals. So heady, that we often forget that food has a large carbon footprint, and the menace of ever-growing fast-food businesses that contribute the lion's share to this problem. However, India's rich traditional and local edible biodiversity, with its focus on home cooked food, presents a ray of hope. Indian members

of Relais & Châteaux, in partnership with Slow Food International, hope to bring back our forefathers' wisdom when it comes to eating, through the Slow Food movement, which started in the 1980s and aims to bring to the fore the connection of plate with people and the planet. Calling for the protection and promotion of traditional techniques associated with regional food cultures is Jaisal Singh, owner of SUJAN group of hotels.

Q.1. What, according to the passage, is a possible way to manage the large carbon foot print caused by the fast-food Industry?

- (a) By associating with Slow Food International.
- (b) By consuming only home-cooked food.
- (c) By not participating in fast-food businesses at all.
- (d) By going back to traditional techniques of cooking and regional food cultures.

Q.2. What does the term 'lion's share' refer to in this context?

- (a) The largest part of something
- (b) Relating to non-vegetarian diet
- (c) The share of the head of the institution
- (d) Something that is negligible

Q.3. Which of the following sums up the central idea of the passage?

- (a) Jaisal Singh, the owner of SUJAN group of hotels has also been an important member of this traditional techniques associated with regional food cultures.
- (b) Fast food businesses are at the root of large carbon foot-print. The possible solution lies only in eating home cooked food and stop eating out.

- (c) Given the large carbon foot-print and menace of fast-food businesses an attempt has been made to bring back our forefathers' wisdom about eating to restore the connection of plate with people and planet.
- (d) Annals about India's diversity have been writ on varied subjects from languages to cultures. However, the love for food and the the ever-growing fast-food businesses has been the central subject of the interest.

Q.4. Which event mentioned in the passage took place in the 1980s?

- (a) Partnership of Indian members of Relais & Châteaux and Slow Food International
- (b) Beginning of Slow Food movement
- (c) Leaving of large carbon footprint by food
- (d) Documents of the annals about India's diversity

Q.5. Which of the following can be the most appropriate title of the passage?

- (a) The Menace of Large Carbon Footprint
- (b) Aroma from Warm Hearths
- (c) Retracing Traditional and Local Wisdom of Eating
- (d) A Heady Mix of History and Meals

Q.1- (d)

Q.2- (a)

Q.3- (c)

Q.4- (b)

Q.5- (c)