
Code: * **Beginner**
 ** **Intermediate**
 *** **Advanced**

Article 1 Painted Skin (Page 30 -32)

This article focuses on the increasing popularity of mainstream tattoos in Japan and the decline of traditional Japanese tattoos.

A. * Understanding the Article

1. What is the Japanese name for “tattoo artist”?
2. What are 2 examples from the article that show the increasing popularity of tattoos in Japan?
3. Why do the tattoos of contemporary artists not have a strict inherent style?
4. What does the Phoenix in the iconography of Japan tattoos symbolise?
5. Why does the author say that the acceptance of Japanese-style tattooing by Japanese is an “odd reverse importation”?

B. ** Guided Question

1. Define the term “archaic”.
2. “Even if a client in Tokyo wants a “Japanese” tattoo, it’s frequently more a modern update than a classically Japanese item”. Why does the writer say that whether the above phenomenon is a good thing is a point of contention?
3. Why is there a fear by tebori master Horitoku that traditional Japanese tattooing in its purest form might die out?

C. * Discussion Topic**

“It is impossible to overstate the importance of artists such as Horimyo, a relatively young tattoo artist who has taken on the challenge of continuing the art form.”

With evidence from the article, discuss why the author says that it is “impossible to overstate the importance” of young artist continuing the art form that is closely linked with Japan’s heritage and why continuing the art form is a challenge.

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Article 2 The New Face of Humanity (Page 34- 36)

This article shows the emerging trend of robots in Japanese homes and the public sector. It introduces the reader to the many different functions that robots are used for in Japan today.

A. * Understanding the Article

1. Where does the word “robot” come from?
2. What evidences are there in the article to show that robots are playing an increasing role in the country’s industries?
3. What literary tools does the writer use to show that robots are becoming more human? Support your answer with 2 examples from the article.
4. What does public fascination with Star Wars’ C3-PO and R2-D2, and Disney’s Wall-E confirm?
5. “There is a deeper motivation behind the Japanese craze for robots”. What is the “deeper motivation” that the writer is referring to?
6. What evidence shows that Japan has a “relatively homogeneous culture”?

B. ** Guided Question

1. What is the meaning of the word “ubiquitous”?
2. What are some concerns regarding the fully integrated human-robot society?
3. Pick out 2 examples from the passage that show how robots will improve the lives of the elderly in the future?

C. * Discussion Topic**

Pick out evidence in the passage that show how “the divide between human beings and robots is beginning to narrow”?

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Article 3 In Dire Straits (Page 107 -109)

This article is concerned with the ‘Critically Endangered’ humpback population and efforts that have been taken to conserve this species. It also gives background information to why the humpback dolphin population is threatened and why immediate intervention is necessary.

A. * Understanding the Article

1. The _____ or pink dolphin is named for its characteristic shade of _____. Get up close and you will find that pink dolphins sport _____ beaks, while their distinctive _____ stand atop a hump. Adults can grow to _____ in length and weigh close to _____. Being sociable creatures, they travel in groups of _____ individuals, and can live up to 40 years.
2. Why does the writer say that “it is no surprise that the major threat to them [pink dolphins] comes from the twin forces of industrialisation and pollution”?
3. Who is leading the work on the DNA front in the Natural Resources DNA Profiling and Forensic research Centre at Trent University, Canada?
4. According to Dr William Perrin, why have Taiwan’s humpback dolphins been listed as ‘Critically Endangered’ species?

B. ** Guided Question

1. What evidence in the article shows that the humpback dolphin is a ‘Critically Endangered’ species?
2. How does Professor White’s area of research interest in conservation help to protect the pink dolphin population?
3. How will putting Taiwan’s humpback dolphins in the IUCN’s list of ‘Critically Endangered’ species help conserve the humpback dolphin population?

C. * Discussion Topic**

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“It is hoped that these graceful creatures will not go the way of so many other extinct species in the region”

Discuss the possible success and problems faced by conservation groups in the near future.

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Article 4 State Controlled (Page 52- 61)

State Controlled, Propaganda and Reality in North Korea is an article that gives insight to North Korea, one of the most closed nation that is suffering massive problems in pursuit of its leader's military and political ideals.

A. * Understanding the Article

1. What evidence in the article shows that Kim Il-Sung still hailed as the “Eternal President” in his country even today?
2. Why is North Korea not able to cope with the food shortage?
3. Give evidences in the article to show why the author says “many Koreans have little idea about life outside their country”.
4. Who is the president of South Korea who met with Kim Jong-II in Pyongyang for a summit to address military tensions and economic issues?
- 5.

	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	South Korea
Capital		
Population		
Size of Defence Force (active troops)		

B. ** Guided Question

1. Give 2 examples of the “cracks in the illusion of a prosperous, thriving socialist state” as mentioned by the author.
2. What is the meaning of the word insidious

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3. “But the sight of women selling corn and cups of drinking water, and under-nourished filthy children begging by the roadside often convince otherwise.” Explain what message the writer is trying to convey in this sentence.

C. * Discussion Topic**

To what extent has North Korea’s isolation policy been effective in aiding the country’s progress? Discuss with evidence from the article.

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Article 5 The Chiru (Page 102 – 106)

The Chiru is an article that focuses on the conservation efforts of one of Asia’s most endangered species due to illegal hunting and human developments. However conservation efforts have begun to yield success in protecting this species from extinction.

A. * Understanding the Article

1. The Tibetan Antelope

Reproduction	
Size	
Distribution	

2. Although the Chiru is legally protected in India and China, why are the laws difficult to enforce?
3. Why have Chiru numbers drastically declined in the century?

B. ** Guided Question

1. What is the main strategy employed by conservationists to stop Chiru killings?

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2. Why does the writer say that “all is not lost for this high-elevation grassland inhabitant”? Support your answer with 2 examples from the article.
3. What does the author say that if the penalty imposed for importing and selling shatoosh was higher, “its effect as a deterrent would have been a lot more effective”?

C. * Discussion Topic**

Read the article The Chiru – Endangered antelope of the East and identify the steps taken by governments and Non-governmental Organisations to save the Chiru population and the impacts of conservation efforts.

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Article 6 A Place Called Home (Page 107 -109)

The article is focused on the issue of child abandonment and the efforts currently taken to help these children to give them the support and education needed for them to move forward in life.

A. * Understanding the Article

1. Why did Chung To start the Chi Heng Foundation in 1998?
2. Why are the majority of abandoned children female?
3. What is the government doing to address the issue of many female children being abandoned by their parents?
4. Why are the statistics of China's orphans notoriously unreliable and difficult to pin down?
5. What is the meaning of the word stigma used in the article?
6. Why are AIDS-affected orphans and disabled orphans not as easy to adopt as healthy ones?

B. ** Guided Question

1. What evidence is there to show that the spirit of volunteerism is strong in China?
2. What is the writer implying when he says that statistics of China's orphans are 'notoriously' unreliable?
3. According to China's MCA, why are 200,000 workers needed as opposed to the current number of 8,000?

C. * Mini Project**

Identify a target group of people (disabled, orphans, terminally ill etc.) in your country and research on efforts that are currently being done by local communities, the government and international organisations. Suggest what can be done by the students in your school to help these people.

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Your project should include the following:

- *A background on the target group.*
- *Efforts currently done for the target group.*
- *What still needs to be done for the target group.*
- *What can the students in your school do to help?*