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GCSE ENGLISH/ENGLISH LANGUAGE

H

Higher Tier Unit 1 Understanding and producing non-fiction texts

Insert

The three sources that follow are:

- **Source 1:** an online newspaper article called, 'Drug and cosmetics firms back plan to cut animal testing' by Richard Gray
- **Source 2:** an article called, 'Pandering to the crowd: panda accused of faking pregnancy in bun fraud case'
- **Source 3:** 'Gorilla Track', an extract from a non-fiction book by Katherine Braun Mankin.

Please open the insert fully
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Source 1

The Telegraph

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Wednesday 02 April 2014

Drug and cosmetics firms back plan to cut animal testing

By Richard Gray

27 Nov 2010

Experts from companies including drug giants AstraZeneca, Procter & Gamble, Unilever and cosmetics firm L’Oreal endorsed a Europe-wide initiative towards ending the use of animals in research and safety testing.



In a report to be published this week, they will say the future of safety testing of new drugs and chemical products lies in new technologies that use cell cultures and computer models rather than living animals.

Opponents of vivisection* have long argued that animals are poor models for testing drugs and products that will be used by humans because their biology is often different.

Scientists insist animals provide an important step to ensure the safety and effectiveness of new drugs before they are given to humans for the first time.

The report, which is to be published by a panel of experts from industry, academic institutions and regulatory bodies, provides backing for an initiative aimed at finding alternatives to animal research.

In the report, the panel states: “Today we are at a new biological milestone, where we could – with sufficient international and political support – produce the means and the technology to test the human and environmental risk of tens of thousands of chemicals per year without using animals.”

Other methods include the use of embryonic stem cells to create heart tissue that can be used for drug testing, using robotic screening of drugs and using computer programs that can predict the effect of a drug in the body.

More than 3.6 million tests were carried out on animals in Britain last year and there has been growing concern from within the scientific community at the number of animal research studies that are never published due to unimportant results or poor experimental design.

The report states testing a single chemical takes up to five years, involves 800 rodents and costs £2.5 million, while the use of robots could test 350 chemicals in under a week and for a fraction of the cost.

Troy Seidle, director of research for Humane Society International, said: “This is the first step towards a road map that will see the phasing out of the use of animals in safety testing.

“The fact that industry is prepared to come to the table to meet with regulators and say they are prepared to do development, invest resources and change the way we do things shows this is a real possibility that is not just pie in the sky.”

*Vivisection – the use of animals for scientific research.

Source 2

Pandering to the crowd: panda accused of faking pregnancy in bun fraud case



Hopes that tiny panda paws would be seen in the world’s first live-broadcast cub delivery have been dashed after Chinese experts suggested the ‘mother’ may have been focusing more on extra bun rations than giving birth.

The slated star of the show, giant panda Ai Hin, had shown signs of pregnancy at the Chengdu Giant Panda Breeding Research Centre, according to state news agency Xinhua.

A live broadcast of the event was planned but the agency said that the panda’s “behaviours and physiological indexes returned to normal”, citing experts saying she experienced a “phantom pregnancy”.

The breeding centre commonly moves pandas that are thought to be pregnant into single rooms with air conditioning and around-the-clock care.

“They also receive more buns, fruits and bamboo, so some clever pandas have used this to their advantage to improve their quality of life,” Wu Kongju, an expert at the base, said.

Phantom pregnancy is said to be common among the endangered animals. Many continued to display pregnant behaviour after noticing the difference in treatment they received, Xinhua said.

Six-year-old Ai Hin showed reduced appetite, less mobility and a surge in hormones when her ‘pregnancy’ was first detected, the news agency said, before further observations concluded it was fake.

The giant panda’s natural habitat is in the mountainous south-west of China. But they have a notoriously low reproductive rate and are under pressure from factors such as habitat loss.

China has about 1,600 pandas living in the wild and another 300 held in captivity.

Source 3

On an adventurous trip to Africa, Katherine Braun Mankin encounters some very large animals.

Gorilla Track

The sun begins to rise pink and gold and resolute over the lush green hillsides of Uganda. It is our second morning in Africa, and I know that behind the remnants of the dark night, the Rwenzori Mountains in the distance are thickly covered with tea plants, tropical trees, and flowers. The scenery is exotic and much more beautiful than I had imagined. But my reason for coming here is to see animals....

The trekking this morning is even steeper and more difficult. The floor of the forest is thick with growth. But there are also holes covered by grass and vines, and I often fall through. I hear the sounds of others in my group behind me, also falling, but I am still right behind the tracker and concentrating so hard on keeping up that I think of little else.

When the tracker stops, I see a silverback*, even larger than the ones we saw yesterday, a few feet down the hillside to my left. I have a clear view of him. Then I hear a noise to my right. It’s a blackback, about 10 or 12 feet down slope from us, and he’s moving toward me. I watch him, he watches me. “Sit down,” my guide whispers to me, and my butt drops to the ground like a magnet. “Slowly,” he whispers. But it doesn’t matter now what he says. Nothing matters, because the gorilla is studying me carefully. I forget to drop my eyes as we were instructed. I freeze under the gorilla’s gaze. I want to back up but cannot as some of the group is behind me. The grass is slippery. I’m afraid if I move at all, I will slide forward in front of him. I just stay in my crouched position. Finally, I remember to drop my eyes.

The gorilla moves forward. There’s no path, just jungle, but he is walking toward me, moving very slowly. I have never been so still. I feel as if my heart has ceased beating, and I no longer breathe. As he crosses in front of me, only two feet away, I can see the ridges in his ears and individual tufts of hair, he is that close. If I had stuck my foot out, I would have tripped him. And then he has passed. I watch him climb uphill and disappear in the thick leaves. The tracker reaches out and touches my shoulder. “Are you all right?” I nod.

I sit for a few minutes watching the silverback and two females with their offspring. Once again, I hear sounds off to my right. Another large gorilla approaches us, moving just as slowly, just as deliberately toward me. I grab the tracker’s arm. My legs ache from this crouched position, and I am really afraid of slipping and sliding into the gorilla. He also passes just a couple of feet away. This time I remember to avert my eyes. Afterward, when I’m breathing again, I hear a noise behind me and turn to see the first blackback push through the bushes and sit down a few feet uphill from me and begin to eat leaves. Slowly I twist around and watch him eat. His belly is enormous—a Buddha belly blackback.

When our hour is up, we move on. I don’t try to keep up with the tracker.

*Silverback, Blackback: types of gorilla.

END OF SOURCES