



## MODEL QUESTION 24

### Unit: 12, lesson: 4

A vast mangrove forest shared by Bangladesh and India that is home to possibly 500 Bengal tigers is being rapidly destroyed by erosion, rising sea levels and storm surges, according to a major study by researchers at the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and others. The Sundarbans forest took the brunt of super cyclone Sidr in 2007, but new satellite studies show that 71% of the forested coastline is retreating by as much as 200 metres a year. If erosion continues at this pace, already threatened tiger populations living in the forests will be put further at risk. Natalie Pettorelli, one of the report's authors, said: "Coastline retreat is evident everywhere. A continuing rate of retreat would see these parts of the mangrove disappear within 50 years. On the Indian side of the Sundarbans, the island which extends most into the Bay of Bengal has receded by an average of 150 metres a year, with a maximum of just over 200 metres; this would see the disappearance of the island in about 20 years." The Sundarbans is known for vanishing islands but the scientists said the current retreat of the mangrove forests on the southern coastline is not normal. "The causes for increasing coastline retreat, other than direct anthropogenic ones, include increased frequency of storm surges and other extreme natural events, rises in sea-level and increased salinity which increases the vulnerability of mangroves," said Pettorelli. "Our results indicate a rapidly retreating coastline that cannot be accounted for by the regular dynamics of the Sundarbans. Degradation is happening fast, weakening this natural shield for India and Bangladesh." "As human development thrives, and global temperature continues to rise, natural protection from tidal waves and cyclones is being degraded at alarming rates. This will inevitably lead to species loss in this richly biodiverse part of the world, if nothing is done to stop it." "The Sundarbans is a critical tiger habitat; one of only a handful of remaining forests big enough to hold several hundred tigers. To lose the Sundarbans would be to move a step closer to the extinction of these majestic animals," said ZSL tiger expert Sarah Christie.

1. Choose the right word which is the closest meaning in the context that has been used in the text.

- a) The word **vast** refers to text \_\_\_\_\_
- i) tiny                      ii) miniature                      iii) enormous                      iv) little
- b) The word **brunt** refers to text \_\_\_\_\_
- i) power                      ii) impact                      iii) ferocious                      iv) forest
- c) The word **current** refers to text \_\_\_\_\_
- i) flow                      ii) present                      iii) tide                      iv) water level
- d) The word **retreat** refers to text \_\_\_\_\_
- i) bring together again                      ii) quarrelsome                      iii) go back                      iv) reprobate

- e) The word **vulnerability** refers to text \_\_\_\_\_  
i) in bad taste   ii) apprehending by understanding   iii) very shrewd   iv) not protected against attack
- f) What is the purpose of the author of this passage?  
i) to show that the existence of Bengal tigers is secured  
ii) to explain that the existence of Bengal tigers is threatened  
iii) to describe that the existence of the Sundarbans is secured.  
iv) to highlight that the future of the Sundarbans is bright
- g) The word **anthropogenic** refers to \_\_\_\_\_  
i) history   ii) anthropology   iii) science of origin   iv) pertaining to the origin of man
- h) What of the following statement is true?  
i) it is waning   ii) possibly 500 Bengal tigers are being rapidly become extinct  
iii) its area is expanding   iv) India is demanding its major area
- i) What happens to the coastline of the Sundarbans after sidr?  
i) trees start to grow in plenty   ii) it starts to recede  
iii) it starts to expand its area   iv) the temperature of the area begins to fall
- j) "The Sundarbans is a critical tiger habitat." Refers to \_\_\_\_\_ -  
i) tigers living here are faced with critical situation   ii) it is an important living place for tigers  
iii) it is a dangerous place for tigers to live in   iv) the forest is no longer a safe habitat for tigers
- k) What happens to the coastline of the Sundarbans after surges?  
i) trees start to grow in plenty   ii) it starts to expand its area  
iii) it starts to recede   iv) the temperature of the area begins to fall
- l) The word **Mangrove** refers to \_\_\_\_\_  
i) diaspora   ii) rhizophora   iii) merriment   iv) man made forests
- m) The word 'dynamic' refers to \_\_\_\_\_  
(i) powerful explosive   (ii) dissimilar comparison  
(iii) having energy, force of character   (iv) strong anger
- n) Which of the following is not true in respect of the Sundarbans?



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- (i) It is a vast mangrove forest  
(ii) It is home to exactly 500 Bengal tigers  
(iii) It is in Bangladesh and India  
(iv) It is being rapidly destroyed by erosion

**o) The word 'surge' refers to \_\_\_\_\_**

- (i) join the threads    (ii) a kind of treatment    (iii) overcome    (iv) move forward like waves

**p) 'Degradation' in the fifth paragraph could be best replaced by \_\_\_\_\_**

- (i) deduction    (ii) disability    (iii) deduce    (iv) deterioration

**q) The best synonym of 'Majestic' is \_\_\_\_\_**

- (i) impressive    (ii) royal    (iii) nice    (iv) fine

**r) According to the scientists, the current retreat of the Sundarbans is not \_\_\_\_\_**

- (i) natural    (ii) abnormal    (iii) unnatural    (iv) mysterious

**s) When Ms Christie says, "The Sundarbans is a critical tiger habitat," she means that \_\_\_\_\_**

- (i) it is a dangerous place for tigers to live in  
(ii) it is an important living place for tigers  
(iii) the forest is no longer a safe habitat for tigers  
(iv) tigers living here are faced with critical situation

**t) According to the scientists, how is the current retreat of the mangrove forests on the southern coastline?**

- (i) Not abnormal    (ii) Not usual    (iii) Not anomalous    (iv) Natural

**u) Mr. Suzuki considers the Sundarbans richly bio-diverse as \_\_\_\_\_**

- (i) it is a decaying mangrove    (ii) it is home for a great variety of animals and plants  
(iii) it gives living space to endangered species    (iv) it has a rich tiger population

**v) The Sundarbans is a world famous site for its \_\_\_\_\_**

- (i) seventh-wonder    (ii) bewilderment    (iii) biodiversity    (iv) pirates-threat

**w) Which of the following is not true in respect of the Sundarbans?**

- (i) A vast mangrove forest    (ii) Home to exactly 500 Bengal tigers  
(iii) Situated in Bangladesh and India.    (iv) Being destroyed by erosion

**x) The study was conducted by \_\_\_\_\_**

- (i) the author of the text    (ii) Sarah Christie    (iii) ZSL    (iv) Natalie Pettoelli

2. Write the answer of the following question.
- Why will the tigers be put to the further risk?
  - What increases the vulnerability of mangroves?
  - What has happened in the Indian side of the Sunderbans?
  - How would you define the scientist Jianguo Liu's attitude? Is he an/a optimist/pessimist? Why do you think so?
  - What is the role bamboos play for existence of Pandas?

Though they are one of the most beloved animal species on Earth, pandas aren't safe from the devastating effects of climate change. According to a new study, projected temperature increases in China over the next century will likely seriously hinder bamboo, almost the sole source of food for endangered pandas. Ninety-nine per cent of a panda's diet is bamboo and an adult panda needs around 38 kilograms of bamboo every day. Only if bamboo can move to new habitats at higher elevations will pandas stand a chance of survival, the researchers said. However, if conservation programs wait too long, human inhabitants and activities could claim all of the new habitats capable of supporting bamboo in a warming world. "It is tough, but I think there's still hope, if we take action now," said research team member Jianguo Liu ... "If we wait, then we could be too late." The researchers used various climate-change models to project the future for three bamboo species relied on by pandas in the Qinling Mountain region of China, which represents about a quarter of the total remaining panda habitat. These models varied in their specific predictions, but each forecasted some level of temperature rise within the coming century. The results suggest that if the bamboo is restricted to its current distribution area, between 80 and 100 percent of it will disappear by the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, because it won't be able to grow under the increased temperatures. If, however, bamboo can move into new, cooler areas (which will reach the same temperatures as current bamboo habitats due to warming), then there is hope. However, all depend on the extent to which humans can curtail climate change by limiting greenhouse-gas emissions in the future. Many pandas in the wild currently live in nature reserves protected from human encroachment. However, almost all of the land encompassed by those reserves will be unsuitable for the bamboo if the temperatures rise as predicted. But if conservationists plan ahead now to move those reserves in line with changing bamboo habitats, then it may be possible to preserve the land the pandas will need. And climate change is not the only challenge facing giant pandas, one of the most endangered species in the world, researchers say. Human activities have already severely limited the animals' habitats, and their dependence on a single source of food, one that is not that nutrient - or energy - rich, doesn't help. In addition to their native habitats in China, pandas live around the world in zoos and breeding centers. But Liu doesn't predict a bright future for the bears if they lose their wild habitats. "To really protect pandas, you cannot just stick [them] into a breeding center or a zoo," he said, noting that the animals' genetic diversity would suffer, among other issues. "That's not a long-term solution"

3. Based on your reading of the passage, make short notes in each of the boxes of the flow chart showing the causes of extinction of pandas (No. 1 has been done for you)



Or,

What/who	Event/occurrence	How/when/why	Where
Many pandas in the wild	(i) _____	currently	(ii) _____ protected from human encroachment.
(iii) _____ encompassed by these reserves	will be unsuitable for the bamboo	(iv) _____	
(v) _____	should plan ahead to move those reserves in line with changing bamboo habitats	(vi) _____	
Climate change	(vii) _____	(viii) _____	



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Rearing pandas in a breeding center or a zoo	(ix) _____	(x) _____	
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Kuakata, locally known as *Sagar Kannya* (Daughter of the Sea) is a rare scenic spot located on the southernmost tip of Bangladesh. Kuakata in Latachapli union under Kalapara Police Station of Patuakhali district is about 30 km in length and 6 km in breadth. It is 70 km from Patuakhali district headquarters and 320 km from Dhaka. An excellent combination of the picturesque natural beauty, sandy beaches, blue sky and the shimmering expanse of water of the Bay of Bengal and the evergreen forest makes Kuakata a much sought after tourist destination. The name Kuakata takes its origin from the story of a well-dug on the sea shore by the early Rakhaine settlers for collecting drinking water. The Rakhaines had landed on Kuakata coast after being expelled from Arakan by the Mughals. Following the first well, it became a tradition to dig wells in the neighborhood of Rakhaine homesteads for fresh water supply. Kuakata is one of the unique spots which allow a visitor to watch both the sunrise and the sunset from the beach. That perhaps makes Kuakata one of the world's most attractive beaches. The long and wide beach at Kuakata has a typical natural setting. This sandy beach slopes gently into the Bay and bathing there is as pleasant as is swimming or diving. Kuakata is truly a virgin beach and a sanctuary for migratory winter birds. Fishing boats plying in the Bay of Bengal with colourful sails, surfing waves and the lines of coconut trees add to the vibrant colours Kuakata. The indigenous culture of the Rakhaine community and hundred year old Buddhist temples indicate the age – old tradition and cultural heritage of this area. Kuakata is also a holy land for the Hindus and Buddhists. Each year thousands of devotees come here to attend the festivals *Rash Purnima* and *Maghi Purnima*. On these two days, pilgrims take holy bath and enjoy going to the traditional fairs.

4. Make a summary of the text (not more than 100 words)

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