

Script 1

Answers: 1)A 2)B 3)B

Because crocodiles look like logs of wood, people assume, wrongly, that they will behave in the same way. However, studies have shown that crocodiles are quite complex socially. Individuals know other individuals and have long-term relationships with each other. They also learn very rapidly how to avoid dangerous situations. Some species can also become quite tame. One crocodile biologist, Frederico Medem, described a doctor in Colombia who had an Orinoco crocodile. He had raised it from a baby. This crocodile was a female, about three metres long, and it played with the children and the family dog.

Crocodiles of all species are threatened by many human activities. In the past, commercial over-exploitation by skin collectors and indiscriminate killing by frightened villagers have resulted in many species suffering drastic declines in numbers, but no species has become extinct because of human exploitation. However, what is most threatening the crocodile is destruction of its habitat. Because they are quite large animals, they require areas that are both large and diverse, and this brings them into conflict with local farmers and fishermen.

One conservation project which is working well is with Nile crocodiles in the Okavango Delta, in Botswana. Although the Nile crocodile is not listed as endangered, research suggests it should be. The number of nest sites has decreased by a third in the last 15 years. Fishermen destroy the nests, crocodile ranchers take their eggs and also do not return enough juveniles to the wild, and there is now only one small part of the delta left for crocodiles to lay their eggs. To get data on the crocodiles in the area, researchers have measured, tagged and taken blood samples from over 1,500 crocodiles – all without drugging the animals. They catch the crocodile by throwing a wet towel over its head – this is important, as a dry towel will come off too easily, thus allowing the crocodile time to escape – and they tie up its jaw with rubber bands. The animal is then released.

Script 2

Answers: 31)B 32)B 33)B 34)B 35)A

Lecturer So, having seen that the six-term system has passed the test of cost-effectiveness, we can move on to the educational aspects of this arrangement. Firstly, all the terms would be approximately the same length. Instead of terms up to thirteen weeks, which we have now, there could be a repeating pattern of seven weeks of term time plus two weeks of vacation. This would be repeated six times per year. How does this affect the effectiveness of the educational provision? The most noticeable result would be that the very long summer holiday would be reduced in length. This by-product of the six-term system could be beneficial. There is plenty of evidence of huge learning loss by pupils during the summer holidays. By learning loss, we mean the amount that pupils forget – or lose – during a holiday break. Ashley carried out a number of analyses which showed this conclusively. He investigated 39 studies examining the effects of summer holidays on standardized test scores. His

analyses indicated that summer learning loss equalled two weeks to seven weeks of instruction. On average, children's test scores were three weeks lower than when they left school in the previous term. He also found differences in the learning loss effect according to subject. The subjects he analysed were reading, writing, and maths, and he found that the effect was greatest in maths and reading. Furthermore, although all social groups experienced roughly similar learning loss in the field of maths, the studies found that disadvantaged children showed even greater losses in reading skills. So the problem of learning loss in traditional schools is clear. However, the results of studies into the six-term system and learning loss are ambiguous. Marchmont found that pupils in six-term schools maintained their test scores after the shorter holiday period. This is certainly an improvement on the traditional system where, as we have seen, pupils perform worse after the summer break. Benson, however, found no differences between those in traditional schools and on the six-term schedule.

Script 3

Answers: 21)C 22)C 23)B 24)B 25)A 26)C

Tutor Come in, sit down. Good to see you.

Denis, Emily Hello.

Tutor Now, this assignment, the best thing we can do, I think, is to think how we can approach it. The main point is to investigate television, but not what's happened in the past.

Emily I was thinking that it would be necessary to go over the new media first and then ...

Tutor Yes, that's a way to make a start, but you need to do that quite briefly ...

Emily But it's quite a complex topic ...

Tutor I agree, but the emphasis must be on the future development of television as a cultural phenomenon.

Emily Yes. I've been reading the talk by Ashley Highfield.

Tutor All right, and what do you take from that, what are the things that are competing with television?

Emily Well, to start with, there is the games console. Then there is the personal computer and the Internet. Then again, the mobile phone, with its capability of games and puzzles and, of course, Internet access. Lastly, there is the iPod, with the possibility of listening to music wherever you go.

Tutor Good, you've understood that. Now which of these presents the greatest competition for television?

Emily Well, according to the research, it's video games.

Tutor Yes, that's true at present, but in the future ...

Denis I think the phone will present the greatest threat then ...

Tutor And why? Because it's mobile, portable, and it's developing fast. Yeah I think you're right. You need always to look to the future and try to assess how things will develop, as we said. Good. Now, you need to

move on to the new social trends in connection with television.

Emily Is one of them the idea that programmes might become shorter and shorter?

Denis Ah, yes, the average programme might be ten minutes ...

Tutor ... or even less, just mini-programmes, say, four to five minutes long. Now, do you think you can get access to all the materials you need?

Denis The problem at the moment is the library.

Tutor Oh yes. What's happening there?

Denis There's a tremendous amount of noise because of the new extension they are building. It's quite impossible to work there.

Tutor They are stopping work for a week next week, I believe, and then all the sections will be open. There's a hold-up because some roof tiles have not arrived, so there will be peace for that week.

Emily But then after that the Media Studies section will be closed for a week, and all the noise and dirt will start up again.

Tutor Yes. But the Sociology section will be open and there's some good stuff there for you on this topic and it's further away from the noise.

Denis Yes, I don't think the Sociology section is affected at all and neither is the Journals section.

Tutor No, obviously they are rotating the closures and it was Sociology's turn to close for a week last term.

Denis I think we should make a complaint.

Tutor Yes, I think you should.

Denis I've had a word with the library staff – they are very sympathetic but ...

Emily They are affected by these works just as we are.

Tutor If I were you I'd make a complaint directly to the Premises Committee. They only meet once a year but in fact I know they are having a meeting next Tuesday. You might like to make contact with them, but don't say that I suggested this!

Emily Yes ... but the Students' Union might be better, since they are independent of the University.

Denis That's true but I can't imagine that people haven't already approached them about this. Let's try the Premises Committee.

Tutor Good idea – why not?

Emily OK.

Tutor Now don't forget I need a copy of your dissertations by email and two copies in print, that is, on paper. If you give the reprographics office 24 hours' notice they'll make copies for you, and if you give them my details they'll send those copies directly to me. They won't send copies to you, so you'll need to take your own copy personally from them. Good. Any questions?