



# The Natural World

Short-answer questions: Marwell Zoo | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0510/0511

## 1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you read.

1. What should modern zoos do besides display animals?
2. Should zoos focus more on conservation or entertainment?
3. Why are breeding programmes important?
4. How can visitors learn about endangered animals?

### Exercise 1 at a glance

Read one factual text. Answers are in the text. Copy exact words and check the question carefully before choosing your answer.

## 2. Read for overall understanding

Read the text. How has Marwell Zoo connected visitors with conservation?

### Marwell Zoo

Marwell Zoo is near Winchester in Hampshire. It opened in 1972 and was founded by John Knowles. From the beginning, Marwell was not planned only as a place where people could look at unusual animals. It was created with a conservation purpose, especially the protection of endangered species.

The zoo began as Marwell Preservation Trust. Its early work focused on conservation breeding, which means breeding animals carefully to help protect species that may be at risk in the wild. This was important at a time when many people were beginning to understand that habitat loss, hunting and human activity could push animals towards extinction.

Over time, Marwell developed into a visitor attraction as well as a conservation organisation. Families could see animals such as giraffes, zebras, rhinos and big cats, but the zoo also used signs, talks and education programmes to explain why these species might need protection. A visitor might arrive for a day out and leave knowing more about wildlife conservation.

Modern zoos are often judged by more than the number of animals they keep. They may support research, help manage breeding programmes and raise money for field projects. Marwell has been involved in work connected to species such as the scimitar-horned oryx, an animal that disappeared from the wild but has been part of reintroduction efforts.

Running a zoo also brings challenges. Large animals need space, expert care, suitable food and careful veterinary support. Some people question whether animals should be kept in zoos at all. Supporters argue that well-run zoos can protect threatened species and teach visitors about problems facing wildlife.

Marwell's story shows how expectations of zoos have changed. A zoo is no longer judged only as a collection of animals. It is also expected to explain conservation, support science and encourage visitors to care about the natural world beyond the zoo gates.

Education is an important part of the visitor experience. School groups can learn about habitats, food chains and the pressures facing wild animals. A lesson at the zoo can make conservation feel more immediate than a textbook because students can connect information with living animals. This does not mean every visitor becomes a conservationist, but it can make endangered species easier to care about.

Marwell also has to balance visitor enjoyment with animal welfare. Enclosures need to give animals shelter, space and opportunities to behave naturally. Visitors may want to see active animals all the time, but animals also need quiet areas away from crowds. This balance is one reason modern zoo design is more complex than simply putting animals on display.

### 3. Strategy focus

#### Separate past and present

The text describes how the zoo began and what it does now. Check whether the question asks about its origins or its current work.

### 4. Exam-style short-answer questions

Answer the questions using words from the text.

1. Who founded Marwell Zoo? [1]

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2. What was Marwell created with from the beginning? [1]

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3. What does conservation breeding mean? [1]

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4. What animal is mentioned as part of reintroduction efforts? [1]

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5. What do large animals need besides space? Give one detail. [1]

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6. According to the text, what are three things modern zoos may do besides show animals? [3]

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### 5. Vocabulary notebook

Underline five useful words or phrases. Check their meaning, then record them in your vocabulary notebook.

### 6. Follow-up tasks

1. Discussion: Are zoos useful for conservation?

2. Summary: Summarise Marwell Zoo in about 50 words.

3. Creative task: Design an information sign for an endangered animal.

4. Research: Find one animal reintroduced after zoo breeding work.

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## 2. Read for overall understanding

Suggested answer: Marwell connects visitors with conservation by showing animals, explaining threats to wildlife, supporting breeding work and running projects linked to endangered species.

## 4. Exam-style short-answer questions

1. John Knowles
2. a conservation purpose
3. breeding animals carefully to help protect species
4. the scimitar-horned oryx
5. Any one from: expert care; suitable food; careful veterinary support.
6. Any three from: support research; help manage breeding programmes; raise money for field projects; explain conservation; encourage visitors to care about the natural world.

## Notes for checking

1. Answers should be short and clearly based on the text.
2. Accept bracketed or optional wording if the meaning is clear.
3. For the final question, learners need three separate details.