



The Natural World

Short-answer questions: the Lake District | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0510/0511

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you read.

1. Why do people visit national parks?
2. How can tourism damage natural places?
3. Should busy footpaths be repaired?
4. What makes a landscape worth protecting?

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. Why does the Lake District need careful management?

The Lake District

The Lake District is a national park in Cumbria, north-west England. It is famous for lakes, mountains, valleys and villages built from local stone. The area has inspired writers and artists, including William Wordsworth, and it attracts millions of visitors who come to walk, climb, cycle or enjoy the views.

The landscape is not completely wild. Farming has shaped the Lake District for centuries. Sheep grazing, dry-stone walls and small farms are part of the scenery many visitors recognise. This means conservation has to consider both nature and the people who live and work there.

Tourism brings money to local businesses, including hotels, campsites, cafes and outdoor shops. It can also create pressure. Popular footpaths may become eroded, roads can be crowded and house prices may rise in villages where many properties are used as holiday homes.

Managing the national park involves difficult choices. Repairing paths can protect fragile ground, but repairs must be done carefully so they do not spoil the landscape. Encouraging visitors to use buses or boats can reduce traffic, but many people still prefer to travel by car.

The Lake District is also important for wildlife and water. Rivers, woodland, upland habitats and lakes support many species. Climate change, pollution and heavy rainfall can affect these habitats. Flooding has also reminded communities that land management upstream can influence what happens in towns and villages below.

The Lake District is protected because it is beautiful, culturally important and environmentally valuable. Its future depends on balance: welcoming visitors while caring for paths, farms, wildlife and local communities. A national park is not just a view; it is a living landscape.

The national park is also connected with literature. William Wordsworth and other writers helped shape the way people imagined the landscape. Their poems and writings encouraged visitors to see lakes and mountains as places of beauty, feeling and reflection. This cultural history is one reason the area is valued beyond its physical scenery.

Conservation work in the Lake District often involves cooperation. Farmers, park authorities, conservation groups, businesses and residents may all have different priorities. A footpath repair, for example, can affect walkers, sheep, water flow and the appearance of a hillside. Protecting the area therefore means negotiation as well as rules.

This is why national parks are managed landscapes, not outdoor museums frozen in time. Their protection depends on daily choices made by visitors as well as official plans.

3. Strategy focus

Look for pressures

Environmental texts often list benefits and pressures. Check whether the question asks what people value or what causes a problem.

4. Exam-style short-answer questions

Answer the questions using words from the text.

1. Which county is the Lake District in? [1]

2. Which writer is mentioned in the text? [1]

3. What may happen to popular footpaths? [1]

4. What can reduce traffic besides buses? [1]

5. What can land management upstream influence? [1]

6. According to the text, what are three pressures or challenges affecting the Lake District? [3]

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: Should visitor numbers in national parks be limited?

2. Summary: Summarise the Lake District in about 50 words.

3. Creative task: Write advice for responsible visitors.

4. Research: Find another protected landscape in Britain.

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2. Read for overall understanding

Suggested answer: It needs careful management because it is a popular protected landscape where tourism, farming, wildlife, paths and local communities all need to be balanced.

4. Exam-style short-answer questions

1. Cumbria
2. William Wordsworth
3. become eroded
4. boats
5. what happens in towns and villages below
6. Any three from: popular footpaths may become eroded; roads can be crowded; house prices may rise; climate change, pollution or heavy rainfall can affect habitats; flooding; balancing visitors with care for paths, farms, wildlife and local communities.

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.