THE ECOLOGICAL IMPACT OF HIKING

Hiking is an outdoor activity which is considered the best way to see nature. Hikers often seek beautiful natural environments in which to walk. Ironically, these environments are often fragile: hikers may accidentally destroy the scenery that they enjoy.

Generally, protected areas such as parks have regulations to avoid harming the environment. If these walkers follow them, their impact can be minimized. Such regulations include forbidding wood fires, restricting camping to established camp sites and imposing a quota on the number of hikers per day.

Many hikers follow the philosophy of ‘Leave No Trace’: hiking in a way such that future hikers cannot detect the presence of previous hikers. Followers of this practice respect strict rules and leave no food waste or food packaging.

Sometimes, hikers enjoy viewing rare or endangered animals. However, some species are very sensitive to the presence of humans. Walkers should learn the habits of those species in order to avoid adverse impact.

There is one situation where an individual hiker can make a large impact on an ecosystem: inadvertently starting a wildfire. For example, in 2005, a Czech backpacker burned 7% of Torres del Paine National Park in Chile by knocking down an illegal gas portable stove.

Adapted from www.wikipedia.org

QUESTIONS

I. READING COMPREHENSION. (2 POINTS) (0.5 points for each correct answer)

Add TRUE or FALSE and copy the evidence from the text to support your answer.

NO marks are given for only true or false.

1. Hikers always degrade the environment.
2. Visiting protected areas is strictly forbidden to hikers.
3. ‘Leave No Trace’ followers take their litter away with them.
4. A Chilean park was burned because of a careless hiker.

II. CHOOSE TWO OUT OF THE THREE QUESTIONS:

A. EXPRESSING THE MAIN IDEAS. (1 POINT) (0.5 points for each correct answer)

Answer the following questions according to the information given in the text. Where possible, use your own words.

1. What kind of places do hikers like?
2. Why should some hikers learn about endangered animals?

B. LEXICON. (1 POINT) (0.25 points for each correct answer)

Find words or phrases in the text that mean the same as these given.

1. Not strong, easily damaged or destroyed.
2. Official rules or orders.
3. Material used to cover some sorts of food for sale.
4. Making something begin to happen.

C. PHONETICS. (1 POINT) (0.25 points for each correct answer)

1. Write two words from the text that include the same diphthong sound as "my" /aɪ/.
2. Is the “-n-” pronounced /n/ or /ŋ/ in “hiking”?
3. Is the “-ed” pronounced /t/, /d/ or /ɪd/ in “considered”?

III. USE OF ENGLISH. (3 POINTS) (0.5 for each correct answer)

Rewrite the following sentences starting with the words given.

1. This is the place. We last had coffee together here.
2. I love German. Unfortunately, I can’t speak it fluently.
3. As he hadn’t behaved himself, his parents got angry with him.
4. Everybody must read the instructions first.
5. He made an effort to speak in English.
6. I spent my holidays in France. ?

IV. COMPOSITION. (3 POINTS)

Write a composition of between 100 and 125 words on ONE of the following topics. Specify your option.

- What are the good and bad points in outdoor activities like hiking?
- In your opinion, why is the environment being degraded in many places nowadays?