

Read the text about animals that have been introduced into another country, then choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for questions 1-6. Put a cross (☒) in the correct box on the answer sheet. The first one (0) has been done for you.

Invasive species

Britain is facing a surge of invaders with scientists recording 3,800 alien species, including 44 mammals, 326 birds, 1,821 flowering plants and 865 insects.

One of the worst invaders is the harlequin ladybird, a voracious predator that cannibalises other ladybirds and threatens many other insect species. It arrived in Essex in 2004 but has already reached the Orkneys. Its arrival in an area appears to herald rapid declines in native species.

Another is the ring-necked parakeet, which is spreading so fast that the government has just allowed landowners to shoot them without a licence.

Macdonald and Burnham wrote their report, *The State of Britain's Mammals*, for the People's Trust for Endangered Species. They suggest that each invasive mammal species should be considered on its merits and not persecuted just for being foreign. They write: "There comes a point where a non-native has been exerting its influence on native biodiversity for so long that a new community has emerged to which the intruder is integral so its removal would no longer rescue or restore the original natural state. At that point the intruder's origins no longer justify killing it."

They add: "The decision to consider a naturalised non-native species as an ecological citizen should hinge solely on the nature of the damage it causes to native biodiversity."

The grey squirrel would probably be among the candidates for such a reassessment.

Introduced to Britain in 1828, it has spread across most of the country, driving out the

smaller red squirrel and possibly damaging wild bird populations by eating their eggs.

The researchers argue, however, that in many areas the animal is now part of Britain's wildlife and it would be difficult to get the public support and money needed for eradication. But they say that the animals must still be heavily controlled in areas such as Scotland, where the red squirrel still survives.

Some invaders are already ecological citizens. One such is the brown hare, which was introduced to Britain by the Romans but which is so widely accepted that its recent decline has prompted the government to list it as an endangered species.

Similarly, rabbits, brought to Britain in the 11th century and now responsible for £115m of losses to farmers each year, are also seen as British. Macdonald points out that although they do damage they also maintain grasslands and provide food for predators.

Soon, such "ecological citizens" could be joined by the Chinese water deer, which is facing rapid decline in its home regions in China and Korea. In Britain, its population has surged to several thousand, accounting for 10% of the global population. "Britain has become an ark for these creatures, so conserving it might help protect the species," Burnham said.

The American mink, by contrast, would probably fail the ecological citizenship test, because of the damage it causes to Britain's native wildlife, especially the water vole.

0 **The harlequin ladybird**

- A is the main food source of some other animals.
- B appears to be a native species.
- C feeds on its own species.
- D outnumbers other alien species.

1 **A new approach is to**

- A assess each alien species individually.
- B support alien mammals, but not insects.
- C hunt down every alien species.
- D keep track of alien species.

2 **Some alien species**

- A are not mentioned in the report.
- B have reduced in number.
- C are unpopular due to their origins.
- D are now a natural part of the ecosystem.

3 **The grey squirrel**

- A is found throughout Britain.
- B has crossbred with the red squirrel.
- C is hunted due to the damage it causes.
- D gets a lot of public attention.

4 **The brown hare**

- A is part of a farming programme.
- B was brought to Britain a long time ago.
- C is accepted as a useful alien species.
- D is a threat to endangered species.

5 **Rabbits**

- A are hunted down by angry farmers.
- B help other animals to survive.
- C are responsible for the loss of biodiversity.
- D need to be strictly controlled.

6 **The Chinese water deer**

- A can only survive in certain areas of Asia.
- B will survive anywhere but in China.
- C has been classified as an ecological citizen.
- D survives in Britain.

Invasive species

0	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>
1	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>

Von der
Lehrperson
auszufüllen

richtig falsch

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