Ecological Research

第1题

Why does the student go to see the professor?

A To request extra time to complete an assignment

B To explain why she will miss the next class

C To clarify the requirements of a class assignment

D To discuss the results of a lab experiment

第2题

What does the professor imply about the student’s extended field trip?

A He would like to know more about the fieldwork the student did.

B He was unaware of the problems the student had on the trip

C He knew that there would be problems on the trip.

D He has been in similar situations himself.

第3题

Why does the professor tell the student about the importance of cane toads to Australia?

A To remind the student of a topic she studied last semester

B To provide an example of a concept he is describing

C To explain the purpose of the lab assignment the student will work on

D To amuse the student with an anecdote from his own student days

第4题

What fact from the radio interview with an ecologist surprised the student?

A Global warming maybbe less harmful to biodiversity than oil palm cultivation.

B Global warming may have benefited some species of butterflies.

C Oil palm cultivation has contributed greatly to global warming.

D Oil palm tree populations have suffered as a result of global warming.

第5题

What advantages of the oil palm do the speakers mention?

Click on 3 answers

A It resists damage from imported insects.

B It is an easy crop to grow.

C It creates a habitat for rare animal species.

D It is used in a wide range of products.

E It has a positive impact on communities where it is grown

Listen to a conversation between a student and her biology professor.

Professor

So I heard that your field work ended up camping a few days longer than expected.

Student

Yeah, the bus broke down. It gave us time to gather more specimens from the lake to study in the lab but unfortunately 1 admit missing a day of classes, including the class when you describe the requirements for the paper.

Professor

Ur, that brings back memories from my undergraduate days.

So anyway what I'm looking for is an ecological situation in which the solution causes a much greater problem than the original problem it was intended to solve. The example I gave in class was about cane toad in Australia. They were imported there in 1935 to control the grayback cane beetles that were destroying the sugar cane crops.

Student

And what? The plant backfired?

Professor

Yep. It’s a classic case of biological control done awry. The toads ate some beetles but they also ate many other animals and they're poisonous and being an imported species they had no natural predators.

Student

Not good.

Professor

Definitely not. Even worse, the toads had no effect on grayback cane beetle populations either. Hum, so tell me what do you have in mind for, your paper.

Student

Well, I got the idea from a radio interview I heard. It was Winstly ecologist to claim that the greatest threat to the greatest number of species in the next 25 years is not global warming as one would expect but the cultivation of oil palm trees.

Professor

Ah, yes. There's been a lot of talk recently about whether oil palm plantations are harmful to biodiversity. Some areas report losing as much as 80% of the native bird and butterfly populations and the oil palm is being cultivated in so many places in the world now.

Student

Everybody thought it was a short winner, and made a lot of sense both economically and environmentally. Here's a crop that's in high demand, easy to grow and won't disrupt the ecosystem.

Professor

Or so they thought. It's a good topic.

Student

So in my write the paper should be divided into two sections?

Professor

Yes. In the first section, you describe the practice, the history of where and how it was implemented, the degree to which it has been successful, and why and how it has become a conservation problem or a potential problem.

Student

Right. And the second part is about how to develop a suitable policy to deal with the problem?

Professor

Exactly. The second section should also include the pros and cons associated with oil palm cultivation. I'm interested to see what you come up with.

Student

You mean, because it's not all bad.

Professor

Right. Oil from the oil palm happens to be very useful. It's in so many products, from food to alternative fuel and some of the communities in the regions where the crop was introduced have really flourished. There is a lot to consider. It’s definitely not a clear-cut situation.

{"1": ["C"], "2": ["D"], "3": ["B"], "4": ["A"], "5": ["B", "D", "E"]}