

EPSO THIRD LANGUAGE TEST B2 **ENGLISH MOCK 1**

- **Reading, Lire, Lesen**
- **Listening, Écouter, Hören**
- **Writing, Écrire, Schreiben**
- **Speaking, Parler, Sprechen**

B2

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**Reading Part 1, Lire Partie 1, Lesen Teil 1**

Read the headlines a–j and the texts 1–5. Drag the headline that fits best to each text..

Lisez les titres a–j et les textes 1–5. Faites glisser le titre qui convient le mieux à chaque texte.

Lesen Sie die Überschriften a–j und die Texte 1–5. Ziehen Sie die Überschrift, die am besten passt, zum jeweiligen Text.

- a Being economical: keep, change and reuse
- b British public welcomes genetically-engineered food
- c Couple wins jackpot twice
- d Desire for profit threatens nature
- e Good causes benefit from good luck
- f New crops will help feed locals
- g New farming methods may eventually benefit economy
- h Rainfall brings relief in dry conditions
- i Shortages continue to cause concern
- j Traditional craftwork in decline



- 1** The drought currently affecting southeast England may last throughout the summer and into autumn, experts say. Although there is a chance of rain this week, it is unlikely that there will be enough to refill water stocks. A hosepipe ban has been put in place in most regions in the south and about 13 million people will be affected. The use of a hosepipe to water a garden or plants, or clean outdoor areas is now forbidden. Many homeowners are unhappy with this ban, but those who choose to ignore it will face fines of up to £1000. Water companies say that they regret having to impose the ban, but that it is necessary to preserve essential water supplies. They are urging people to cut their water use by taking shorter showers, using bath water to wash cars and allowing grass to grow longer than usual so that it captures moisture.
- 2** It seems the 'waste not, want not' attitude popular in wartime Britain is back in trend, as crafting, the art of making things by hand, becomes one of this decade's fastest growing industries. Sales of wool, buttons and fabric are up, and the interest in sewing, knitting and leatherwork is reflected in the many related TV shows on our nightly schedules. But what is causing this revival of traditional skills? It's a result of the 2008 financial crisis, combined with our increased awareness of environmental issues and the damage that is caused by excessive waste. On a practical level, people want to save money, recycle possessions and adapt things to their own tastes. Crafting enables us to give our belongings more individuality, especially at a time when products are becoming increasingly uniform. Every week a new website or blog on the subject is launched, proving that people are moving away from the attitude that everything is disposable.
- 3** Genetically-modified (GM) crops could bring financial advantages to UK farmers, says a report by the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit. However, it added that any economic gain to the UK is likely to be limited, at least in the short term. This is partly because only a few of the existing GM crops are currently suited to the UK climate. It is also partly due to a low demand from consumers. The general public is still suspicious of GM crops and in a recent report FieldWork highlighted how this attitude could limit possible economic gains. Farmers are thus not yet keen to invest in such crops. In the long term, however, GM crops may offer wide-ranging benefits such as a higher resistance to pests and disease. The Soil Association, which is against GM, said in response: 'This is a huge shift in the government position to acknowledge that there is no immediate economic case for growing GM crops.'
- 4** A couple who have given away more than £5.5 million of the £7.6 million they won on the lottery three years ago have started noting car number plates again in the hope of finding the combination for another big win. Even though they have already walked off with one jackpot, Raymond and Barbara Wragg still play the game in the hope of bagging another win, which would be good news for charities near their home in Sheffield. Speaking on BBC Radio's *The Morning Show*, Mrs Wragg said they had first made gifts to family and friends before making donations to charity. Their most recent donation was £20,000 to fund a teenage cancer unit at Weston Park Hospital in Sheffield. They have also given £10,000 to pay for a child-size MRI scanner at Sheffield Children's Hospital, and last Christmas they took 240 pupils from a local school in a deprived area to see a Disney-on-Ice show.
- 5** The Brazilian government has released new figures showing that deforestation is accelerating at record rates, with huge areas of land being cleared to grow crops. This is particularly true in the Mato Grosso region where 50 per cent of the recent deforestation occurred, as native trees are replaced with soya fields to meet demands from China and Europe. Environmentalists claim that the government is neglecting the Amazon jungle in favour of increasing exports, thereby putting money-making first. They are worried by the large number of highways being built to transport agricultural products, and the rise in illegal logging and cattle ranches. Officials are also being blamed for ignoring what is happening in the hope of securing victory in local elections. Rainforests once covered 14 per cent of the earth's surface. Now they cover just 6 per cent, meaning that many plant, animal and insect species are being lost forever.



Reading Part 2, Lire Partie 2, Lesen Teil 2

Read the text and the headlines. Decide which headline (a, b or c) is correct.

Lisez les textes et les titres. Décider quel titre (a, b ou c) est correct.

Lesen Sie die Texte und die Überschriften. Entscheiden Sie, welche Überschrift (a, b oder c) richtig ist.

- 6** A man who had been in a coma for 19 years after a car crash woke up and started talking to his mother, who was sitting at his bedside. Terry Wallis began his return to consciousness slowly with just a few nouns, but gradually, a flood of phrases came pouring out. "He started out with 'mum', and then it was 'milk' and 'tree'," said the director of the Arkansas rehabilitation centre where Wallis was being cared for. Terry, now 39, was driving home 19 years ago when his car left the road and plunged into a stream. He was found the next day under a bridge and was in a coma. Terry's daughter Amber, who was born shortly before the crash, is thrilled to now be able to build up a relationship with her father. According to Terry's father, his son talks almost non-stop now. "It's so peculiar, it's going to take some getting used to!"

- a Accident fatal for 19-year-old
- b Father and daughter to be reunited
- c Years of silence finally end

- 7** In an attempt to combat the rise in ownership of dangerous animals, the government has announced plans to introduce an addition to the law stating that all dogs must now be fitted with a microchip. Voluntary 'chipping' of animals is already a common practice and involves a small electronic device being implanted under the animal's skin. Each chip has a unique number that can be read by a scanner. Vets, the police or an animal welfare organisation can quickly and easily trace the animal's owner. There are an estimated eight million dogs in Britain, and four breeds are currently banned under the Dangerous Dogs Act (1991). Critics of the plan say that it will do nothing to tackle problems with these banned breeds, since people who already own such dogs are likely to ignore the new legislation as they fear losing their animals. However, owners who can prove that their dogs are not dangerous will be given a Certificate of Exemption.

- a Dangerous pets banned under new legislation
- b Dog owners protest against new rules
- c New regulations on problematic pets

- 8** Faced with a tough problem, the traditional advice is to 'sleep on it'. And, according to new research, 'sleeping on it' may be exactly the right thing to do: a good night's sleep really does help the brain get to grips with information and to act on it the following day. Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania studied how well mice absorbed or 'consolidated' new information and remembered it the next day. Scientists gave two groups of mice a small electric shock when they were put in a specific place to generate fear of that particular location. One group of mice was then allowed to sleep, while the other group was kept awake. Twenty-four hours later, the two groups were tested to see if they 'froze' when put in this same area. Those who slept were four times more likely to show fear than those kept awake. Researchers concluded that sleeping during the five hours after learning was crucial for 'memory consolidation'.

- a Important decision? Head for bed!
- b Research shows mice fear sleep
- c Sleep irrelevant for studying



9 After flourishing for millions of years, the last sixty years has seen a huge decline in the country's bee population. Some species have already disappeared completely from the British countryside and others are now considered endangered. Experts believe that the reduction in bee numbers is due to changing weather patterns, the increased use of insecticides in farming and gardening, and the loss of habitat as our cities expand. It has been said that if all bees

became extinct, human society would follow within a few years. In our interconnected ecosystem, the production of food is almost entirely dependent on these useful workers, and yet many of us take the work they do for granted. While collecting nectar for themselves, bees transfer pollen from one plant to another, ensuring that, for example, fruit grows. Currently, beekeepers, scientists and conservation organisations are working hard to save our bee population.

- a Insects threaten crops
- b Life on earth at risk
- c New bee disease identified

10 A woman deliberately left her four-metre-long python behind when moving home, and explained this to the council as she was dropping off the keys. The unnamed tenant of a council flat near Birmingham said to the council worker on duty, 'I'm catching a train to Norfolk and I'm not coming back. I've just fed my Burmese python and I'm leaving her in the flat.' Housing officers quickly rang the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), which sent two

inspectors to collect the 25-kilo snake, which they found curled up in the living room. The snake is now being cared for at a reptile centre in Birmingham while the RSPCA tries to trace its former owner. A spokesman for the district council said, 'Our housing department has heard some strange things from our tenants over the years, but this has to be the strangest.'

- a Snake due to leave home
- b Unusual message for local authorities
- c Woman leaves pet with the RSPCA



Reading Part 3, Lire Partie 3, Lesen Teil 3

Read the text and the items. Decide which answer is correct.

Lisez le texte et les tâches. Décrivez quelle solution est correcte.

Lesen Sie den Text und die Aufgaben. Entscheiden Sie, welche Lösung richtig ist.

- 11** Research suggests that British teenagers
- a find books more interesting than magazines.
 - b are among the top 25 per cent in certain reading assessments.
 - c read as many books as their counterparts in most of the countries surveyed.
- 12** Nowadays, teenagers in Britain
- a do not think reading is important anymore.
 - b have developed diverse reading habits.
 - c read fewer magazines than in the past.
- 13** According to the text, the most important aspect of reading is to
- a help fantasy develop.
 - b learn about modern technology.
 - c study how language functions.
- 14** Genevieve Clark says that children's books are
- a increasingly read by adults.
 - b no longer fashionable.
 - c still well-loved.
- 15** Genevieve Clark says adults should
- a read to their children more.
 - b show children how interesting books can be.
 - c take more interest in reading.



YOUNGSTERS AND LITERACY

If children are to capitalise on life's opportunities, they must be able to read. Traditionally, in both education and the wider culture, literacy means books. But printed books have been available for only a few centuries and newer media like the internet could displace them from their prominent place in culture.

Certainly, the results from the latest survey of teenage literacy by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) give out some surprising signals. This research, which compares levels of literacy among 15-year-olds across 43 countries, shows that Britain's secondary school students spend less time reading books than those of almost every other country. This sounds alarming, but another statistic from the same survey is more reassuring. British teenagers do well in international literacy tests, coming ninth out of 43 countries, comfortably among the top performing quarter.

But if our teenagers are not reading books, where are they getting their skills? Andreas Scheicher, head of analysis in the OECD's education division, believes teens are spending more time browsing through magazines, email and the internet, and that this is not a particular problem. "What matters is having a diversity of reading materials", he says. "Email is a part of communication in the modern world and is therefore a valid way of spending your reading time."

So, does it matter if children aren't reading books? Frances Spufford, author of *The Child That Books Built*, is passionately convinced that it does. "There is a difference between being able to decode written language, and the rest of what the written word is capable of communicating. There are more codes there than just the alphabet. Books are other worlds, sometimes worlds that reflect our own, sometimes worlds that challenge, or worlds that provide an escape from our own. But they contain some of the richest

and most densely imagined experiences and things which humans are capable of."

Spufford's point is echoed by Genevieve Clark, who manages the National Reading Campaign. She says, "One way of putting it is that books exercise the muscles of the imagination. They open all sorts of doors and they encourage people to see life through other people's eyes. So, yes, books will always remain special and we would always encourage people to realise that books can fit into their lives." Contrary to what the OECD research suggests, Clark maintains that books are still popular among young people. "Look at Harry Potter," she says. "Teenagers are still reading, and reading very broadly. We've got plenty of evidence from all sorts of things, for instance, the BBC Big Read where the top 100 books were voted for by the public. A third of them were children's books."

But plenty of indicators suggest otherwise, and if it is clear that books are important, it is less clear how we can persuade teenagers of this. Spufford says, "Part of it is perhaps to do with children not finding the right book. It may also be that the way we are teaching reading and writing in schools doesn't actually encourage children to see books as the important source of pleasure they are."

Clark says that children's existing interest in other kinds of reading could actually serve as a way in. "I think teachers, librarians, anyone who's involved in promoting reading, especially to those who think that reading is boring or just not 'cool', need to think much more broadly about how they encourage children to read", she says. "If they are passionately interested in dancing or fishing or computers, there might be magazines and websites that appeal to them, but there are probably interesting books as well. What we try to do is encourage young people to see books as part of the mix."

**Listening Part 1, Écouter Partie 1, Hören Teil 1**

You are going to hear the news. You will hear the news once. While listening, decide if the statements are true (+) or false (-).

You now have 30 seconds to read the items.

Vous allez maintenant entendre les informations. Vous entendrez ces informations une seule fois. Pendant l'écoute, décidez si les affirmations sont vraies (+) ou fausses (-).

Vous avez maintenant 30 secondes pour lire les tâches.

Sie hören nun die Nachrichten. Sie hören die Nachrichten einmal. Entscheiden Sie beim Hören, ob die Aussagen richtig (+) oder falsch (-) sind.

Sie haben jetzt 30 Sekunden Zeit, um die Aufgaben zu lesen.

- 16** Travelling by train this weekend will be inconvenient because of railway works.
- 17** An important building has been damaged by criminals.
- 18** Many families are without tap water in Scotland today.
- 19** Government cuts mean there will be fewer services for the disabled at a Yorkshire station.
- 20** A large well-known hospital has had to close.

**Listening Part 2, Écouter Partie 2, Hören Teil 2**

You are going to hear a radio interview. You will hear it once. While listening, decide if the statements are true (+) or false (-).

You now have 60 seconds to read the items.

Vous allez entendre une interview. Vous l'entendrez une seule fois. Pendant l'écoute, décidez si les affirmations sont vraies (+) ou fausses (-).

Vous avez maintenant 60 secondes pour lire les tâches.

Sie hören ein Interview. Sie hören es einmal. Entscheiden Sie beim Hören, ob die Aussagen richtig (+) oder falsch (-) sind.

Sie haben jetzt 60 Sekunden Zeit, um die Aufgaben zu lesen.

- 21** The captain and the crew were unaware of the presence of the reef.
- 22** A slick can be controlled by clean-up crews if it is reached quickly enough.
- 23** Environmentalists support the use of chemicals in order to rescue wildlife.
- 24** Pelicans can be found all year round in Callo Bay.
- 25** Rescue workers usually tranquilize the birds before treating them.
- 26** Household cleaning products are generally used to remove oil from birds.
- 27** The Alaskan rescue effort was ineffective.
- 28** Wildlife relocation was a commonly used response to an oil spill.
- 29** The volunteers came from the immediate surroundings of the disaster.
- 30** The methods used in Chile can also be applied in other regions.

**Writing Part 1, Écrire Partie 1, Schreiben Teil 1**

Write a formal email based on the following situation. Write at least 80 words in the language of the examination.

Rédigez un courriel formel sur la situation suivante. Écrivez au moins 80 mots dans la langue de l'examen.

Schreiben Sie eine formelle E-Mail zur folgenden Situation. Schreiben Sie mindestens 80 Wörter in der Prüfungssprache.

Your team is moving to another office building. You have been asked to organise the move. In addition to electrically height-adjustable desks and large quantities of file folders, large potted plants also need to be transported. Write to the removal company regarding a cost estimate, possible dates and the requirements mentioned above.



Writing Part 2, Écrire Partie 2, Schreiben Teil 2

The staff of the European Commission are encouraged to exchange opinions online. You have been asked to write the first post on a new forum on either topic A or B. Give reasons for your opinion and suitable examples. End with a question or provocative statement. Arrange your text into meaningful sections and write at least 150 words in the language of the examination.

Le personnel de la Commission européenne est encouragé à échanger des opinions en ligne. On vous a demandé d'écrire le premier message d'un nouveau forum sur le sujet A ou B. Justifiez votre opinion et donnez des exemples appropriés. Terminez par une question ou une déclaration provocatrice. Organisez votre texte en paragraphes pertinents et rédigez au moins 150 mots dans la langue de l'examen.

Die Mitarbeiter der Europäischen Kommission werden ermutigt ihre Meinungen online auszutauschen. Sie wurden gebeten, den ersten Beitrag in einem neuen Forum zu einem der Themen A oder B zu verfassen. Begründen Sie Ihre Meinung und geben Sie geeignete Beispiele an. Schließen Sie mit einer Frage oder einer provokativen Aussage ab. Gliedern Sie Ihren Text in sinnvolle Abschnitte und schreiben Sie mindestens 150 Wörter in der Prüfungssprache.

Topic A, Sujet A, Thema A

How can the EU do more to combat climate change? What do you think are the advantage and disadvantages?

Topic B, Sujet B, Thema B

What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of political decisions being made centrally by the EU?



Writing Part 3, Écrire Partie 3, Schreiben Teil 3

You receive the following text messages from your colleague. Please reply and write at least 30 words in the language of the examination.

Un(e) collègue vous envoie les messages suivants. Répondez-lui et écrivez au moins 30 mots dans la langue de l'examen.

Eine Kollegin/ein Kollege schreibt Ihnen folgende Kurznachrichten. Antworten Sie ihr/ihm und schreiben Sie mindestens 30 Wörter in der Prüfungssprache.

Hi! Remember I'm on holiday from next week. I'll see you before then, right?

No, I'm sorry. I don't have time.

Why not? We still have to do the handover. You're in charge of my project while I'm gone.

...

**Speaking Part 1, Parler Partie 1, Sprechen Teil 1**

*Talk about your work, or the work of your department.
Speak for about 2 minutes in the language of the examination.*

*Présentez votre travail ou celui de votre service.
Parlez pendant environ 2 minutes dans la langue de l'examen.*

*Stellen Sie Ihre Arbeit bzw. die Arbeit Ihrer Abteilung vor.
Sprechen Sie ca. 2 Minuten in der Prüfungssprache.*

**Speaking Part 2, Parler Partie 2, Sprechen Teil 2**

Give your opinion on topic A or B. Give reasons for your arguments.
Speak for about 3 minutes in the language of the examination.
You have 5 minutes to prepare the topic.

Exprimez votre opinion sur le sujet A ou B. Justifiez vos arguments.
Parlez pendant environ 3 minutes dans la langue de l'examen.
Vous avez 5 minutes pour préparer le sujet.

Äußern Sie Ihre Meinung zu Thema A oder B. Begründen Sie Ihre Argumente.
Sprechen Sie ca. 3 Minuten in der Prüfungssprache.
Sie haben 5 Minuten Zeit, das Thema vorzubereiten.

Topic A, Sujet A, Thema A

Why should the EU try to motivate people to become more health-conscious? What are possible options or means?

Topic B, Sujet B, Thema B

Should all European countries belong to the European Union? Why or why not?

**Speaking Part 3, Parler Partie 3, Sprechen Teil 3**

*Talk about your experience with topic A or B. Give examples.
Speak for about 2 minutes in the language of the examination.
You have 3 minutes to prepare the topic.*

*Racontez votre expérience concernant sujet A ou B et donnez des exemples.
Parlez pendant environ 2 minutes dans la langue de l'examen.
Vous avez 3 minutes pour préparer le sujet.*

*Erzählen Sie anhand von Beispielen von Ihren Erfahrungen zu Thema A oder B.
Sprechen Sie ca. 2 Minuten in der Prüfungssprache.
Sie haben 3 Minuten Zeit, das Thema vorzubereiten.*

Topic A, Sujet A, Thema A

Talk about a professional challenge you have experienced (e.g. situation, task, action required, solution, result).

Topic B, Sujet B, Thema B

Talk about your experiences in another European country (not your country of origin) (e.g. lifestyle, manners, cultural characteristics, quality of life, other special features).

Answer Key

Reading 1	1	i
	2	a
	3	g
	4	e
	5	d

Reading 2	6	c
	7	c
	8	a
	9	b
	10	b

Reading 3	11	b
	12	b
	13	a
	14	c
	15	b

Listening 1	16	+
	17	+
	18	+
	19	-
	20	-

Listening 2	21	+
	22	+
	23	-
	24	-
	25	-
	26	+
	27	+
	28	-
	29	-
	30	+

Audio Script

Listening part 1

And now for the news. I'm Mark Westerby and you're listening to Capital FM.

Railway engineers will begin a one hundred million pound maintenance programme tonight which will last the rest of the bank holiday weekend. Sections of three main railway lines will shut down. The work will start when trains stop running tonight. Across Britain, tracks will be replaced, signals modernized and bridges and embankments repaired. Network Rail has timed the work to avoid disrupting weekday commuters, but it could cause serious problems for travellers trying to get to sporting and cultural events around Britain.

Thieves in Cardiff surprised police yesterday by using a JCB digger to rip a cash machine out of the side of the local branch of the National Bank before escaping. The large yellow vehicle, which had been stolen from a construction site on Monday, was left abandoned at the scene. After hearing loud bangs, witnesses saw six men fleeing in two cars. A large part of the wall of the eighteenth century Georgian villa was torn out, and windows were broken. The bank is a listed building and therefore of great historical value.

Bottled water is being handed out to householders in Alloa in Scotland after a major pipe burst, leaving 30,000 people without water. Engineers are working to restore supplies, but the task could take several hours. The 15-inch pipe broke at about 3 this morning, cutting the supply to households and businesses in and around the town. Alloa Council is working with Scottish Water and the emergency services, and it is hoped the water main will be fixed later today. In the meantime, council workers are giving out thousands of bottles of water as the summer weather is keeping temperatures high.

Passengers are set to benefit from improved access to one of Yorkshire's railway stations. Beverley's railway station has received a grant from the Railway Heritage Trust for a project which is aimed at passengers with bicycles, prams or wheelchairs. Yorkshire County Council has also offered money to the scheme. Lifts to the two platforms, as well as ramps and automatic doors will be installed. During the improvements, travellers will need to allow more time for their journeys and temporary bus stops will need to be set up as well.

St Giles Hospital has had to close wards and reschedule operations after treating too many sick children at the beginning of the year. The hospital had a shortfall of £1.7 m after treating 2% more patients than it had funding for by the end of January. On Friday the world-famous hospital closed 50 beds which represents one fifth of its capacity. Health Secretary Philip Conway said assurances had been given that the hospital would not turn away seriously ill children.

That's all from me. I'll hand over to Carol MacKinnon for the sports news.

Listening part 2

Jeremy: At the site of the latest tanker disaster in the Indian Ocean, oil is leaking out of the ship creating a huge oil slick. Lana Jameson, a marine scientist, is here to talk about these types of eco-disasters and the costs of cleaning them up. I'm your host Jeremy Jackson. Welcome Lana.

Lana: Thanks, Jeremy.

Jeremy: Lana, can you tell us something about this recent incident?

Lana: Well, the 'Freeman', a large Brazilian tanker, had almost reached its destination when it struck an underground ledge and ripped open part of the hull, spilling about 200,000 gallons of oil into Callo Bay. The captain claims that rough seas and extremely high winds forced the ship close to shore. Although he and the crew were familiar with that route, the reef was not marked on the navigational charts.

Regardless of what the cause was, the fact remains that a huge amount of oil is spilling out into the bay, causing all kinds of damage.

Jeremy: So, Lana, what can be done?

Lana: Well, cleaning up oil spills is a complicated procedure, involving many different steps. If clean-up crews can get to the spill in the first few hours, a method called containment is used to prevent the oil spreading further. They use floating barriers to stop the slick from spreading out. Then they use boats to suck or scoop up the oil. This process is known as skimming. These preferred methods depend on how fast the teams can be mobilised. Sometimes the crews have things like large sponges to soak up the oil, or chemicals are poured on the surface of the slick to force the oil to break down.

This last option is also seen as being quite dangerous and environmental groups are protesting about this. They say the chemicals do as much damage as the oil itself and demand that no artificial products be used.

Jeremy: So, I imagine this spill will hurt the birds living in Callo Bay.

Lana: The problem with this latest disaster is that oil flowing from the Freeman's hull is threatening to endanger the lives of many different bird species who migrate to the Callo Bay area around this time to take advantage of the mild weather and the plentiful food. Particularly affected is the King Blue pelican and four types of sea turtles all of which return to this bay for nesting purposes.

Jeremy: Can anything be done to save these animals?

Lana: I have some first-hand experience of trying to help in such terrible situations and while it is not an easy task, a lot can be done. The task of cleaning one bird takes about 90 birds, but this is something rescue workers avoid doing as it can cause the creatures further distress. Usually, by the time we reach them, they are already suffering from cold, hunger and exhaustion. All this is very traumatic for the birds. They must be fed and given medicine before anyone can try to remove the oil from them. Washing up liquid, the same as you find in your kitchen, is often used and many of the large detergent companies donate their products in such situations.

Jeremy: Hm! That's very generous!

Lana: Well, yes ... but even with such generosity, the cost of cleaning these affected birds is huge and scientists are divided as to whether it's the right solution. Some believe that as their survival rate is often low, it would be wiser and more humane to kill the affected birds rather than prolong their suffering by subjecting them to the trauma of the cleaning process. This idea is based on a disaster off the coast of Alaska a few years back which, for a variety of reasons, such as the delay in reporting the accident, the distance from the coast and the terrible weather conditions, proved to be unsuccessful.

Jeremy: You, Lana, however, have had some positive experiences with this form of clean-up, haven't you?

Lana: Oh, yes! Eight years ago I led a volunteer effort to help clean birds covered in crude oil after a tanker ran aground off the Chilean coast, dangerously close to an important penguin colony. Hundreds of tons of oil spilled out into the water and even for those of us who had seen such disasters before, the results were horrifying. The slick was moving towards Daro Island, home to these beautiful penguins, already a threatened species. Time was running out... I and the other penguin experts felt overwhelmed with the task. We just didn't know what to do. Then, to our astonishment, one of the volunteers made a suggestion that was better than anything we could have proposed. The idea was to move the thousands of island penguins out of the path of the oil slick to clean waters 500 miles up the coast and let them swim back. The hope was that by the time they arrived back home, the clean-up operation would be completed.

Jeremy: And it worked?

Lana: Amazingly, it did. But we still had a huge number of birds already oiled. Thankfully we were well-organised and managed to feed, treat and clean thousands of birds, only losing about 150. The fact that this rescue project was such a triumph is down to the hard work of hundreds of volunteers from all over the world who gave up their time to help, without expecting anything in return.

Jeremy: How long did this rescue operation take?

Lana: Our rehabilitation effort took three months and within this time we saved 50,000 penguins. About 90% of the treated birds were successfully released back into the wild. And since then, monitoring has shown us that those birds have lived just as long as other birds. And the strategies we developed to cope in Chile have since been used around the world to deal with spills from other ships.

Jeremy: That really is a huge achievement. Thank you Lana for coming in today. We'll now

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