

# A LEVEL **BIOLOGY B (ADVANCING BIOLOGY)**

## Checkpoint Task

### Sustainability

#### ***Instructions and answers for teachers***

This Checkpoint Task should be used in conjunction with the *KS5–HE Transition Guide – Sustainability*.

The main issue with conservation and looking at the conflict between human needs and conserving habitats and species, is in being able to argue a point with evidence. It isn't a case of learning key facts or vocabulary. It is more about understanding the need for evidence to persuade others, whatever your own stance and opinion. In this topic many have an opinion but are unable to back up their ideas and support what they say with evidence, so that it does hold weight and persuade. It tends to break down in to uninformed argument – and this is what the teacher needs to be very aware of and stop the discussion if this is what is happening. The activities should provide the chance for students to gain experience of this and see some scenarios where this skill is important.

So the idea of this checkpoint task is to see if they can be critical of someone else putting forward an argument – look at where they use skills that the activity has addressed. See if they can identify a point and evidence to back it up. See if they understand the message which the interviewee is trying to make and what the interviewer's agenda might be.

Listen to this interview:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03mfvl9>

It also can be accessed from:

<http://www.worldlandtrust.org/news/events/bbc-radio-4-shared-planet-do-care-too-much-about-nature>

Then discuss the issues.

Students should recognise issues being discussed. They should also recognise the role of the interviewer and interviewee. They should look for where evidence is used to back up a point. They should look at where decisions have had to be made about resources and think about the consequences of those decisions. They should also be able to come up with their opinion on the issues discussed, and be able to develop their own questions from the material being discussed in the interview.



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