

Sample Discussions

Pre-reading Part B (p.101)

1. Do you think that animals are intelligent?

A: Yes, from my point of view, their intelligence is very high. Think about those **specialty trained animals**, such as guide dogs, emotional-support dogs and police dogs. They can understand people and feel the same emotions that we do, offering help to those **in need**. They are good friends of humans.

B: Absolutely! I often see some touching news on TV, showing that their loyalty to humans. Other animals such as chimpanzees are very **similar to** humans, with perhaps even more **astonishing intelligence**. Every time when I go to the zoo, I can see them interacting with tourists happily. It's really interesting.

2. What can we do to teach people to respect animals?

A: In my view, the most important point is to tell people **the importance of** respecting the laws of nature. I suppose most of us have heard the **natural law** of "survival of the fittest". Actually, after generations of evolution, the world has reached a state of dynamic balance. Even human beings are only a **dispensable** part of it. Hence, we cannot **interfere**, or it may **threaten** the survival of other animals.

B: That makes sense since the food web is complex, we cannot do things that may harm the entire biological world **based on** personal whims. However, I found that many people know little about the relevant rules and have a **weak awareness** of animal protection. So I think that it's essential to **undertake** more voluntary activities for disseminating knowledge and protection measures to the public.

C: Yes, **the higher** people's awareness of animal protection becomes, **the better** the awareness of respecting animals will be. As students, we should also do something within our power, such as not destroying the habitat of animals when going out in addition to not littering into the ocean. In my opinion, although animals are not as intelligent as humans, they also have their own **cognitive abilities** and **emotional needs**. It's our duty to respect them and **live in harmony with** them.

CLASSROOM Reading Headway Pre-HKDSE Targeted Practice (Book 2)

Module 4 Nature, Animals, Science and Environment

- D: To expand on the above, it is, in my eyes, **imperative** that **stringent punitive measures** are **meted out** appropriately at **each instance** of animal cruelty, no matter how insignificant it may seem. For instance, abandoning a pet, or **torturing** it by, for example, using collars that electrically shock it, or **declawing** cats or dogs should be treated as no less serious than torturing a human, thus we may achieve that same level of respect for the lives of animals as for humans...