HW Assignment #16 - Task 4 Practice

This is an example of an "Integrated" Task 4 Question, and it should take you less than 5 minutes to complete. Keep in mind, during the exam you will only have 45 seconds to read a short text, then you will then hear a short conversation, or part of a lecture, on the same topic. **You may take notes during both the reading and listening sections.** Next you will see a question concerning the information you read and heard. Finally, you will have 30 seconds to prepare your response, and 60 seconds to respond.

Cyclic Population Change

An ecosystem is a functional system that includes an ecological community of organisms together with the physical environment, interacting as a unit. One aspect of ecosystems, cyclic population change, refers to species changing the size of their population cyclically. Populations change over time due to many different circumstances such as their size and their climate change. However, as these circumstances repeat, the populations of these species return to their original state.

[Begin audio at 6:26 -- TOEFL Speaking, Task 4 Samples]

Q: "Using points and examples from the lecture, describe the changes among wolves and mice."

Key Points:

- Demonstrate an understanding of Cyclic Population Change.
    - Cyclic population change is an interesting phenomenon wherein a species' population will predictably, and periodically, increase and/or decrease over time (for a variety of reasons) before returning to its original state.
    - From Wikipedia:
        - "… a phenomenon where populations rise and fall over a predictable period of time. There are some species where population numbers have reasonably predictable patterns of change although the full reasons for population cycles is one of the major unsolved ecological problems. There are a number of factors which influence population change

such as availability of food, predators, diseases and climate."

- Describe the changes among wolves and mice.
    - At first there were many mice and few wolves, so the wolves had plenty of food to eat. They flourished, and their population grew as the number of mice decreased. Eventually there were not enough mice for all of the wolves to eat, so their population began to shrink, and this decreasing number of wolves afforded the mice an opportunity to reproduce. Their numbers grew, until once again there were many mice and few wolves.

Bonus Task 4 Sample Question -- Exam English

As ever, pay special attention to the following when critiquing your student's responses:

1. **Delivery**: How clear is your speech? Good responses are those in which the speech is fluid and clear, with good pronunciation, natural pacing, and natural-sounding intonation patterns.
2. **Language Use**: How effectively do you use grammar and vocabulary to convey your ideas? How well can you control both basic and more complex language structures? Did you use appropriate vocabulary?
3. **Topic Development**: How fully did you answer the question, and how coherently did you present your ideas? Good responses generally use all or most of the time allotted, and the relationship between ideas and the progression from one idea to the next is clear and easy to follow.