**Mohammad Amin Yousefi | Integrated Task | Week 5**

**Neo test 107:**

The article mainly delves into the reasons why scientists believe that prairie dogs don't worth extra protection and as a support, the author denotes three reasons with which the lecturer disagrees by mentioning some contrasting facts. He is totally in favor of dedicating extra protection to these dogs due to their importance in ecosystem.

Firstly, the passage introduces prairie dogs as agricultural pests. The author elaborates by remarking on the complaints of farmers, and notable impact of these animals on scarcity of grass resources. On the other hand, the lecturer contrasts with this claim according to the immense changes in feeding process of cows in recent years and believes that the reason mentioned by the author is outdated. Moreover, he states that not only are these dogs not harmful, but they also are beneficial by fertilizing the soil.

Secondly, the article highlights the hazardous aspect of these prairie dogs; transferring plague to humans by holding moving insects named fleas. However, in the professor's perspective, this transmission is not likely to happen. He illustrates his viewpoint by mentioning that in a region where people directly interact with prairie dogs, only 10 people went down with those disease in 50 years.

Finally, the passage consider these animals as animals with a low impact on the environment and ecosystem. The author states that it is more rewarding to protect species with higher ranks in the food chain like some carnivorous animals. Nevertheless, the lecturer firmly disagrees with this claim and considers these dogs crucially important. He goes on with highlighting their underground buildings which provide habitat for some other animals such as snakes. Additionally, he asserts their critical role as prey for carnivorous predators. He asserts that decline in prairie dogs population results in significant negative impacts on lives of many other species.

302 words (some dictation errors are corrected before submission) | Time: 20 minutes (Test day situation)