

## 試題本文

With the end of World War I in 1918, many discharged Australian soldiers went home. To tap into this new manpower and develop marginal areas, the government encouraged them to grow wheat and crops within Western Australia, promising the more they could grow, the more subsidies they would get. However, the Great Depression in 1929 clouded the global market, the wheat price falling, the promised subsidies up in the air. What's worse, the crops would be ravaged by 20,000 unwelcome guests—emus, the world's second largest, flightless, long-necked-and-legged bird.

Though emus tended to live as individuals, they made annual migrations after breeding seasons, moving south-west in winter and north-east in summer. Finding farms rich in crops and water, emus invaded and consumed the crops. Clearly, the Australia government didn't take into consideration such regular, large-scale emu migrations while they encouraged ex-soldiers to grow wheat. Wars between men and birds were inevitable.

The ravaged farms, the unpaid subsidies and the bad economy altogether enraged farmers. They turned to the Minister of Defense, Sir George Pearce for the deployment of machine guns to eradicate the whole emu colony. To pacify these angry ex-soldiers, he agreed to give them two Lewis guns and 10,000 rounds of bullets. The whole operation would be commanded by the veteran leader, Major G.P. W. Meredith, with the aid of two soldiers and farmers.

Well-experienced in battles as they were, all involved in this operation underestimated their rivals. Emus were too smart to be ambushed and too quick to be shot. They even developed some tactics to fend off military forces. A huge crowd can split into several groups to run away when one squad was under fire. Some army observers even noted that "each pack seems to have its own leader now—a big black-plumed bird which stands fully six feet high and keeps watch while his mates carry out their work of destruction and warns them of our approach."

The result was ridiculously distressing. In the first clash, 2,500 rounds of bullets had been fired, killing only 200 emus. After each battle, emus grew more combative with men struggling harder to kill them. Farmers called for more weapons and skillful snipers, but the military refused because doubts over waste of public money and voices for birds were gaining power.

Soon, this bad result reached the whole world. Conservationists and bird-lovers denounced this act as mass destruction of the rare emu. Faced with such an embarrassing failure, all-out condemnation and teasing, the government ceased fire. Though guns were not held against emus, what followed were the more fatal fence building and the bounty system, both taking a heavy toll on these innocent birds.

參考資料：

1. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emu> (Wikipedia)
2. <https://www.birdlife.org.au/documents/NEWS-AB-article-emu-fence.pdf>
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=loZyBEfwpJI> (Feature History)
4. <https://reurl.cc/AgeK7Q> (Australian Geographic)
5. <https://www.newsmarket.com.tw/blog/141397/>

## Q1

You found an old news clip in a news stand. It's so interesting that you choose it as your research topic for the elective course: Funny History. Please read and prepare for your report. The news clip is so old that it misses its headline and subtitle. Please choose one item out of each set to make the best headline-subtitle combination.

Headline	Subtitle
● <b>MEN, GUNS, VICTORY</b>	■ Big birds run over men and their guns with wit and speed
● <b>BIG BIRDS CAN FLY</b>	■ Men gun down emus, take skin and cause finger-pointing
● <b>GREAT EMU WAR</b>	■ Emu don't fly but jump high to escape machine gun shooting

Please COPY them and write them down on the underlines in the following picture.

### ◆ Q1 差異化設計

What is the best headline and subtitle for this news clip?

(A) **MEN, GUNS, VICTORY**  
Men gun down emus, take their skin and cause finger-pointing

(B) **BIG BIRDS CAN FLY**  
Emu don't fly but jump high to escape machine gun shooting

(C) **GREAT EMU WAR**  
Big birds run over men & guns with wit, speed and guts

(D) **EMUS KILL HARD**  
Sharp bills & claws turn emus into flying killing machines

正解：

**GREAT EMU WAR.**





**Big birds run over men and their guns with wit and speed.**

With the end of World War I in 1918, G.P. W. Meredith, with the aid of two soldiers many discharged Australian soldiers went home. and farmers.

差異化設計：C

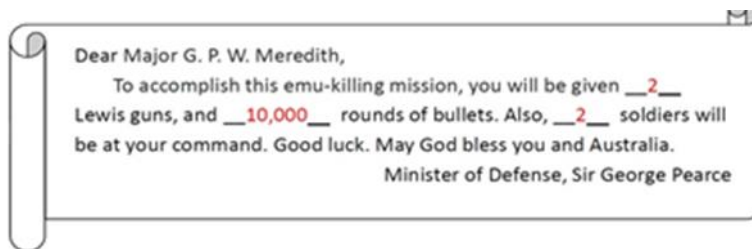
## Q2

To deliver your report with clarity and elegance, you craft this man-emu combat power analysis chart for better comprehension over details.

	The Ministry for Defense		Emu
leader	<u>Major G. P. W. Meredith</u>	leader	big black-plumed emus
			
number	<u>2</u> soldiers and farmers	number	<u>20,000</u> emus
weapon	<u>2</u> Lewis guns, <u>10,000</u> rounds of bullets	weapon	Quick legs
tactic	Ambush and <u>shoot</u> .	tactic	<u>Split</u> into small groups when under fire. A lead bird keeps <u>watch</u> when others destroy crops.

### ◆ Q2 差異化設計

This is a note to inform Major G. P. W. Meredith of the number of weapons and soldiers he could deploy. However, the numbers were covered for confidential matters. Please scan the news clip and fill in the blanks with the correct numbers.



正解：見上圖

## Q3

While surfing the Net for more information, you find a recording from Major G. P. W. Meredith. Please listen and tell us what his attitude toward the big bird enemy is.

"If we had a military division with the bullet-carrying capacity of these birds it would face any army in the world ... They can face machine guns with the invulnerability of tanks. They are like Zulus whom even dum-dum bullets could not stop."

From Major G. P. W. Meredith in "New Strategy in a War on the Emu"

Sunday Herald. 5 July 1953

Q: What is Major G. P. W. Meredith's attitude toward emus?

- (A) He admired the fearlessness of great emus.
- (B) He appreciated the beauty of their feathers.

- (C) He was frustrated by the waste of bullets.  
(D) He was angry at these fast-footed birds.

正解：A

◆ Q3 差異化設計

While surfing the Net for more information, you find a modified recording from Major G. P. W. Meredith. Please listen and tell us what his attitude toward these big birds is.

“If we were lucky enough to have a fast, brave emu army, like those we are fighting against now, that could carry guns and shoot, we would defeat any other armies and take the world in the hands of Australia.”

Q: What is Major G. P. W. Meredith’s attitude toward emus?

- (A) He admired them.  
(B) He trusted them.  
(C) He supported them.  
(D) He disliked them.

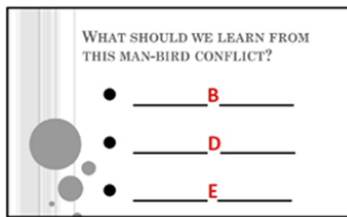
正解：A

**Q4**

History is for things in the past and to teach people how to make better decisions. You have presented to your audience the main picture along with numbers and details of this man-bird conflict. What do you think is the best lessons it has taught us? According to this news clip, please choose the relevant ones and put them into the conclusion chapter.

- A. Human beings are the king of the Planet and their survival is prior to that of other species.  
B. Governments should have visions and take more into consideration when making polices.  
C. Global events, like WWI and the Great Depression, affect local communities to a lesser extent.  
D. Wars should be waged on the ground of justice and peace, not for the need to pacify people.  
E. Economic development should not be made or earned by disrupting the course of the Nature.  
F. Countries should take asylum-seeking refugees under their wings for the humanitarian reasons.

正解：

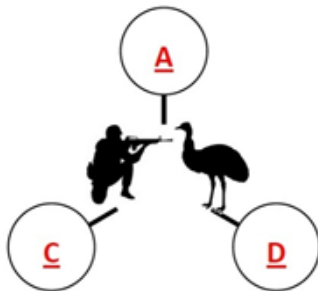


◆ Q4 差異化設計

Historical events always happen when everything falls into places. According to this article, what in the following, directly or indirectly, triggered this man-bird conflict? Please find them out and put them into the circle diagram.

- A. An extra labor force fueled by dismissed soldiers after WWI
- B. Oil crises in the Arab world leading to the Great Depression
- C. An irresponsible government refusing to carry out its promise
- D. Farmers enraged by low-priced harvest and unpaid subsidies
- E. A regular practice to demonstrate Australia's military muscle

正解：



**Q5**

History repeats itself. This year, Taiwan has suffered the green iguana (綠鬣蜥) invasion, due to the casual abandonment of pet iguana and irresponsible iguana farms. A bounty system was launched to curb the iguana population, which wrongly encouraged some people to slaughter iguana for money and, what's worse, for fun.

You decide to write a letter to Council of Agriculture Executive Yuan (農委會) to plead the abolition of this cruel bounty system and demand a more comprehensive, humane control method. Besides, this letter will also be sent to Taipei Times to reach a wider domestic and international audience. Please use the Australia man-bird conflict to support your argumentation and use the sentence pattern: A is regarded/seen as B.

參考答案：

Dear Council of Agriculture Executive Yuan,

As an animal lover who abhors unnecessary killings, I write this letter to severely protest against your cruel, backfiring bounty system for green iguana. It must be removed immediately, for it has been encouraging slaughter and purposeful green iguana reproduction for later murder to cheat more money out of your corrupt bounty system. Terrible polices lead to devastating consequences. Take for example,

the Great Emu War, in which the Australia government waged wars against migrating emus, only to invite failure and condemnation of murdering other species to cover the ass of an impotent government. This war has shown to this world that the Nature has its course and people should respect it. Hence, it is necessary that the bounty system be removed.

What we need in desperation is a system to put all farms and nurseries, related to flora and fauna, under your close watch and to impose strict regulations demanding responsible reproduction, legal and ethical animal trade, proper care and everything for better plant/animal wellbeing. The Great Emu War is regarded an act of human arrogance and savage. Your bounty system will be the next if its practice continues.

Always tell the truth,  
Angry iguana lover.