

PRUEBA/PROVA: CLIMATE CHANGE

EXAM

The hot issue of climate change

In the past decade, warmer-than-average temperatures have been recorded around the globe, and scientists warn that temperatures may soar by 1.8–4° C before the close of the century. It is believed that this recent climate change has been caused by human activity, and especially by the emission of greenhouse gases.

So why should we be worried? In northern European countries, having milder summers even seems quite appealing! However, in countries close to the equator, the hot weather is creating barren wastelands, and putting natural resources under tremendous pressure. In Spain, six per cent of Spanish soil has become dry and arid, and it is thought that nearly a third of the country may be lost to desert in the future. In some of the world's poorest countries in Africa, desertification has exacerbated the problems of drought and famine, and already claimed many lives.

Climate change is affecting the coldest extremities of the earth, too, melting the ice in the Arctic and Antarctic. This is endangering local animal populations, such as polar bears, and it is not yet known what implications it might have for humans. Alarming, it has been speculated that the subsequent rise in sea levels may lead to more tidal waves and tsunamis, and could result in severe flooding in many countries. The icy temperature of the water could also wreak havoc: another gloomy prediction suggests that it could cool the warm ocean currents, and paradoxically cause the UK and the USA to experience global warming as a deep freeze.

One thing is certain. If we do not act now, the climate will continue to heat up, perhaps irreversibly. We must take better care of our planet – before the crisis gets too hot to handle.

1. Say whether the following sentences are TRUE or FALSE according to the text. COPY the evidence from the text. No marks will be given without the evidence. (15 points)

- a) Polar bear numbers are increasing.
- b) We cannot afford to wait before we deal with the issue of climate change.
- c) People in northern countries aren't happy about any of the side effects of global warming.

2. ANSWER the questions below. COPY no more than 10 words and/or a number from the text to answer each question. (1.5 points)

- a) How much do scientists warn that temperatures could rise by before the close of the century?
- b) What has happened to six per cent of Spanish soil?
- c) What may rising sea levels lead to?

3. WRITE a synonym (=), an opposite (≠), a definition or a sentence for each of the following words to show that you understand their meaning in the text. Use your own words. (1 point)

- a) to soar (line 2)
- b) close (line 2)
- c) worried (line 5)
- d) to endanger (line 13)

4. READ this conversation between two people. COMPLETE their conversation. Write the numbers (1–6) and each complete sentence on your exam paper. (1.5 points)

Receptionist: Good morning. How can I help you?

Client: Good morning. We (1) _____ with two single beds please.

Receptionist: Of course. (2) _____ nights will you be staying?

Client: One night. (3) _____ is the room please?

Receptionist: It is £40 per night and (4) _____ breakfast.

Client: Fine. Does the room have a balcony?

Receptionist: Yes, (5) _____. It also has a bathroom with a shower and a bath.

Client: What time (6) _____ to check out in the morning?

Receptionist: You have to check out before 11 a.m.

5. Read the following situations and WRITE what you would say in each one to show that you understand the context of the situation. Write between 10 and 25 words. (1.5 points)

- a) You are at an airport and you want to know the gate number for your flight.
- b) You are checking into a hotel and you want to know what time breakfast is. Ask the receptionist.
- c) You need to know the time. Ask somebody in the street.
- d) You are at a party. Introduce two friends who don't know each other.

6. WRITE a composition of about 120–150 words on the following topic. (3 points)

What can we do to help the environment? Suggest some ideas.