

PRUEBA/PROVA: CLIMATE CHANGE

EXAM and ANSWERS – including SMART TIPS

The hot issue of climate change

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

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

12 Climate change is affecting the coldest extremities of the earth, too, melting the ice in the Arctic
13 and Antarctic. This is endangering local animal populations, such as polar bears, and it is not yet
14 known what implications it might have for humans. Alarming, it has been speculated that the
15 subsequent rise in sea levels may lead to more tidal waves and tsunamis, and could result in
16 severe flooding in many countries. The icy temperature of the water could also wreak havoc:
17 another gloomy prediction suggests that it could cool the warm ocean currents, and
18 paradoxically cause the UK and the USA to experience global warming as a deep freeze.
19 One thing is certain. If we do not act now, the climate will continue to heat up, perhaps
20 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. (1.5 points)

a) Polar bear numbers are increasing. **FALSE.** *“This is endangering local animal populations, such as polar bears.” (line 13)*

SMART TIP: negative and positive information

Read the sentence and the text carefully for negative and positive information. Here, the sentence contains positive information (“increasing”), but the text contains negative information (“endangering”). This gives you a clue that the statement is false.

b) We cannot afford to wait before we deal with the issue of climate change. **FALSE.** *“If we do not act now, the climate will continue to heat up, perhaps irreversibly.” (line 19)*

SMART TIP: giving evidence

Remember to support your answers with evidence. It might seem obvious that the sentence in question 2b is false, but you have to *prove* it is wrong by giving evidence from the text. You will not get any points if you only write “true” or “false”.

- c) People in northern countries aren't happy about any of the side effects of global warming. *FALSE.*
"In northern European countries, having milder summers even seems quite appealing!" (lines 5-6)

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?
Temperatures may soar by 1.8 -4° C.
- b) What has happened to six per cent of Spanish soil?
Spanish soil has become dry and arid.
- c) What may rising sea levels lead to?
More tidal waves and tsunamis.

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

Suggested answers:

a) = or Definition: to rise/increase/grow/get higher; ≠ to fall/decrease/sink/drop/get lower; Sentence (example): The plane soared above the clouds.

SMART TIP: reading instructions

Always read any exam instructions carefully and do exactly what they say. Here, you only need to give an answer for four of the words, and you only need to give one answer for each word (not a synonym AND an opposite AND a definition AND a sentence. If you give more answers than are necessary, you may lose points if some answers contain mistakes.

b) = or Definition: end; ≠ beginning/start; Sentence (example): The students were looking forward to the close of the lesson.

c) = or Definition: anxious, distressed, concerned, upset ; ≠ relaxed, calm; Sentence (example): My parents were worried when my brother hadn't come home.

d) = or Definition: to put (something) in danger / to reduce the numbers of (something) / to make something more likely to become extinct / to threaten (something) with extinction; ≠ to help/save/protect/ to encourage to grow; Sentence (example): Illegal hunting is endangering elephants and tigers.

SMART TIP: giving the correct meaning

Make sure that you give the correct meaning for the word or phrase *in context*: some words and phrases have different meanings. For example, "heat up" can be used transitively ("make something hot") or intransitively "become hot"). In definition f), you need to give the intransitive meaning.

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) *would like a room* with two single beds please.

Receptionist: Of course. (2) *How many* nights will you be staying?

Client: One night. (3) *How much* is the room please?

Receptionist: It is £40 per night and (4) *that includes* breakfast.

Client: Fine. Does the room have a balcony?

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

Client: What time (6) *do we need/have* 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.

Suggested answer: Excuse me, please can you tell me the gate number for flight number...

b) You are checking into a hotel and you want to know what time breakfast is. Ask the receptionist.

Suggested answer: Can you tell me what time breakfast is served in the morning please?

c) You need to know the time. Ask somebody in the street.

Suggested answer: Excuse me, what time is it please? OR Excuse me, do you have the time?

d) You are at a party. Introduce two friends who don't know each other.

Suggested answer: X this is Y. Y is my friend and he /she...

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.

Suggested answer:

In my opinion, there are many things that we can do to help the environment.

Firstly, we can make changes to our personal lives. We can recycle paper and glass, and we can also try to use less energy at home. Instead of driving, we could walk, cycle or use public transport, and thereby reduce carbon emissions.

Secondly, we can help campaign for change on a larger scale. For example, we could sign petitions to make industry more environmentally-friendly, or donate money to environmental charities.

In conclusion, I think there is a lot we can do, and everyone can help.

SMART TIP: thinking about tenses

Before you write, think carefully about the grammar and tenses you need to use in your composition. In this composition you will mainly need to use present tenses, especially the present simple, as you are talking about present actions and views.

You will also need to use modal verbs to make suggestions and talk about possibilities. Try to use a variety of verbs and verb forms to make your composition more interesting.

Always read your composition after you have finished and check that your grammar, spelling, punctuation and word order are correct.