

PRUEBA/PROVA: AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW?

EXAM and ANSWERS including SMART TIPS

An example to follow?

1 The European Union has decided to reduce carbon emissions by 80 per cent. However, a recent survey
2 found that only 12 per cent of young British people think they can help to slow climate change by
3 changing their lifestyles. It has been suggested teenagers feel that individual actions make little
4 difference. If they had met a 67-year-old woman from London before completing the survey, their
5 answers might have been different.

6 Joan Pick recently appeared in the British newspapers because of her unusual lifestyle. Joan's flat
7 doesn't have any heating or hot water. She hasn't eaten a cooked meal for years, and she just eats raw
8 food and nuts. The only electrical appliances that she uses are a kettle, a light bulb and a radio. Thanks
9 to her radical lifestyle, Joan has reduced her carbon footprint to almost zero.

10 But what made Joan Pick choose to live like this? The answer can be found in her job. She was working
11 on an energy efficiency project which led her to conclude that mass consumption was wrong. As a
12 result, she stopped using her car and gave up on all motorized transport. Since then, she has walked
13 everywhere.

14 To most of us, the way that Joan Pick lives isn't a very attractive proposition. According to Joan,
15 however, we should all live in a more sustainable way so that the world's resources don't run out.
16 After all, what's the point of worrying about climate change if we are always recharging our mobile
17 phones and spending hours on a computer?

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 evidence. (1.5 marks)

a) Joan Pick uses electricity for cooking and heating.

False. Suggested answer: Joan doesn't have any heating or hot water in her flat and she hasn't done any cooking for years. (OR 'Joan's flat doesn't have any heating or hot water. She hasn't eaten a cooked meal for years ...' – paragraph 2)

b) Joan Pick never travels very far.

True. She walks everywhere because she doesn't have a car or use motorized transport (paragraph 3).

c) The text says most people would like to live like Joan Pick.

False. Suggested answer: The majority of people would not enjoy the lifestyle that Joan Pick follows. (OR 'To most people, the way that Joan Pick lives isn't a very attractive proposition.' – paragraph 4).

SMART TIP: answering 'true or false' questions

True or false' questions often use the same vocabulary that appears in the text so that the sentence appears correct. However, the question might express a negative idea, when the text expresses a positive one and vice versa.

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 have to give your essay in a day late. Explain why to the teacher.

Suggested answer: I'm very sorry that I'm handing this in late. I was ill at the beginning of the week and I didn't have time to do it.

b) Your favourite football team is playing badly in an important game. Predict the result.

Suggested answer: Although they are playing badly I think that they will improve and that they will win the game.

c) Your friend has failed an English exam. Offer help.

Suggested answer: Would you like me to help you improve your English?

d) You forgot your friend's birthday. Apologise.

Suggested answer: I'm really sorry that I forgot it was your birthday.

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

Will our children live in a worse environment than we do? Discuss.

Suggested answer:

We are aware of the negative environmental effects of our lifestyle and have recently been trying to live ecologically. However, is this sufficient to reverse the situation?

Today, most people recycle waste materials and modern machines are energy-efficient.

Furthermore, modern vehicles don't produce as much pollution as older vehicles. All of this has helped the environment.

Nevertheless, we constantly use electrical gadgets at home and work, and we use more energy than ever. Moreover, air travel is cheaper and more flights are made every year. These things obviously have negative effects.

To sum up, I think we still need to do more to reduce our impact on the planet. As a result, I think our children will unfortunately live in a worse environment than we do.

SMART TIP: understanding what the writing task involves

After reading the writing task, think about what type of composition you have to produce. Is it an opinion essay or a 'for and against' essay? If it's an opinion essay, think of some examples to support your ideas. If it's a 'for and against' essay, make sure you give a balanced view before coming to a conclusion.