

PRUEBA/PROVA: CLIMATE CHANGE

EXAM

CLIMATE CHANGE

In the past ten years, warmer-than-average temperatures have been recorded around the globe, and scientists warn that temperatures may soar by 1.8 to 4°C before the close of the century. Fluctuating temperatures are nothing new, of course: a thousand years ago, Britain was mild enough for Roman soldiers to plant vines, while in the medieval period the country experienced a mini ice-age! However, it is believed that this recent climate change has been caused by human activity, and especially by the emission of greenhouse gases.

The effects of this are being felt worldwide. In countries close to the equator, the hot weather is making deserts expand, and putting natural resources under tremendous pressure. In Spain, it is thought that nearly a third of the country may be lost to desert, and six percent of Spanish soil has already become dry and arid. In some of the world's poorest countries in Africa, desertification has cost lives and, with insufficient water, many more people may die as a result of drought and famine.

Climate change is affecting the coldest parts of the world, too, melting the ice in the Arctic and Antarctic. This is currently having a negative impact on local animal populations, such as polar bears, and it is not yet known what the wider repercussions might be. Alarming, some scientists have predicted that the additional ice water may cause the warmer currents or streams in the ocean to cool. Without the warmth provided by these currents, the median temperatures in northern Europe and America could drop by 5 to 10°C, which would make some areas unsuitable for crops and livestock and virtually uninhabitable. Paradoxically, it seems, global warming may actually be experienced as a big freeze in some parts of the world.

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

1. Read the text. Indicate whether the following statements are TRUE or FALSE and write down which part of the text justifies your answer. [2 POINTS]

- a) Climate change is only a modern phenomenon, which has never occurred historically.
- b) In Africa, people have already died as a consequence of the loss of fertile land.
- c) The changing weather conditions at the Arctic are reducing the numbers of some animal species.
- d) If scientific predictions come true, fewer people will be able to live in parts of the USA in the future.

2. Answer the following questions in your own words according to the text. [2 POINTS]

- a) According to the text, how might a northern country such as the UK experience climate change differently from Spain?
- b) Why must we take immediate political action?

- 3. Find words or phrases in the text that correspond to the words and definitions given.**
[1,5 POINTS]
- a) frequently changing (paragraph 1)
 - b) not enough (paragraph 2)
 - c) indirect and usually bad results that happen some time after an action or event (paragraph 3)
 - d) impossible to live in (paragraph 3)
 - e) in a way that means something cannot be changed back to what it was before (paragraph 4)
- 4. Choose the correct option, a, b, c or d for each question and COPY the sentence onto your answer sheet.** [1,5 POINTS]
1. Climate change is a particular issue today because ...
- a) we are now emitting more greenhouse gases.
 - b) temperatures have increased by 1.8–4°C in the past decade.
 - c) the planet is continuing to get hotter.
 - d) some countries are feeling the effects of it.
2. As a result of the hot weather, Spain ...
- a) has had some land become dry and infertile.
 - b) is experiencing as much of a problem with desertification as Africa.
 - c) has already lost almost a third of its soil to desert.
 - d) has had temperatures decrease by 5 to 10°C.
3. The melted ice in the seas and oceans may cause ...
- a) most European countries to freeze.
 - b) warm ocean currents to freeze over.
 - c) extremely cold temperatures in America.
 - d) desserts to expand in Africa.
- 5. Write 120–150 words on the following topic.** [3 POINTS]
- How do you think the world will change as a result of global warming?