

PRUEBA/PROVA: AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW

EXAM and ANSWERS including SMART TIPS

AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW?

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

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

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

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

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) Joan Pick uses electricity for cooking and heating.
False. 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) Nowadays, Joan Pick never travels very far.
True. She doesn't drive or take public transport that is motorized. She only walks. (OR 'As a result, she stopped using her car and gave up on all motorized transport. Since then, she has walked everywhere.' – paragraph 3)
- c) The text says most people would like to live like Joan Pick.
False. 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)

- d) The text says that the majority of teenagers believe that we can have an impact on climate change.

False. The text says that only 12 per cent believe that we can affect climate change. (OR '... a recent survey found that only 12 per cent of young British people think they can help to slow climate change by changing their lifestyles.' – paragraph 1)

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

- a) What do most British teenagers think it will be difficult to do?

Suggested answer: Most British teenagers think it will be difficult to reduce the speed of climate change.

SMART TIP: using linkers and time expressions

You may need to include several ideas in your answer. Try to organize your ideas with linkers, such as *because* or *so that*, or time expressions, such as *before* or *after*. Read your answer carefully afterwards to make sure it has the correct grammar, spelling and punctuation.

- b) Why did Joan Pick change her lifestyle?

Suggested answer: She decided to change her lifestyle because of what she had learnt at work.

3. Find words or phrases in the text that correspond to the words and definitions given.

[1,5 POINTS]

- a) the production of polluting gas, heat, etc. sent out into the air (paragraph 1) *emissions*
- b) new, different and likely to have great effect (paragraph 2) *radical*
- c) to decide or believe something based on what you have seen or heard (paragraph 3) *conclude*
- d) an idea or plan that is suggested (paragraph 4) *proposition*
- e) the use of natural products and energy in a way that does not harm the environment (paragraph 4) *sustainable*

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. Joan Pick was in the newspapers because she ...

- a) is a scientist.
- b) lives in a different way.*
- c) won a marathon.
- d) had no heating in her flat.

2. Joan Pick thinks that we will ...

- a) all have to live like her soon.*
- b) have to say goodbye to our houses.
- c) soon find her lifestyle an attractive proposition.
- d) save money by recycling.

3. The conclusion suggests that a person who is worried about climate change ...

- a) wouldn't use electronic devices.*
- b) would spend hours talking about it on the internet.
- c) would recharge their mobile phone only when it runs out.
- d) would like to live like Joan Pick.

5. **Write 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: using paragraphs

You will receive points for the way you organize your writing, as well as for the accuracy of your work. Each time you talk about a new subject, use a new paragraph. The model essay above is organized as follows:

paragraph 1) introduction

paragraph 2) first main argument (what society has done to protect the environment)

paragraph 3) second main topic (people's consumption of energy and its negative effects)

paragraph 4) conclusion, summarizing the writer's opinion.