PRUEBA/PROVA: CLIMATE CHANGE

EXAM and ANSWERS – including SMART TIPS

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 climb by 1.8–4° C before the close of the century. It is believed that this recent climate change has been caused by industrial pollution and other human activity.

Nearer the equator, the heat is making deserts expand, and putting water resources under tremendous pressure. In some of the world's poorest countries in Africa, desertification has already cost lives, exacerbating the problems of drought and famine.

Climate change is affecting the coldest extremities of the world, too, melting the ice in the Arctic and Antarctic. This is sadly having a deleterious effect on local animal populations, such as polar bears, and it is not yet known what the wider repercussions might be. One alarming theory suggests that the melted ice may cause a rise in sea levels. It has been suggested that this, in turn, could make low-lying coastal areas in northern Europe and America vulnerable to severe flooding.

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

I. Read the text. Add TRUE or FALSE and copy the evidence from the text to support your answer. NO marks are given for only true or false. NO marks are given for T or F. (2 POINTS: 0.5 points for each correct answer)

1. People have died as a consequence of desert expansion.

TRUE. "Desertification has already cost lives." (paragraph 2)

> **SMART TIP: giving evidence**
> Remember to support your answers with evidence. It might seem obvious that the sentence in question 1 is true, but you have to *prove* it is correct by giving evidence from the text.
> You will not get any points if you only write "true" or "false".

2. Polar bear numbers are increasing.

FALSE. "This is sadly having a deleterious impact on local animal populations, such as polar bears." (paragraph 3)

> **SMART TIP: negative and positive information**
> Read the sentence and the text carefully for negative and positive information. Here, the sentence in question 2 contains positive information ("increasing"), but the text contains negative information "sadly having a deleterious impact"). This gives you a clue that the statement is false.

3. We can be sure what the effects of the melted ice will be.

FALSE. "One alarming theory suggests that the melted ice may cause a rise in sea levels." (paragraph 3)

SMART TIP: assessing probability
Check that any assertion of certainty or probability in a statement is matched by similar certainty or probability in the text. Here, the statement expresses certainty (*"we can be sure ..."*) but the text only expresses possibility (*"An alarming theory suggests ...", "may"* – other theories may also be possible. Therefore the statement must be false.

4. People who live by the sea in the USA may experience problems.
TRUE. "This, in turn, could make low-lying coastal areas in northern Europe and America vulnerable to severe flooding." (paragraph 3)

II. LEXICON / PHONETICS

A. LEXICON (1 POINT) (0.25 points for each correct answer)

Find words or phrases in the text that mean the same as these given.

1. end *close (paragraph 1)*

SMART TIP: word with several meanings
Some words have several meanings so you must always check the meaning in context. For example, "close" is more commonly used as a verb: only be checking the context will you discover that here it is used as a noun (with the definite article, "the")

2. killed people *cost lives (paragraph 2)*
3. at risk of *vulnerable to (paragraph 3)*
4. too difficult to deal with *too hot to handle (paragraph 4)*

B. PHONETICS (1 POINT) (0.25 points for each correct answer)

Find words or phrases in the text that mean the same as these given.

1. Write two words from the text that include the same vowel sound as "see" /i;/. (0.5 points)
(two of the following): *been, believed, recent, be, sea, we*

SMART TIP: reading the whole text to find the right sound
There will probably be several correct answers for pronunciation questions. Do not worry if you cannot find a correct answer straightaway. Continue reading the whole text carefully and slowly until you find the answer you need. Try "saying" the words in your head until you find one with the same sound.
Make sure that you revise phonemes before your final examinations.

2. Write a word from the text that includes the same diphthong sound as "try" /aɪ/ (0.25 points)
(one of the following): *scientists, climate, by, lives, quite, ice, wider, might, rise, low-lying*
3. Is the final "–s" pronounced voiced /z/ or voiceless /s/ in "scientists"? (0.25 points) *voiceless /s/*

III. USE OF ENGLISH. (3 POINTS: 0.5 points for each correct answer)

Rewrite the following sentences starting with the words given:

1. Greenhouse gases are heating up the earth.
The earth *is being heated up by greenhouse gases.*
2. I think you should do more to help the environment.
If I *were you, I would do more to help the environment.*

SMART TIP: checking verb forms in transformations
Remember, in conditional clauses we usually use the verb form *'were'* instead of *'was'* for the first and third person singular. Remember to revise conditional forms and other major grammar points (including tenses, reported speech, relative clauses, modal verbs, and the passive) in preparation for your examination. See your course book for more information.

3. "Are you going to attend the conference on climate change tomorrow?"
   She asked him if / whether he was going to attend the conference on climate change the next day.
4. It would have been a good idea to recycle those bottles.
   You should *have recycled those bottles.*
5. He last drove a car in July.
   He hasn't *driven a car since July.*

SMART TIP: time expressions
Because we are using the present perfect in this sentence, we need to replace "in July" with a more suitable time expression. Remember that we use *since* + a point in time with the present perfect (we use *for* + a period of time, so *"He hasn't driven a car for July"* is incorrect).
Remember to revise time expressions as well as tenses before your examinations. Other common time expressions which are used with the present perfect are *already, ever, just, lately*, *never* and *yet*.

6. 'The scientists met in Geneva yesterday,' he said.
   He said *that the scientists had met in Geneva the day before.*

IV. COMPOSITION (3 POINTS)

Write a composition of at least 125 words on the following topic:

"Climate change is the most serious issue facing the world today." Do you agree? Give your opinion.

Many different answers are possible. Here is one suggested model.

Climate change is the most serious issue facing the world today.

In my opinion, the biggest issue that the world has to deal with is climate change.

Global warming will affect everyone. Equatorial countries will grow hotter, which will increase the size of deserts and cause thirst and starvation. Cooler countries may experience extreme weather conditions, including flooding. Some regions will become unable to support life.

As a consequence, poverty will grow, because there will not be enough water and land. This may in turn lead to more emigration, as people move to more temperate regions. It might also lead to war, as countries fight over natural resources. Finally, diseases will probably spread as conditions around the world deteriorate.

For these reasons, I agree that climate change is the world's greatest problem.

SMART TIP: using information from the reading text
Often, a writing task will ask you to write about a similar topic to the text you have just read. It is a good idea to read the text again carefully for ideas. However, be careful: you should not copy information directly from the text. You must always use your own words, and try to add some of your own ideas too.