PROVA: AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW

EXAM and ANSWERS

AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW

The European Union has decided to follow the advice of the ecological movement. It is going to try and reduce carbon emissions from fossil fuels (such as coal and oil) by 80 per cent by the year 2050. To achieve such an enormous reduction, the Union will have to rely on the collaboration of the 503 million European citizens who live in the 27 member countries. However, if the results of a recent survey by the British government can be believed, this will be extremely difficult. Only 12 per cent of the young people aged between 11 and 17 who participated in the survey think that they can help to slow climate change by changing their lifestyles. This might be because they feel that an individual's actions will make little difference to the climate, or it could be that they would find it hard to give up their high-tech gadgets. Whatever the reason, a 67-year-old woman from Croydon in South London has shown that we can make a difference if we make big changes in our lives. However, are they changes that most people would want to make?

Joan Pick recently appeared in the British national newspapers because of the unusual way she lives. Joan's flat doesn't have any heating or hot water. She hasn't eaten a cooked meal for years, and she lives on a diet of raw food and nuts. The only electrical appliances that she uses are a kettle to make tea, a very old radio, and a single light bulb. When it gets cold in the winter, Joan just wears more layers of clothes and does a few exercises to warm up. She has never owned a TV, computer or MP3 player and her only entertainment comes from the radio. Thanks to her radical lifestyle, Joan has been able to reduce her carbon footprint to almost zero.

But what made someone living in one of the world's largest modern cities choose to live like this? The answer can be found in the job that she used to do. Joan was working as an adviser to the energy industry when she received a new project to work on: energy efficiency. While she was involved in the project, she came to the conclusion that mass consumption was wrong. She realized that our sources of energy would not last forever and decided that she didn't want to continue contributing to the destruction of the planet. First, she decided to stop using her car and then she gave up on all motorized transport. Since then, she has walked or jogged everywhere, and she still goes for a two-hour run every day. However, she hasn't been further than 10 kilometres from her home in years.

To most of us, the way that Joan Pick lives doesn't sound like a very attractive proposition. We would have to say goodbye to our electronic gadgets, central heating, air conditioning and foreign holidays – all things that we consider essential. According to Joan, however, it is a lifestyle that we will not be able to follow for much longer. In fact, she can't believe that governments have to use publicity campaigns to persuade people to reduce their impact on the environment. She believes we should all want to live in a more sustainable way like her so that the world's resources don't run out. After all, what's the point of saying we're worried about climate change if we're always recharging mobile phones and digital cameras, and spending hours on a computer – the biggest energy users of the twenty-first century?

carbon footprint – petjada de carboni / huella ecológica
central heating – calefacció central / calefacción central
sustainable – sostenible / sostenible

Part 1: Reading comprehension

Choose the best answer according to the text. Only ONE answer is possible.
[0.5 points for each correct answer. Wrong answers will be penalized by deducting 0.16 points. There is no penalty for unanswered questions.]

1. **Who is listening to some advice?**
   a) The ecological movement.
   b) The British government.
   c) The European Union.
   d) The fossil-fuel industry.
2. **What do most British teenagers think it will be difficult to do?**
   a) Give up their high-tech gadgets.
   b) Reduce the speed of climate change.
   c) Participate in a survey.
   d) Change their parents' lifestyle.
3. **The text asks if the changes made by Joan Pick would ...**
   a) be popular with other people.
   b) make a real difference.
   c) involve big changes in our lifestyles.
   d) be possible for older people.
4. **What does Joan Pick use electricity for?**
   a) Cooking and heating.
   b) Washing and lighting.
   c) Lighting and making hot drinks.
   d) Playing music and cooking.
5. **Joan Pick changed her lifestyle because ...**
   a) she lives in a large modern city.
   b) she wanted to get fit by jogging.
   c) she used to go shopping a lot.
   d) of what she learnt at work.
6. **Nowadays, Joan Pick never ...**
   a) goes jogging.
   b) travels very far.
   c) uses any energy at all.
   d) goes out.
7. **Joan Pick thinks that we will ...**
   a) all have to live like her soon.
   b) have to persuade the government to reduce its impact on the environment.
   c) have to say goodbye to our houses.
   d) soon find her lifestyle an attractive proposition.

8. **The conclusion suggests that a person who is worried about climate change ...**
   a) would spend hours talking about it on the internet.
   b) would tell everyone how they feel.
   c) would recharge their mobile phone only when it runs out.
   d) wouldn't use electronic devices.

SMART TIP: working out the answer
Read the first part of the question and the four options carefully. If you are not sure about the answer, decide which answers are definitely incorrect.

Part 2: Writing

Choose ONE topic. Write about number 1 or 2. Minimum length: 100 words. [4 points]

1. Your teacher is suggesting you take part in an environmental project. Your teacher thinks you should organise a regular beach clean-up but you'd prefer to start a gardening club. Write the dialogue between you and your teacher. Make sure you do NOT use your own names.

2. You have recently taken part in an environmental event in your local area. Now you want to write about it on your blog. Write about what the event was, where it took place, who was involved and what its purpose was. Write your blog entry.

Many different answers are possible. Here are two suggested models.

1. Your teacher is suggesting you take part in an environmental project. Your teacher thinks you should organise a regular beach clean-up but you'd prefer to start a gardening club. Write the dialogue between you and your teacher. Make sure you do NOT use your own names.

Teacher: *So, have you thought any more about which environmental project you want to take part in?*
Me: *Well, I'm not really sure. I need some help in deciding.*
Teacher: *What about setting up a group that will regularly clean up the local beach? There's always lots of rubbish there. You'd be helping to reduce pollution on the beach.*
Me: *I'm just not really sure that I'd enjoy that. I mean, I know it's important to have clean beaches, but I'd prefer something a bit more creative.*
Teacher: *Do you have anything in mind.*
Me: *I was thinking about starting a gardening club. We could grow our own fruit and vegetables. We'd be learning how nature works while reducing our carbon footprint.*
Teacher: *That's a great idea! Maybe we could ask the local council if we could use the land outside the school.*

2. You have recently taken part in an environmental event in your local area. Now you want to write about it on your blog. Write about what the event was, where it took place, who was involved and what its purpose was. Write your blog entry.

GreenTeen 23/04/19 10:45

Hi everyone! It's been a while since I've written on here. I've been busy, busy, busy! So, what's been keeping me so busy? This year's Earth Day. As you all probably know, April 23rd is Earth Day all over the world. I was involved in organising the event here in my area, which took place in Green Park.
The theme of this year was plastic. And we all made a promise to reduce, reuse, recycle, refuse and remove plastic from our lives wherever possible. It depends on us!
Literally thousands of people turned up to hear speeches by celebrities on environmental issues, to learn about local projects in the area that they could get involved in and to connect with other people who want to make a difference to our environment. There was even live music from local bands. Isn't it just great when you mix fun with doing good?

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.