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PROVA: THE HOT ISSUE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

ANSWER KEY – including SMART TIPS

PART 1: READING COMPREHENSION

1. In the past ten years,

d) *the world has experienced hotter temperatures.*

> **SMART TIP: Time expressions**
> Time nouns and other time-related expressions frequently appear in exam texts and questions, so it is important that you know what these mean. Useful words to revise and learn include: (nouns) *decade* (= 10 years), *century* (= 100 years), also *age*, *period, era*; (adverbs) *nowadays, recently, lately, formerly, previously.*

2. In the past, climate change was

a) *not necessarily caused by human action.*

3. In the 1600s, British people

d) *experienced freezing temperatures.*

> **SMART TIP: Checking context**
> It can be a good idea to search for key words in the text, but you must be careful to check the context. In question three, options *a–c* include the words *ice-skating, warmer summers, vines* and *wine.* All of these words and expressions also appear in the text, but do not be misled –none of these options are correct! You must read a text very carefully before you select your final answer.

4. According to the text, greenhouse gases are

b) *present in the atmosphere.*

5. In Spain, climate change has

a) *created more demand for water.*

6. Climate change is a serious issue in Africa because

b) *it makes existing problems worse.*

7. What will be the effect of melting ice caps?

c) *Different theories have been suggested.*

> **SMART TIP: Thinking about verbs**
> It is important that the answer you choose matches the meaning of the text <u>exactly</u>. Check every word of the questions and answers carefully.
> In question 7, it is especially important to think about the verbs.
> Option d ("*The main ocean currents will cool down*") looks correct at first, but actually it is incorrect, because the verb *will* expresses a <u>certainty</u> about the future. However, the text expresses <u>uncertainty</u>, stating that "*It is not yet known what the consequences of this might be*'" (paragraph 4). Note the use of the modal verb *might*, which expresses possibility, not certainty.
> Make sure you revise verbs and modal verbs carefully before an exam.

8. What might happen in the USA?

c) *The temperature could get cooler.*

PART 2: WRITING

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

1. You are a member of an environmental group at your school. The group is concerned that the government should be doing more to help the environment. Write a letter to the Minister for the Environment. Express your concern about climate change, and suggest a few ideas about how we could help the environment.

2. Your uncle is a charity worker in the Sahara Desert in Africa. You want to find out more about what he does there. Your uncle explains the situation today and tells you about what they hope to achieve there in the future. Write the dialogue you and your uncle have.

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

1. You are a member of an environmental group at your school. The group is concerned that the government should be doing more to help the environment. Write a letter to the Minister for the Environment. Express your concern about climate change, and suggest a few ideas about how we could help the environment.

Dear Minister,
I am a member of an environmental group and we are extremely concerned about climate change. We believe that the government must be more active in helping the environment.
In my opinion, the government needs to introduce measures to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases from factories and vehicles. Businesses should be encouraged to use environmentally-friendly sources of energy, such as sun and wind, and company directors ought
to be fined if their factories emit too much pollution. Public transport needs to become cheaper
and more convenient, so that more people can travel by bus or train instead of by car.
Unless the government takes action now, everyone in the country will suffer.
I look forward to reading your reply.
Yours faithfully,
XXX

SMART TIP: ending a formal letter
Remember to end a formal letter correctly. If you do not know the name of the person you are writing to, end your letter with 'Yours faithfully'. If you know the name of the person you are writing to, use 'Yours sincerely'. In your own composition, if you use the name of the Minister for the Environment (*Dear Minister/Mrs/Mrs X* instead of *Dear Minister*), you must end your letter with "Yours sincerely" instead.

2. Your uncle is a charity worker in the Sahara Desert in Africa. You want to find out more about what he does there. Your uncle explains the situation today and tells you about what they hope to achieve there in the future. Write the dialogue you and your uncle have.

Me: Mum says you've just got back from the Sahara. What exactly do you do there?
Uncle: Well, I work for a charity and we help local people. Many people there have lost their homes and land to desertification. What we're trying to do is to make sure everyone has enough food and water to live.
Me: Can't people just move somewhere else?
Uncle: It isn't that simple! Many people are very poor, so they cannot afford to travel. Others stay because this is the place where they were born, and they have never been anywhere else.
Me: So what are you doing to help?
Uncle: Well, at the moment we're researching ways to stop the deserts growing, for example by planting more trees. We're also working with the local population to find new sources of water. Hopefully, that will bring huge changes in the future.
Me: Wow! That sounds like really important work.

SMART TIP: writing about unfamiliar topics
A writing task sometimes asks you to write about topics which you might not know much about (such as desertification in Africa). Do not panic: you will not be tested on your knowledge of the topic, only on your writing skills. Look back at the reading text for clues to help you think of ideas. For example, the reading text on *Climate change* mentions the issues of poverty, drought, famine and disease in Africa: you can use all of these ideas in your own writing.