

PRUEBA: AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW

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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. Choose the correct answer a, b or c. (3 points; 0.5 each)

1. Who has taken the decision to make some big changes?
 - a. The European Union.
 - b. British teenagers.
 - c. The fossil-fuel industry.
2. What do most British teenagers think about climate change?
 - a. That it's not something to worry about.
 - b. That their lifestyle choices don't help to slow it down.
 - c. That it's up to the individual to try to make a difference.
3. Joan Pick was in the newspapers because she ...
 - a. is a scientist.
 - b. lives in a different way.
 - c. won a marathon.
4. What does Joan Pick use electricity for?
 - a. Cooking, washing and heating.
 - b. Washing, heating and lighting.
 - c. Lighting, playing music and making hot drinks.

5. What is true about Joan's life today?
- She always travels by public transport.
 - She never travels very far.
 - She doesn't use any energy at all.
6. Joan thinks that we will ...
- all have to live like her soon.
 - have to say goodbye to our houses.
 - soon find her lifestyle an attractive proposition.

2. Answer these questions in no more than 5 words. (1 point; 0.25 each)

- What do teenagers believe about the effect of their actions on climate change?
- What does Joan Pick not eat?
- When did Joan realise that over-consuming was wrong?
- Who aren't attracted by Joan's lifestyle?

3. Find a word in the text for these definitions. (1 point; 0.25 each)

- questionnaire (paragraph 1)
- uncooked (paragraph 2)
- devices (paragraph 2)
- finish (paragraph 4)

4. Rephrase the following sentences so that their meaning is as similar to the original as possible. (1 point; 0.25 each)

- 'We don't think individual actions make any difference to climate change', he said.
He said that _____
- Joan has reduced her carbon footprint to almost zero. She only uses a kettle, a light bulb and a radio.
Joan, _____
- Joan changed her lifestyle because she worked on an energy efficiency project.
If Joan _____
- We spend most of our time recharging our mobile phones and working on computers.
Most of our time is _____

5. Write an opinion article of 150 words on the effect our modern lifestyles have on the environment. Mention the kinds of activities that have positive and negative affects and say whether you think our children will live in a worse environment than we do (specify the number of words at the top right-hand side of your essay). (3 points)

6. You are trying to spend more time offline. Write a message to your friends telling them about your decision. Explain why you're making this change, what effects this might have on communication and how you can solve any problems this might cause. (Write between 35 and 50 words). (1 point)