

PRUEBA: CLIMATE CHANGE

THE HOT ISSUE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

In the past ten years, warmer-than-average temperatures have been recorded around the globe, and scientists warn that temperatures may soar by 1.8–4°C before the close of the century. It is believed that this recent climate change has been caused by human activity, and especially by the emission of greenhouse gases.

So why should we be worried? In northern European countries, having milder summers even seems quite appealing! However, nearer the equator, the hot weather is making deserts expand, and putting water resources under pressure. In Spain, it is thought that nearly a third of the country may become dry and arid, and six percent of Spain's soil has already been lost to desert. In some of the world's poorest countries in Africa, desertification has already cost lives, with the reduction of fertile land exacerbating the pre-existing 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 currently having a negative effect on local animal populations, such as polar bears, and it is not yet known what the wider implications might be. One alarming theory suggests that rising sea levels may result in severe flooding in many countries, including the UK and the USA, and make coastal areas vulnerable to an increased risk of tidal waves and tsunamis.

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.

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

1. The world's average temperature ...
 - a. has increased by 1.8-4°C.
 - b. has risen in the last ten years.
 - c. will stop increasing by the end of the century.
2. Why should climate change worry us?
 - a. The climate in Europe is becoming milder.
 - b. Deserts are becoming bigger in some areas.
 - c. Northern European countries are no longer appealing.
3. What result are hot temperatures having in areas near the equator?
 - a. They're increasing desertification.
 - b. They're making life more expensive for people there.
 - c. They're helping to solve famine and drought.

4. Rising sea levels have already resulted in ...
- many people losing their lives.
 - a negative affect on animal populations at the north and south poles.
 - some areas becoming even colder.
5. What do we know for sure?
- We're already dealing with the issue of climate change effectively.
 - Rising sea levels will create tsunamis, tidal waves and floods.
 - The temperature of the earth will increase unless we take action now.
6. Which statement is true?
- Polar bear numbers are decreasing.
 - Nobody has died yet from climate change.
 - We know exactly what climate change means for the future.

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

- What aspect of human activity in particular has caused climate change recently?
- What has happened to six percent of the soil in Spain?
- Where have people been killed due to climate change?
- How might the UK and the USA be affected by a rise in sea levels?

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

- increase (*paragraph 1*)
- huge (*paragraph 2*)
- consequences (*paragraph 3*)
- deal with, manage (*paragraph 4*)

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

- 'If we don't act now, sea temperatures will continue to rise', the climate group warned.
The climate group warned that _____
- Governments are being put under pressure to deal with climate change. They are slowly beginning to act.
Governments, _____
- To help conserve the environment, we need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
If we _____
- We are not caring for the Earth and we are wasting valuable natural resources.
The Earth is _____

5. Write an opinion article of 150 words on this topic: We must do more to protect the environment. Write about the measures we must take in order to help the environment (specify the number of words at the top right-hand side of your essay). (3 points)

6. You are a member of an environmental group and you want to invite your best friend Gina to an event the group is organising. Tell Gina what the event is, where it will be held and what the purpose of it is. (Write between 35 and 50 words). (1 point)