

PRUEBA: AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW

ANSWER KEY – including SMART TIPS

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?
a. She always travels by public transport.
b. She never travels very far.
c. She doesn't use any energy at all.
6. Joan thinks that we will ...
a. all have to live like her soon.
b. have to say goodbye to our houses.
c. soon find her lifestyle an attractive proposition.

SMART TIP: answering questions with three options

When answering questions that offer three possible answers, first read the question and find the part of the text that it refers to. Reread that part of the text and see if you can answer the question before you look at the options. This will help you to choose the correct option and avoid being 'tricked' by options that use vocabulary from the text but are wrong.

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

- a. What do teenagers believe about the effect of their actions on climate change?
They don't make a difference.
- b. What does Joan Pick not eat?
Meals that are cooked/Cooked food/meals/Hot meals/Food that isn't raw.
- c. When did Joan realise that over-consuming was wrong?
While working on a project.
- d. Who aren't attracted by Joan's lifestyle? *Most people/of us.*

SMART TIP: deciding on the meaning of a word

If you're not sure about the meaning of a word, re-read the sentence (and, if necessary, the paragraph) in which it appears in the reading text, and use the context to help you. For example, in the second paragraph, the word 'appliances' refers to something electrical. The following sentence discusses what Joan does in her flat. The context should help you to realize that an appliance is a household device.

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

- a. questionnaire (paragraph 1) *survey*
- b. uncooked (paragraph 2) *raw*
- c. devices (paragraph 2) *appliances*
- d. finish (paragraph 4) *run out*

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

- a. He said that he didn't think individual actions made any difference to climate change.
[Reported speech]
- b. Joan, who only uses a kettle, a light bulb and a radio, has reduced her carbon footprint to almost zero.
[Relative clause]
- c. If Joan hadn't worked on an energy efficiency project, she wouldn't have changed her lifestyle.
[3rd conditional]
- d. Most of our time is (being) spent recharging our mobile phones and working on computers.
[Passive]

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)

Suggested answer:

144 words

We have known about the negative environmental effects of our modern lifestyle for years and have been trying to live 'greener' lives. However, is this sufficient to stop the damage that we are causing?

Today, most people recycle their waste materials and modern machines are much more energy efficient. Furthermore, modern vehicles don't produce as much pollution as older vehicles. All of this has helped the environment.

Nevertheless, we spend our time at home and at work using electrical gadgets such as computers, so we use more energy than ever. Moreover, air travel is much cheaper and more flights are made every year. These things obviously have negative effects.

To sum up, I think we need to do a lot more to reduce our impact on the planet. Perhaps our grandchildren will live in a better environment, but I don't think our children will.

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)

Hi everyone! Just to let you know that from now on I'll be reducing my time online. I'm changing my lifestyle to make a difference to the environment. Please don't expect immediate replies to messages, but I will reply to all messages as soon as I can!

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.