

## PRUEBA: CLIMATE CHANGE

### ANSWER KEY – including SMART TIPS

#### 1. Answer these questions about the text. Use your own words whenever possible. (2 points: 1 point each)

1. How and why is the climate changing at the moment?

*Suggested answer: Temperatures around the world are rising as a consequence of the actions of human beings, particularly the pollution of the atmosphere by greenhouse gases.*

2. Why is the hot weather a problem in Africa?

*Suggested answer: It is a problem because it causes the deserts to grow, reducing water and land, and causing people to die from hunger and thirst.*

#### SMART TIP: giving full answers

Remember to include *all* the correct information in your answer. Students sometimes do not get full marks because their answers are incomplete. The answer 'It is hotter' would not be given full marks because it is not a full answer.

#### 2. Read the following statements, decide whether they are true or false and justify your answer by quoting evidence from the text. (2 points: 0.5 points each)

1. It is predicted that the planet will continue to heat up.

*TRUE. '... scientists warn that temperatures may soar by 1.8 to 4°C before the close of the century.'*

#### SMART TIP: giving evidence

Remember to support your answers with evidence. It might seem obvious that the sentence in question 1 is true, but you have to *prove* it is correct. Quote the relevant information from the text, and check it again carefully afterwards. You will not get full marks if you only write 'true'.

2. In the 1600s, Britain was even warmer than it is today.

*FALSE. '... seventeenth-century Londoners even used to go ice-skating on the River Thames...'*

3. People in northern parts of the world are less anxious about climate change.

*TRUE. 'In northern European countries, having warmer summers even seems quite appealing!'*

#### SMART TIP: thinking about comparatives

A statement often uses different words from those in the text. Sometimes, it might even use words with very dissimilar meanings (*anxious* = negative meaning, *appealing* = positive meaning). Check to see whether any qualifying words or comparative expressions are used. The word *less* before *anxious* here transforms the negative meaning into a more positive meaning.



4. In Spain, nearly a third of the country has been lost to desert.  
*FALSE. 'In Spain, it is thought that nearly a third of the country may become dry, arid land.'*

**SMART TIP: thinking about tenses**

Make sure you understand which tenses are being used in a statement before you decide whether it is true or false. In question 4, the present perfect tense is used, implying that nearly a third of Spain is currently desert. However, the text speculates about what *might* happen in the *future* ('... a third of the country may become ...'). For this reason, the correct answer is 'false'.

**3. Find in the text the words or groups of words which match these definitions: (1 point, 0.2 points each)**

- a. say that something bad might happen  
*warn (paragraph 1)*

**SMART TIP: identifying the part of speech**

Before you search for a word in the text, it is a good idea to identify which part of speech you are looking for. 'Say' is a verb, so it is clear that you need to look for another verb to answer this question.

- b. temperate, warm  
*mild (paragraph 2)*

**SMART TIP: synonyms**

It is a good idea to make a note of and revise synonyms while you are studying. This will help you prepare to answer this section of the exam. To answer question b, first brainstorm adjectives which relate to *temperature* or *climate*. Then check your answers in the text.

- c. desirable, attractive  
*appealing (paragraph 3)*
- d. changing into water  
*melting (paragraph 4)*
- e. fall, get lower  
*drop (paragraph 4)*

**4. Complete the text using the correct words from the box below. There are two words that you won't need. The words in gaps (c) and (h) will need a capital letter. (2 points: 0.25 points each)**

It (a) *has* taken politicians a long time to take (b) *the* issue of climate change seriously. (c) *At* first, temperatures rose (d) *so* gradually that the difference was barely noticeable. Many people thought that scientists (e) *might* have been exaggerating. Big businesses (f) *were* especially reluctant to listen, because they knew that reducing carbon emissions would (g) *be* expensive. (h) *Nevertheless*, it seems that now no one can afford to ignore this problem.

a   at   be   might   nevertheless   has   so   such   the   were

**SMART TIP: filling in the gaps**

Before filling in a gap, first think about what type of word you need. In gap (a), the word following the gap is a past participle. This gives you a clue that you will probably need the positive or negative forms of *has*, *have* or *had* to complete the gap.

**5. Write a composition of between 150–200 words on ONE of the following topics: (3 points)**

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

1. Write a letter to the Minister for the Environment. Express your concern about climate change, and suggest a few ideas about how the government could help the environment.

*Dear Minister,*

*I am extremely concerned about climate change, and I think that we should be doing more in our country to help 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 they ought to be fined if they emit too much pollution.*

*The government also needs to minimize pollution from vehicles. Public transport needs to become cheaper and more convenient, so that more people can travel by bus or train instead of by car. Airports should be forced to pay a higher tax on fuel, so that air travel will become more expensive, and more people will take local holidays.*

*Unless the government takes action now, everyone in the country will suffer. I look forward to reading your reply.*

*Yours faithfully,  
(insert name)*

**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 / Mr / Mrs X* instead of *Dear Minister*), you must end your letter with 'Yours sincerely' instead.

2. 'Climate change is the most serious issue facing the world today.' Do you agree?

*There are many serious issues facing the world today, including poverty, war, and the spread of major illnesses, such as AIDS. However, in my opinion the worst problem that we have to deal with is climate change.*

*Global warming will affect every country. Near the equator, it will cause desertification and drought. This, in turn, will mean that people will not have enough water to drink or grow food. Countries further away from the equator may freeze, as the melting ice caps cool the oceans. This will mean that there will be fewer places on the planet which can support life.*

*Climate change will make other world problems get worse. Poverty will grow, because there won't be enough water, food and land for everyone. Wars will increase, because countries will fight for resources. Diseases will spread, because conditions around the world will deteriorate.*

*For these reasons, I agree that climate change is the world's biggest problem.*

**SMART TIP: using information from the reading text**

Often, a writing task will ask you to write about a similar topic to the text you have just read. It is a good idea to read the text again carefully for ideas. However, be careful: you should not copy information directly from the text. You must always use your own words. Add your own ideas too!