

PRUEBA: AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW

ANSWER KEY – including SMART TIPS

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

1. What do most British teenagers think it will be difficult to do?
Suggested answer: Most British teenagers think it will be difficult to reduce the speed of climate change.
2. Why did Joan Pick change her lifestyle?
Suggested answer: She decided to change her lifestyle because of what she had learnt at work.

SMART TIP: answering open questions

When answering open questions, try to use your own words. Find the information you need in the text and see if you can think of any synonyms, especially for the verbs and the nouns. Also make sure that you write complete sentences in your answers, not just notes.

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. Joan Pick uses electricity for cooking and heating.
False. 'Joan's flat doesn't have any heating or hot water. She hasn't eaten a cooked meal for years.'
2. Nowadays, Joan Pick never travels very far.
True. 'As a result, she stopped using her car and gave up on all motorized transport. Since then, she has walked everywhere.'
3. The text says most people would like to live like Joan Pick.
False. 'To most of us, the way that Joan Pick lives isn't a very attractive proposition.'
4. The text says that the majority of teenagers believe that we can have an impact on climate change.
False. '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.'

SMART TIP: answering 'true or false' questions

'True or false' questions often use the same vocabulary that appears in the text so the sentence appears correct. However, the question might express a negative idea when the text expresses a positive one, and vice versa.

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

- a. a questionnaire
survey (paragraph 1)
- b. an adjective meaning 'uncooked'
raw (paragraph 2)
- c. a device
appliance (paragraph 2)
- d. a verb meaning 'finish'
run out (paragraph 4)
- e. a supply or source of something
resources (paragraph 4)

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.

4. Complete the text using the correct words from the box below. There are two words that you won't need. (2 points: 0.25 points each)

Living a life (a) *which* avoids mass consumerism is actually (b) *quite* a difficult feat. Some people like Jean (c) *make* radical changes to (d) *their* lifestyles as a way (e) *of* trying to reduce consumerism as (f) *much* as possible. For most people it (g) *would* be much too difficult to live (h) *like* Jean.

~~would~~ ~~much~~ many ~~quite~~ ~~their~~ like ~~which~~ make ~~of~~ any

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. Will our children live in a worse environment than we do? Discuss.

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.

2. What can governments do to encourage people to look after the environment?

In my opinion, governments can do three things to encourage people to take care of the environment.

Firstly, they should give more importance to education. Children should be taught how important the environment is. Furthermore, they should also be taught that we are all responsible for looking after it.

Secondly, the law should be stricter with industries that pollute. What's more, companies should take into account the environmental effect of their goods and do their best to reduce the damage they cause.

Finally, governments must set a good example. All public buildings should be fitted with solar panels and government workers should be encouraged to recycle materials such as paper whenever possible. In addition to this, all public vehicles should be electric or run on biofuels.

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.