

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. 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?
2. Why did Joan Pick change her lifestyle?

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.
2. Nowadays, Joan Pick never travels very far.
3. The text says most people would like to live like Joan Pick.
4. The text says that the majority of teenagers believe that we can have an impact on climate change.



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

- a. a questionnaire
- b. an adjective meaning 'uncooked'
- c. a device
- d. a verb meaning 'finish'
- e. a supply or source of something

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) ____ avoids mass consumerism is actually (b) ____ a difficult feat. Some people like Jean (c) ____ radical changes to (d) ____ lifestyles as a way (e) ____ trying to reduce consumerism as (f) ____ as possible. For most people it (g) ____ be much too difficult to live (h) ____ Jean.

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

- 1. Will our children live in a worse environment than we do? Discuss.
- 2. What can governments do to encourage people to look after the environment?