

**I- Read the following text then do the tasks below:**

Desertification, which is the process in which productive land changes into desert, is an increasingly serious problem in over a hundred countries of the world. One billion people, out of a total world population of six billion, suffer from its effects. Desertification usually occurs in dry areas where there is no rain and where the climate is harsh. In these places, the top layer of soil is destroyed so that the land can no longer be used for growing crops or grazing animals. This means that people who depend on the land for food have to move to 'greener' areas in order to survive. A proportion of the population may survive by moving, but others may die because of shortages of food and water.

Although natural changes in the climate often start the process, the activities of human beings are often the real cause of desertification. Because there are growing numbers of people to feed, farmers tend to overcultivate their land, with the result that the soil becomes poor and unproductive. Other farmers overgraze their land and this permanently kills off grass and other plants. In addition to the effects of farming, deforestation – the cutting down of trees – also erodes the soil. Trees are usually cut down to make more agricultural land, but once there are no longer trees and plants on an area of land, there is nothing to stop the wind and rain from blowing or washing away the top layer of soil. The dust which this produces can travel long distances and affect the health of people living in cities thousands of kilometres away.

**Answer the following questions: (18 marks)**

1. When do people have to move to greener areas?
2. Is desertification a common problem?  
Why / Why not?
3. What stops the rain and wind from eroding the top layer of soil?

**Find words in the text which mean the following: (10 marks)**

4. destroys slowly
5. dry powder made of very small pieces of earth

**Rewrite these sentences about the text to correct the information: (12 marks)**

6. Desertification takes place in rainforests where there is much rain and no animals.
7. Overcultivating enriches the soil and helps in its production.

**II- Read the following text then do the tasks below:**

There is no day and night in space, so sleep is simply planned for when it is most convenient. Astronauts sleep in small compartments using sleeping bags. They are loosely strapped into these so that they will not float out of them in their sleep.

**Blindfolds** and earplugs are also available for the astronauts, who might find it difficult to sleep with the noise from the machines. Daily routines should allocate eight hours for sleeping. Most of the time, however, astronauts will normally sleep for around six, as they often have so much work to do. Another important part of spending any long period in space is getting the right amount of exercise so that the bones and muscles can stay strong. On Earth human beings are always moving against the force of gravity, with the bones and muscles supporting the body. In space there is no **gravity** so the bones and muscles weaken very quickly. In space, astronauts need to do about two hours of exercise a day, using exercise machines such as **treadmills** and exercise bikes.

**Choose the correct answer a, b or c: (12 marks)**

8. Astronauts use earplugs to .....  
a. keep listening to each other  
b. increase the noise of the machines  
c. avoid the noise of the machines
9. Astronauts will normally sleep for fewer than eight hours because they have .....  
a. a lot of free time  
b. a lot of work  
c. nothing to do

**Match two of the underlined words from the text to the definitions below: (12 marks)**

10. the force that attracts a body to the center of the Earth
11. cloths that cover someone's eyes to prevent them from seeing

**Complete the following sentences with information from the text: (12 marks)**

12. In order not to float out of their sleeping bags during their sleep, astronauts.....
13. The bones and muscles of the astronauts would become weak very quickly if .....

**III- Complete the following paragraph by filling in the gaps: (18 marks)**

14. We visited the nesting site of the green sea turtles ..... come to the shore in Lattakia to lay their eggs.
15. Turtles are very rare in this part of the world, so we had to be really quiet so we wouldn't disturb .....
16. Unfortunately the day was too short, and there ..... so much more to see.

**IV- Fill in the spaces with words from the list. Use each word once only: (24 marks)**

**bitten-success-vaccinations-thus-while**

17. .... began Pasteur's plan of vaccinations to stop illness.
18. It was a ..... with animals. 'But what about people?' Pasteur wondered.
19. .... he was asking himself this question, he had a chance to answer it.
20. A woman brought him her son, who had been ..... by a mad dog.

**V- Complete the following dialogue by writing suitable questions or answers. Write at least three words for each question: (32 marks)**

21. **Ahmed:** .....?  
**Youssef:** Plants have to protect themselves because animals want to feed on them.
22. **Ahmed:** .....?  
**Youssef:** Some plants protect themselves by poisoning their enemies.
23. **Ahmed:** .....?  
**Youssef:** The poison can be found in the leaves or seeds of the plant.
24. **Ahmed:** What do cactuses do to protect themselves?  
**Youssef:** .....

**VI- Rewrite the following sentences as required in brackets: (32 marks)**

25. Our city doesn't collect rubbish often enough.  
(I wish.....)
26. People hunt kangaroos for their meat and fur.  
(passive voice)
27. People write things in their diaries. They don't want to forget important things.  
join using (in order not to)
28. Your sister has worked very hard.  
(You feel sure that she has got good grades in her exams.)  
(use must)

**VII- Complete the following sentences using clauses: (14 marks)**

29. We need to protect some animals so that .....
30. The children were very good today because.....

**VIII- Choose the correct word in brackets: (18 marks)**

31. My weekly (earn-earnings) are twice as much as they were last year.
32. As we have some new employees, we will have to (reorganise-misorganise) our office.
33. Human beings are dependent (of-on) plants.

**IX- Correct the verbs in brackets: (18 marks)**

34. Ruba didn't feel very confident about taking her driving test. She (fail) twice.
35. Nadia (arrive) in Damascus seven years ago.
36. I (pass) my driving test, and I have had interviews for a university place.

**X- Translation:**

**37. Translate the following sentence into Arabic: (10 marks)**

- Each astronaut in the crew has a specific, assigned role and receives intensive training for it.

**38. Translate the following sentence into English: (8 marks)**

- إن تسيء استخدام التجهيزات لن تعمل بالشكل المناسب.

**XI- Composition: (50 marks)**

**Write a composition of no less than 80 words on the following topic:**

*Write an essay including arguments for and against protecting wild animals*

**End of Questions**