

**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.

Answer the following questions: (18 marks)

1. Why does desertification usually take place in dry areas?
2. What problems are linked with the destruction of the soil?
3. How could people depending on land for food stay alive?

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

4. severe or cruel
5. to rely on

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

6. Natural changes in the climate are often the real cause of desertification.
7. The more we cultivate our land, the more productive it becomes.

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

One of the main goals of the ISS is to provide a place to conduct experiments that require one or more of the conditions found in space (such as microgravity). So far, most research has only been on the effects of microgravity on humans. Astronauts study how long periods in space affect the body by working on subjects like bone loss and **fluid** shifts. The effect of near weightlessness on evolution, development and growth, and the internal processes of plants and animals, are now also the subject of research.

The physics of fluids in microgravity is not completely understood. In space, unlike on Earth, fluids can be mixed or combined almost **regardless** of their relative weights. Researchers also want to study the combination of fluids that would not mix well on Earth. By examining reactions that are slowed down by low gravity and low temperatures, scientists also hope to gain new insights into the way matter is made up. Researchers also hope to examine combustion in an environment with less gravity than on Earth. Any information they can find involving the efficiency of the actual burning, or the creation of **by-products**, could improve the process of energy production, which would be of economic and environmental interest.

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

8. On Earth, the relative weights of fluids the way they are combined or mixed together.
a. don't control b. control c. neither a nor b
9. The ISS provides conditions..... those in space.
a. similar to b. different from c. both a and b

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

10. a liquid
11. side effects

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

12. In space, scientists work on subjects like bone loss and fluid shifts to find out about..... .
13. The study of the physics of fluids in space will help scientists have

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

14. One of the most important issues in the 21st century the scarcity of fresh water.
15. Aside fulfilling the need to drink, fresh water also plays a central role in agricultural production.
16. This has prompted Syria to support new water conservation programmes, improve the efficiency of irrigation systems in rural areas.

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

such- but- further- mad- weaker

17. A woman brought him her son, who had been bitten by a dog.
18. In those days, a bite meant a slow and painful death.
19. the child's mother had heard of Pasteur's work with such dogs.
20. He got the germs out from the dogs' mouths and used them to make a form of the same germ.

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

21. **Anas:**?
Nidal: "Law" is a set of rules.
22. **Anas:**?
Nidal: Laws are made to organize people's lives.
23. **Anas:**?
Nidal: Police and judges make sure that people obey the law.
Anas: What would happen if there were no laws?
24. **Nidal:**

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

25. Newspapers and magazines contain too many adverts. (**I wish.....**)
26. Computers have changed the world. (**passive voice**)
27. People write things in their diaries. They don't want to forget important things.
join using (in order not to)
28. Ahmed is looking at the engine of his car.
(It broke down) (express possibility)

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

29. We saw many sea creatures while
30. These people are very thin because

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

31. Because there was no clean drinking water, (**infections-infect**) spread very quickly through the population.
32. I said 9.30 p.m. You must have (**misread-reread**) my email.
33. Turnips grow (**on-under**) the ground.

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

34. I hear a strange sound. A car (**approach**) quickly.
35. Large areas of the rainforest (**be**) cut down recently.
36. Lana (**get**) a job after she graduated from university.

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)

- تلعب الغابة المطيرة دوراً هاماً بالتحكم بمناخ العالم بسبب حجمها وموقعها.

XI- Composition: (50 marks)

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

Write a leaflet publicising the problem of climate change and suggesting two or three ways in which ordinary people can reduce the amount of energy they use.

End of Questions