AIR POLLUTION

Ex 1. Read the report. Then, mark the following statements as True or False.

Rupert County Environmental Commission (RCEC)

AIR QUALITY REPORT

The RCEC conducted its annual air quality tests between May 27 and June 2. We concluded that **air pollution** has increased significantly in the last year. Rising populations and industrial activity most likely caused the higher levels of **primary pollutants**. This led to an increase in **volatile organic compounds** and other **secondary pollutants**. Residents may notice increased lung and throat irritation from **particulates** in the air. The following chart shows changes in pollutant levels:

Carbon Oxides		
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	+ 0.5%	The small elevation is not likely to cause significant increases in lung disease.
Carbon Dioxide (CO_2)	+ 5.6%	Emissions are rising quickly. This rise is in line with worldwide increases.
Nitrogen Oxides		
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)	+ 3.2%	Residents may notice irritation from increases.
Nitrous Oxide (N_2O)	+ 3.9%	These gases are likely to contribute to climate change.
Nitric Acid	+ 5.0%	Increases may damage crops from acid deposition.
Sulfur Dioxide	- 6.2%	Levels are lower since the oil refinery closed this year.
Sulfuric Acid	- 4.3%	Lower levels may reduce the risk of acid deposition.
Radioactive Radon	+ 0.01%	Presence in homes was not significant.

1 The report shows that this year's air quality is worse than the previous year's air quality. **True** **False**

2 Levels of some compounds decreased since the previous year. **True** **False**

3 According to the report, radioactive radon is likely to cause serious health problems in the area. **True** **False**

Ex 2. Read the report again. What effect might particulates in the air have on people?

Particulates in the air might cause lung and _____

_____.

Ex 3. Listen to a conversation between two scientists. Choose the correct answers.

1. What is the main idea of the conversation?

A. how to test air pollution in a particular region
B. the results of a new air quality report
C. which cities have the lowest levels of harmful compounds
D. the consequences of opening a new oil refinery

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2. According to the man, what caused an increase in air pollution?

A. an oil refinery
B. driving habits
C. acid deposition
D. radioactive radon

Ex 4. Listen to a conversation between an environmental engineer and an AQI official. Choose the correct answers. (AQI – air quality index)

1.What are the speakers mainly discussing?

A. the accuracy of an AQI
B. pollution levels in a city
C. ways to reduce air pollution
D. how the AQI presents data

2. Which pollutants are causing health problems?

A. nitrogen dioxide and airborne lead
B. sulfur dioxide and ground-level ozone
C. carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide
D. ground-level ozone and carbon monoxide

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