UNIT 8: THE ENVIRONMENT 1

A. VOCABULARY

Read the following weather forecast and choose the best options:

It's cloudy at the moment, but there will be sunny ***storms /spells / showers*** later in the day, with the cloud breaking to reveal some sunny ***periods/ intervals/ hours***. Temperatures are expected to ***rise/ grow/ raise*** steadily, and by tomorrow afternoon it will be warm and sunny with ***clean /light /clear*** skies throughout, marking the start of a brief warm spell.

Coastal ***parts/ spots/ areas*** may experience **dense/ light/ heavy** fog early in the morning, along with some early-morning ***mist/ dew/ showers***, but this should **take off/ clear up/ go *away*** later on and clear gradually inland. There is also a slight chance of snow over ***tall/ raised/ high*** ground, particularly in more exposed areas.

Winds are forecast to increase significantly, with a risk of ***strong/ big/ heavy*** winds in the afternoon and occasional ***blows/ lines/ gusts*** in open areas.

Following the recent dry spell, we are likely to see **big/ *heavy/ thick*** rain moving in tomorrow afternoon, possibly with **explosions/ *outbreaks/ surprises/*** of rain spreading from the west. This will be welcome news for gardeners. The rain should ***lighten/ ease/ minimize*** into a few light showers by the evening, becoming more ***distributed/ scattered/ spread*** overnight.

Overnight, temperatures will drop below freezing, so there is a ***nice/ large/ good*** chance of ***heavy/ big/ thick/*** frost forming in the early morning, with some patchy frost in rural areas. Drivers are advised to watch out for icy ***conditions/ cases/ phenomena*** on the roads, especially where icy patches may develop. That's all for now.

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B. USE OF ENGLISH: GERUNDS AND TO INFINITIVES

These women successfully managed _____an urban farm.

a. to start **b.** to starting **c.** start **d.** starting

Environmentalists are looking forward _____ stronger climate policies.

a. see **b.** to seeing **c.** seeing **d.** to see

Environmental groups recommend _____ endangered species through stricter laws.

a. protecting **b.** protect **c.** to protect **d.** to protecting

Some cities are used _____ with high levels of air pollution.

a. to dealing **b.** deal **c.** to deal **d.** dealing

Authorities agreed _____ emissions from factories.

a. to limiting **b.** limiting **c.** limit **d.** to limit

We've just briefly discussed _____desalination plant in the city.

a. to build **b.** to building **c.** building **d.** build

They deny_____ damage to the local ecosystem.

a. to causing **b.** causing **c.** to cause **d.** cause

We'd love _____ know more about your past relationships.

a. knowing **b.** knew **c.** know **d.** to know

Many young people are committed _____ the environment.

a. protect **b.** to protecting **c.** protecting **d.** to protect

My father is trying to give up _____, though it's really hard for him.

a. to smoke **b.** smoke **c.** smoking **d.** smokes

I can't stand _____ James being bullied by his classmates. I have to do something about it.

a. to watch **b.** watching **c.** watch **d.** watched

The police advised _____at home during the day.

a. to stay **b.** us to stay **c.** us staying **d.** staying

Some people have difficulty _____ waste properly.

a. sorting **b.** to sort **c.** to sorting **d.** sort

They really appreciate _____them in court.

a. you to represent **b.** representing **c.** you representing **d.** to represent

We are verry sorry _____that you've lost your job.

a. to hear **b.** hearing **c.** hear **d.** heard

We need to keep _____ until we win the match.

a. trying **b.** tries **c.** to try **d.** try

Governments should be open _____ in green technologies.

a. to investing **b.** to invest **c.** invest **d.** investing

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C. READING

The Barnley Village Committee is opposed to plans to build a 6,890 panel solar farm on a 15-acre site adjacent to the village recreation ground, currently used for agriculture. Under the proposed scheme, the area will be surrounded by an 8ft-high fence. The panels themselves will be about 7 feet high.

The committee has already lodged an appeal to the local authority against construction of the solar farm. The councilors are due to meet on 13th March to vote whether or not plans will go ahead. Local residents are invited to attend. Our objections will be presented before the board, and a representative from the solar firm *SunGen* will put forward the case for the development.

Residents are encouraged to voice their objections to the development. These must address the aspects of the scheme that violate the current planning policy. However, you are welcome to make your objections personal, by stating how the plans will affect you as a user of the recreation ground. Some of the most common objections are listed below:

1. The extensive views from the village and recreation ground across the open country will be blocked by the panels and high fencing. Furthermore, once the site has been built upon, it may be considered brownfield, thus an acceptable site for housing or industrial development. It does not, therefore, comply with the local policy which states that developments must not *adversely effect on the appearance or character of the landscape.*

2. The recreation ground has recently undergone major improvements including a perimeter running track, new playground equipment and seating. It is heavily used by families, sports teams and dog walkers, and is regularly used for village events. Cricket and football teams regularly use the recreation ground and it is not uncommon for balls to enter the field. Cricketers are worried that they may become liable for damage to solar panels. If teams are forced to relocate, this would adversely affect the character of the village, and may jeopardise participation in the children's teams. This goes

1. What is the committee's opinion of the development?

a. It is opposed to the development.

b. It supports the development.

c. It is waiting for comments from residents before taking a viewpoint.

2. The solar farm would be built...

a. on the recreation ground.

b. in an agricultural field.

c. on a brownfield site.

3. The meeting with councilors...

a. has already taken place.

b. will take place shortly.

c. has been proposed, but not planned.

4. Which of the following is NOT true of the proposed solar farm?

a. It will be surrounded by a high fence.

b. It will comprise of 6,890 7-foot-high panels.

c. The solar panels will be placed directly on the grass.

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against the National Planning Policy Framework which requires developments to *promote high quality public space* and *encourage the active and continual use of public areas.*

3. There has been no assessment of the extent to which noise from inverters and cooling fans will affect local residents.

4. As the ground beneath the solar panels will be surfaced, there will be more additional run-off of rainwater. The recreation ground already has problems with drainage, and these may be exacerbated by this development. A formal flood risk assessment must be submitted.

5. The lighting and security systems have not been outlined, it is not clear how the area will be made safe for children.

Email your objections to planning@barnelycouncil.gov.uk, and quote the reference BLY7458/00578 in the subject line.

5. People who want to object the development are advised...

a. not to write about their personal feelings.

b. to refer to the village's planning policy.

c. to send a letter in the mail.

6. What is inferred about brownfield sites?

a. It is easier to get permission to develop brownfield sites.

b. There are already too many brownfield sites in the village.

c. A brownfield site is not a suitable location for a solar farm.

7. Teams may no longer play on the recreation ground because...

a. parents will be worried about their children's safety.

b. spectators won't want to watch matches at the recreation ground.

c. players will be worried about damaging the panels.

8. Which of the following is NOT true of the recreation ground?

a. It has recently received considerable investment

b. It occasionally floods.

c. It is well-lit.

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