TASK 8

Read the text below. For questions (39–48) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D). Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Great Green Wall

In Africa, scientists are hard (39) _____ work restoring land once rich with biodiversity and vegetation. Eleven countries in the Sahel-Sahara region have joined to combat land degradation and restore native plant (40) _____ to the landscape. In recent years, northern Africa has seen the quality of arable land decline significantly (41) _____ to climate change and poor land management. Uniting (42) _____ the banner of the Great Green Wall initiative, national and regional leaders hope (43) _____ this trend. The project has since expanded to include countries in (44) _____ northern and western Africa. Land degradation typically stems from both human-related and natural factors; overfarming, overgrazing, climate change, and extreme weather are the most (45) _____ causes. (46) _____ affecting land and the natural environment, land degradation (47) _____ serious threats to agricultural productivity, food security, and quality of life. Nowhere is this issue more urgent than in sub-Saharan Africa, where an estimated 500 million people live on land undergoing desertification, the most extreme (48) _____ of land degradation.

39.	A	in	B	at	C	on	D	of
40.	A	kind	B	live	C	existence	D	life
41.	A	due	B	pending	C	owed	D	debt
42.	A	around	B	over	C	under	D	near
43.	A	to reverse	B	to return	C	to come back	D	to reserve
44.	A	both	B	all	C	twin	D	together
45.	A	distinctive	B	strange	C	unusual	D	common
46.	A	Except	B	Beside	C	Beyond	D	Within
47.	A	poses	B	does	C	grants	D	gives
48.	A	shape	B	contour	C	form	D	edge