Planet Earth

Test

I. Listen to a conversation about climate change. For questions 1–5, choose the correct answer, A, B, C or D.

1. According to the woman
A. Canada suffered from extreme weather last winter.
B. Britain has recently had a very dry summer.
C. temperatures in Canada were much lower than usual.
D. the southern USA suffered record low temperatures.

2. The speaker doesn't give an example of record-breaking
A. hot weather.
B. dry weather.
C. cold weather.
D. wet weather.

3. The speaker says climate change will lead to
A. increases in temperatures everywhere.
B. changes in the type of weather different places get.
C. richer countries becoming poorer.
D. more extreme weather all over the world.

4. If there is global warming and the Gulf Stream changes direction, Britain may
A. become colder than the rest of northwest Europe.
B. not see any change in weather at all.
C. have more floods.
D. suffer from droughts.

5. The aim of the radio show is to
A. discuss ways that governments can fight climate change.
B. listen to someone who has experienced extreme weather.
C. decide whether extreme weather events are more common nowadays.
D. criticise people who do not believe that climate change is caused by humans.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

II. Read the text. For questions 1-5, choose the correct answer, A, B, C or D.

MISSING SUN

Pollution in many of the world's cities is becoming a major health problem. One of the worst affected is Beijing, the capital of China. Air quality was dangerously low on fifty-eight days last year. The winter months are especially bad. This is the time of year when more coal is burned to heat people's homes. There is also less wind to blow the smog away. At this time of year, pollution levels are sometimes twenty times higher than the WHO (World Health Organization) considers safe. This causes illnesses and on the worst days old people and children are advised to stay indoors. Visibility is sometimes so bad that motorways have to close because of the danger of accidents.

In early 2014, some newspapers and websites showed a frightening vision of the future. On a smoggy morning, residents of Beijing watched the sunrise. However, as the real one was hidden, they had to do this on giant TV screens. The smog was so thick that the real sunrise was completely invisible. While this might seem shocking, the film of the sunrise was nothing unusual. The screens show adverts all the time. The one that the people were watching that morning was for a holiday company. The same advert is shown quite often, whatever the weather. Either the photographer was lucky or he knew exactly how the image would look and waited until he got the photo he wanted. Although the news reporting was inaccurate, it might have done something to raise awareness of how bad the problem has become. Politicians, too, have finally decided that something must be done to reduce pollution levels.

The first idea is to reduce the amount of coal that people use. Factories will also be moved to areas further away from cities. Another target is older, more polluting cars. The worst offenders will be banned. In their place, greener and cleaner forms of transport will be encouraged.

Will these changes help? The Chinese know from experience that it is possible to improve air quality very quickly if necessary. Before the 2008 Olympic Games, pollution in Beijing was reduced greatly. As well as reducing traffic levels and closing factories, other methods to reduce pollution were used. These included pouring water onto roads to reduce the amount of dust flying in the air. To help with this, scientists were even able to make clouds drop more rain. Since then, things have got worse rather than better but, at last, the government seems to be determined to do something about the problem. For the people of Beijing and other large cities this will make a huge difference to their lives.

1. Winter in Beijing
   - **A.** can be a particularly dangerous time for drivers.
   - **B.** sees very strong winds.
   - **C.** has pollution levels twenty times worse than the rest of China.
   - **D.** has at least fifty-eight days of dangerous levels of air pollution.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2. In Beijing, people were photographed watching the sunrise on TV screens because
   A. the advert is regularly shown around the city.
   B. it's better than the real sunrise.
   C. it's traditional to watch the sunrise in Beijing.
   D. they were employed by a photographer.

3. The photograph
   A. shows how people plan holidays in Beijing.
   B. made many politicians change their minds about reducing air pollution.
   C. is an accurate representation of life in Beijing.
   D. has been sold for a lot of money.

4. What does the government plan to do to reduce pollution levels?
   A. Increase the number of cycle lanes in the city
   B. Stop people from using coal to heat their houses
   C. Build new, greener factories to replace the old ones
   D. Remove the most polluting cars from the roads

5. The 2008 Beijing Olympic Games made people realise that
   A. dust on the roads is the biggest problem.
   B. the air quality has got a lot better.
   C. it is possible to reduce air pollution in the city.
   D. scientists regularly control the amount of rain falling.

III. Complete the sentences with the missing phrasal verbs. Use the definitions in brackets to help you.

1) Experts expect global warming to _____ (warm) the earth by several degrees in the next fifty years.
2) When I heard the bird call I knew I had to _____ (stretch my arm to get) my binoculars and try to see them.
3) If we wait a little while, we can see the tide begin to _____ (rise).
4) I went back to _____ (look carefully around) the campsite, but I couldn't find my watch.
5) Our group _____ (consists) of a number of experts who are passionate about the environment.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

IV. Complete the sentences with the missing words. The first letters are given.

1) All of our lamps have low-energy **b**_____, so we spend quite a bit less on electricity.
2) Elephants usually live in a group of ten to twenty animals which is called a **h**_____.
3) Be careful, the ocean **c**_____ is very strong and it could pull you under the water.
4) It's dangerous to hike on that mountain. There is a big risk of a bear **e**_____.
5) When we stood on the mountain **p**_____, we could see for miles in every direction.

V. Complete the sentences with *a*, *an*, *the* or –.

1) Like most boys, I wanted to be _____ firefighter when I was a child.
2) I'm going to ask you just one question. If you manage to answer _____ question correctly, you'll pass the exam.
3) Is it true that people in _____ Middle Ages didn't take baths and that it led to the spread of many diseases?
4) The first European expedition reached _____ Australia in 1606.
5) Many people complain that _____ public transport is getting more and more expensive every year.

VI. Complete the sentences with relative pronouns.

1) If you have any questions about the well-being of your pet, you can ask Ben Brown, _____ will be our guest next week.
2) The company has just decided to expand its headquarters, _____ will take some two years to complete.
3) The Devil's Mouth, _____ two big rivers meet, is a beautiful place and a good spot for a short walk.
4) It has just turned out that professor Wellington, _____ theories have often been ignored, is right after all.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5) Most people in Bhutan, _____ is a very small country in the Himalayas, are Buddhist.

VII. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in brackets. Do not change the order of the words. Use up to six words.

1) Having (small / breakfast / morning) _____, even if it is a bowl of cereal with milk, is better than going to school on an empty stomach.
2) His theory that aliens are already on earth is not an (idea / I / agree) _____.
3) Students will (get / access / library) _____ after they have filled in this form and activated their ID cards online.
4) The World Wide Fund for Nature, (headquarters / be) _____ Switzerland, has over five million supporters in the world.
5) The capital city is located in (north / country) _____, some 150 km from the coast.

VIII. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in CAPITALS.

1) How many _____ species can be found in the Polish mountains? **DANGER**
2) In many ways, football fans are similar to _____ societies: they are extremely loyal to their group and they even wear the same clothes. **TRIBE**
3) If we use more _____ energy like wind and solar, there will be much less pollution. **NEW**
4) Many people in _____ countries have no access to clean water or good medical care. **DEVELOP**
5) Experts agree that economic _____ is an important factor, but they point out that we should worry about natural resources, too. **GROW**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

IX. In your English class you have been talking about pollution in cities. Now your teacher has asked you to write an essay titled 'Should private cars be banned from city centres?'. Write your essay using all the notes and give reasons for your point of view. 150-200 words

SHOULD PRIVATE CARS BE BANNED FROM CITY CENTRES?

Notes:

- the harmful effects of pollution
- alternatives to private cars
- _____ (your own idea)

- Include arguments 'for' and 'against' in separate paragraphs.
- Give examples to support your arguments.
- End the essay with your conclusion.

LIVEWORKSHEETS