Skills, Vocabulary and Grammar Test Unit 8 advanced

Listening

1 🎧 Listen to three recordings about the effect of human activities on the environment. Choose the correct answers (a–d).

Recording 1

1 What time of year was it most likely to have been when the speaker's expedition arrived by boat at Hudson Bay?

a early autumn

b late winter

c late spring

d early summer

2 What does the speaker say about the ice in the part of the Hudson Bay where he is travelling?

a It was once practically permanent but now melts almost every summer.

b It prevents boats from travelling in that region for much of the year.

c It covers less of the sea than it once did during warmer parts of the year.

d It has become much more dangerous to shipping in recent times.

Recording 2

3 What does Professor Clark say about carbon dioxide emissions?

a She expects them to go down in the next few decades as a result of international agreements.

b She is confident we can avoid significant future warming by agreeing to cut emissions now.

c She regards the recent reduction in carbon emissions as hard to maintain in the future.

d She thinks significant reductions in emissions may not be enough to avoid global warming.

4 What is Professor Clark's opinion of a geo-engineering solution to global warming?

a She strongly believes that it is the best way forward if we really want to deal with the problem.

b She is unsure about whether nations have the will to work together on the solution long term.

c She is concerned about how quickly we will be able to develop the necessary technology.

d She believes it doesn't take proper account of the effect the sun's rays have on particles.

Recording 3

5 Which of the following reflects the attitude of the speaker with regard to steps taken to tame the Mississippi river in the 1920s?

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a She thinks engineers should have predicted the consequences of their actions.

b She maintains that we should ask questions about how we interfere with rivers.

c She believes mankind is generally unsuccessful when it comes to taming nature.

d She questions the motives of the engineers who worked on the Mississippi.

Mark: ___ / 5

Vocabulary

2 Match the words in A to the words in B to make compound nouns. Then complete the text with the correct form of the compound nouns.

A urban sewage congested city building slum

B site thoroughfare dweller infrastructure system tenement

Roman rants against urban evils

An analysis of the work of the poet Juvenal, who lived in Ancient Rome in the late first century AD, has shown that [1]_____ then had comparable problems to people living in cities today. In his work, the poet complains about Rome's [2]_____ – the houses and the roads, the poor quality building and the traffic jams. He moans about overcrowded [3]_____, full of poor families in unsanitary conditions, exploited by landlords charging high rents. And he writes about the inadequate [4]_____ that fails to carry waste out of the city. To Juvenal, the crowded streets are full of half-built buildings – more like a series of [5]_____ than a completed project. And in the [6]_____, the traffic is nose to tail as wealthy citizens hog the road. Ancient Rome is a city of noise pollution, road hazards and badly-built buildings.

Mark: ___ / 6

3 Choose the correct answers.

1 People in these slums are living in _____ housing with no running water and rats and dirt everywhere.

a scarce **b** squalid **c** abundant

2 The badly-built, unsanitary houses near the city centre are a(n) _____ reminder that there is still a lot to be done to overcome the poverty in the city.

a unprecedented **b** stark **c** chaotic

3 Overcrowding is perhaps the most _____ problem faced by our cities today. We must tackle it at once.

a impoverished **b** squalid **c** acute

4 Although there are _____ mineral resources in the region, none of this potential wealth is mined for the benefit of the local people.

a abundant **b** stark **c** acute

5 There were _____ scenes in the city centre today as hundreds rushed into department stores seeking bargains on the first day of the sales.

a squalid **b** abundant **c** chaotic

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6 Using up our increasingly _____ reserves of oil and gas is an act of irresponsibility which will leave future generations with little or no energy.

a unprecedented **b** scarce **c** acute

7 A spokesperson said that the huge numbers of bees in the centre was _____. Nobody had seen the like before.

a abundant **b** impoverished **c** unprecedented

8 Our charity aims to help _____ people around the world who struggle to afford even the most basic necessities.

a impoverished **b** scarce **c** acute

Mark: ___ / 8

4 Complete the sentences with a phrase using the words in brackets. Use up to six words, including the word in brackets.

1 Frankly, anybody who takes on that role will be _____ (uphill) to change anything around here.

2 Choosing to go to university was _____ (brain): it was the only way of getting the qualifications I need.

3 The problem with Jill is that she's always _____ (water) over everything I suggest. She only sees the negative side of things.

4 The final decision is tomorrow, but I think I _____ (upper) in the negotiations. I'm quietly confident we'll get the contract.

5 It was nothing more than _____ (teacup). They were best friends again the next day.

6 All of our neighbours were _____ (arms) the council for closing the local post office.

7 You're going to have to _____ (horns) if you want to solve this problem. It really is your responsibility.

8 Don't _____ (trap) of expecting others to sort out your financial difficulties. You need to be proactive.

Mark: ___ / 8

5 Replace the word(s) in italics with one of the verbs below.

desisted commenced inflicted fastened endeavoured seized yielded asserted

1 The gate was (*attached very firmly*) _____ to the fence post, so there was no way the bull could have got out of the field that way.

2 When the cables fell off the shelf and hit John, they (*caused*) _____ quite serious injuries to his upper body.

3 The research laboratory _____ (*stopped*) from conducting further experiment until the results of the enquiry were published.

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4 Seeing his opportunity, Samuel (*grabbed hold of*) _____ the weapon and threw it into the river.

5 During the meeting, the politician (*strongly expressed*) _____ his right to stand for election.

6 The judge (*started*) _____ proceedings even though the defendant was absent from court.

7 The platform on which the delegation was standing suddenly (*gave way*) _____ and everybody fell headlong onto the ground below.

8 The chairperson (*tried*) _____ to persuade everybody at the meeting to cease arguing, but to no avail.

Mark: ___ / 8

Grammar

6 Choose the correct answers.

1 Members of the committee promised _____ with all the preparations for the forthcoming conference.

a that she helps **b** to help **c** helping **d** help

2 Neither of the defendants admitted _____ stolen goods.

a handling **b** to handle **c** for handling **d** them handling

3 Anderson blamed the local authority _____ sooner to stop vandals causing so much damage.

a to not act **b** if they acted **c** of not acting **d** for not acting

4 Anna boasted _____ completed the assignment without any help from teachers.

a have **b** for having **c** about having **d** to have

5 The board members persuaded Harry _____ the changes suggested in the report.

a to support **b** supporting **c** for support **d** he would support

6 All of the students refused _____ a word in Karen's defence.

a say **b** saying **c** that they said **d** to say

7 We urge _____ your stance on this matter. Otherwise, we will take action to force you to reverse your decision.

a to reconsider **b** you reconsidering **c** you to reconsider **d** reconsidering

8 Daniel mentioned _____ Helen while he was doing some last-minute shopping in the mall. She seemed in good spirits.

a to see **b** seeing **c** of seeing **d** that he see

9 We demand commissioners _____ into account our recommendations when completing their report.

a take **b** to take **c** that they take **d** they should take

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10 Brian warned _____ care when playing near the river as the banks have started to erode.

a the kids taking **b** that the kids take **c** the kids to take **d** the kids should take

Mark: ___ / 10

7 Read the comments from a meeting that took place yesterday. Then complete the sentences using a reporting noun.

1 'Children need a safe place to play in the neighbourhood,' commented a senior social worker.
The senior social worker's _____ struck the right note with the young families living in the area.

2 'The council should act to improve facilities,' suggested community leaders.
The community leaders' _____ fell on deaf ears as councillors announced they were planning budget cuts.

3 'Builders have cut corners and produced shoddy workmanship,' Miriam Clark accused.
Miriam Clark's _____ has sparked controversy.

4 'We have done nothing illegal,' responded the construction company.
The construction company's _____ was met with scepticism by some members of the public.

5 'We have never knowingly used poor quality materials,' remarked the director.
The director's _____ failed to reassure the audience.

6 'We will complete the project on time,' declared the engineer.
The engineer's _____ was seen as an unsuccessful attempt to placate the local residents with a promise.

Mark: ___ / 12

8 Complete the second sentence using reported speech so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Include the word provided.

1 'Did you have a good time in London last weekend, Paul?' asked Tom.
he
Tom asked _____.

2 'You really should avoid the buffet lunch at this hotel,' said Clare.
recommended
Claire _____.

3 'How does Sophia know so many English phrasal verbs?' asked Ray.
wondered
Ray _____.

4 'The situation will get worse if nothing is done,' said the speaker.
predicted

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The speaker _____.

5 'Let's eat out tomorrow,' said Tina.

suggested

Tina _____.

6 'I'll pay for my lunch and yours,' said Miranda.

insisted

Miranda _____.

7 'Does Ed think that'll happen here?' wondered Fiona.

whether

Fiona wondered _____.

8 'I'd like the report to be placed on my desk by the end of the day,' said Ahmed.

requested

Ahmed _____.

Mark: ___ / 8

9 Complete the news story with the noun forms of the verbs below. There is one word that you do not need.

deny excuse accuse concern observe respond

Uproar in court

A long-running legal battle between Fenton's, a property development company based in Manchester, and a squatters' collective protesting about the city's ongoing housing shortage ended in court yesterday. The property company's [1]_____ was that the squatters had broken the lock on the front door of a three-storey building owned by the company, before moving in illegally and setting up a squat in which more than thirty people lived. Despite the squatters' strong [2]_____ that they had used any force to enter the building, the judge ruled in the company's favour. In summing up the case, the judge was critical of the squatter's actions. His [3]_____ that the laws against squatting would benefit from being strengthened, making it easier for landlords to evict those occupying private property, was met with anger by Dale Gordon, one of the squatters. Gordon's heated [4]_____ to what the judge had said was to shout abuse calling his judgement into question. After the young man had been escorted from court, the judge resumed his summary and stated that his main [5]_____ in this case had been to come to a fair judgement for all parties.

Mark: ___ / 5

Reading

Somewhere to live

A *Getting tough with the travellers* by Lorna Cameron

Kelly and Rory won't be appearing in court later this afternoon, despite the notice of eviction served on them. Instead, along with three other related adult couples, and the nine children they have between them, they'll be loading up their caravans for the sixth time since Christmas in preparation for the inevitable appearance of the authorities. 'We know we're trespassing,' says Kelly. 'But what are we supposed to do? Council land, grass verges, we've tried them all, and we just get moved on.'

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Last summer's drunken dusk to dawn raves, and the damning press coverage that subsequently followed, has made life on the road increasingly tough for young travellers like Kelly and Rory, who admit involvement in the worst excesses. Local tolerance has been in short supply, and cash-strapped councils, once prepared to turn a blind eye to small encampments on common land, are now quick to enforce bylaws. Frustrated at what they see as crude portrayals of their lifestyle and behaviour by newspapers intent on playing to public prejudice, the travellers argue that they have as much right as everyone else to choose how and where to live, hitting out at what they see as victimization.

Landowner Lord Harris, who will be in court today, has little sympathy, pointing out that the costs of having to build farm barricades to restrict access, and having to pursue illegal encampments through the justice system, are crippling.

B *Time to move on for squatters* by Stephen May

After a week-long stand-off with police, a group of squatters who had been holed up in a disused and derelict warehouse near Old Market have agreed to move on, insisting they had done nothing wrong, and had not sought confrontation. The police had opposed the establishment of the squat from the start, not least because of concerns for the occupants' safety. Fears of raves, along with anxieties over city centre congestion caused by vans left near the building by the group, had angered both local citizens and the press, obliging the police to take action.

Insisting they were a legitimate squatters' rights collective, campaigning for the rights of working-class citizens to reclaim property from absent and exploitative proprietors, a spokesperson for the group said, 'We're not scumbags or junkies, we're just young people, couples, mates, siblings, with nowhere to go.' She went on to reiterate the group's demand that any empty properties in the town should be liberated for the people, and that doing so should not be categorized as criminal.

A police representative confirmed that, while the group had complied with their requests and caused no damage, they were glad they were about to see the back of the squatters. 'Where would we be if everybody just moved into places that didn't belong to them?' the spokesperson demanded.

C *No room for the homeless* by Teresa Pickles

Homeless people sleeping outside a church on Overton Road have been dispersed. A small transient settlement had gradually built up outside the Millennium Church: a cardboard village of boxes, blankets, pots, pans and struts of wood, creating not only a distraction for passing motorists, but a considerable inconvenience for local shopkeepers, who have long been concerned about its potential effect on their trade, and have made their feelings known in petitions to the council.

Despite a local campaign in support of the settlement, orchestrated by a local DJ and supported by all media outlets in the city, a court dispersal order was granted for their eviction on Monday, and, whilst it was expected to take until the end of the summer to move everybody on, events since have moved quickly. 'They were boozing all day, shouting and stuff,' observed Shelley Gray, who works nearby. 'There were fights in the street when the police came to say they should go.'

10 Read the news reports and answer the questions. Each text can go with more than one question.

In which text, A–C …

1 did the local government change its view towards a group of people? ___

2 was there some sympathy expressed among journalists to the people being moved? ___

3 is the financial cost on people other than those being moved not mentioned? ___

4 is it stated that the people being moved had done so before in similar circumstances? ___

5 were the people in the story not living under any sort of cover? ___

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6 was a reason given as to why the police felt it necessary to wish to move people on? ___

7 were people moved away more hastily than many thought they would be? ___

8 did the people being moved not express exasperation with the way their actions were being reported? ___

9 did the people being moved accept some blame for having to go? ___

10 did the people being moved argue that they were breaking no laws? ___

Mark: ___ / 10

Challenge!

11 Complete the text with the correct words (a–d).

BASH

For many years, the aviation industry has [1]_____ to deal with the problem of bird strikes on their aircraft causing potentially disastrous accidents. In [2]_____ contrast to other problems facing the industry, such as the threat from terrorism, Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard (or BASH) often receives very little publicity. However, it is such a significant problem that governments around the world have [3]_____ the industry to do more to counter the risks of an aircraft's jet engines ingesting birds.

A famous case of BASH took place over New York in 2009 when a bird strike resulted in complete engine failure, forcing the pilot of US Airways Flight 1549 to [4]_____ the controls of the plane and land it manually as if it were a glider. No one was hurt, and the landing became known as the 'Miracle on the Hudson', but it was a(n) [5]_____ reminder of how vulnerable planes are. Following the bird strike, the general public [6]_____ against the authorities and blamed them [7]_____ to do enough to prevent the strike from happening. The [8]_____ that they had been unprepared was levelled at them, and they were forced to respond by initiating a cull of the Canada geese which had been responsible. As a result, over 1,000 Canada geese were killed by Environmental Protection Departments in the New York area in the summer of 2009.

1 **a** commenced **b** inflicted **c** fastened **d** endeavoured

2 **a** chaotic **b** abundant **c** stark **d** squalid

3 **a** urged **b** insisted **c** recommended **d** informed

4 **a** seize **b** assert **c** desist **d** yield

5 **a** scarce **b** impoverished **c** squalid **d** stark

6 **a** was a storm in a tea cup **b** threw cold water
c was up in arms **d** took the bull by the horns

7 **a** that they failed **b** for failing **c** whether they had failed **d** to have failed

8 **a** accusation **b** denial **c** response **d** excuse

TOTAL MARKS: ___ / 88

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