

REVISION FOR THE MID-SECOND TERM TEST-GRADE 11 (N03)
(READING)

***Task 1: Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C, or D to indicate the best option to each gap of the following questions**

GLOBAL WARMING

Few people now question the reality of global warming and its effects on the world's climate. Many scientists put the blame for recent natural disasters on the increase in the world's temperatures and are convinced that, more than (1)_____ before, the Earth is at (2)_____ from the forces of the wind, rain and sun. According to them, global warming is making extreme weather events, such as hurricanes and droughts, even more severe and causing sea levels all around the world to rise.

Environmental groups are putting pressure on governments to take action to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide which is given (3)_____ by factories and power plants, thus attacking the problem at its source. They are in favour of more money being spent on research into solar, wind and wave energy devices, which could then replace existing power (4)_____.

Some scientists, (5)_____, believe that even if we stopped releasing carbon dioxide and other gases into the atmosphere tomorrow, we would have to wait several hundred years to notice the results. Global warming, it seems, is to stay.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1. A. yet | B. once | C. never | D. ever |
| 2. A. risk | B. danger | C. threat | D. harm |
| 3. A. over | B. off | C. away | D. up |
| 4. A. factories | B. stations | C. generations | D. houses |
| 5. A. however | B. but | C. despite | D. although |

***Task 2: Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C, or D to indicate the best option to each gap of the following questions**

Like any other university, the Open University can give you a degree. However, you don't have to stop working to study. It can also open up a whole variety of interests. If you have(1)_____studied before, you will enjoy the special, new pleasure of(2)_____your knowledge. You will make friends of all kinds. You may also(3)_____that your qualification provides new career opportunities.

You don't actually go to the Open University for lectures, but study at home, using television, radio and computer software. You can (4)_____one class a month if you wish at an Open University Centre. Of course, there are exams to take, as in (5)_____university. If you would like to know more, all you have to do is complete the form below. It could be the start of a wonderful new period in your life.

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-----------|---------------|
| 1. A. ever | B. often | C. never | D. always |
| 2. A. growing | B. changing | C. adding | D. increasing |
| 3. A. suggest | B. find | C. wish | D. want |
| 4. A. give | B. attend | C. learn | D. study |
| 5. A. any | B. some | C. many | D. most |

***Task 3: Read the passage and choose the best answer.**

The world's oceans have warmed 50 percent faster over the last 40 years than previously thought due to climate change, Australian and US climate researchers reported Wednesday. Higher ocean temperatures expand the volume of water, contributing to a rise in sea levels that is submerging small

island nations and threatening to wreak havoc in low-lying, densely populated delta regions around the globe.

The study, published in the British journal Nature, adds to a growing scientific chorus of warnings about the pace and consequences rising oceans. It also serves as a corrective to a massive report issued last year by the Nobel-winning UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), according to the authors.

Rising sea levels are driven by two things: the thermal expansion of sea water, and additional water from melting sources of ice. Both processes are caused by global warming. The ice sheet that sits atop Greenland, for example, contains enough water to raise world ocean levels by seven metres (23 feet), which would bury sea-level cities from Dhaka to Shanghai.

Trying to figure out how much each of these factors contributes to rising sea levels is critically important to understanding climate change, and forecasting future temperature rises, scientists say. But up to now, there has been a perplexing gap between the projections of computer-based climate models, and the observations of scientists gathering data from the oceans.

The new study, led by Catia Domingues of the Centre for Australian Weather and Climate Research, is the first to reconcile the models with observed data. Using new techniques to assess ocean temperatures to a depth of 700 metres (2,300 feet) from 1961 to 2003, it shows that thermal warming contributed to a 0.53 millimetre-per-year rise in sea levels rather than the 0.32 mm rise reported by the IPCC.

1. Ultimately, the new study should help scientists to _____.
 - A. lower water levels.
 - B. better predict climate change.
 - C. bury sea-level cities like Dhaka and Shanghai.
2. The rise in water levels is especially dangerous for small island nations and _____.
 - A. low-lying urban areas.
 - B. all coastal cities.
 - C. people who live on the beach.
3. What happens when the ocean's temperature rises?
 - A. It causes sea levels to rise.
 - B. It causes sea levels to remain constant.
 - C. It causes sea levels to decrease.
4. What was the main finding of the study?
 - A. not enough is being done about global warming.
 - B. ocean waters have warmed faster than scientists had previously thought.
 - C. the warming of the world's oceans is not a threat.
5. The new study _____.
 - A. shows that thermal warming contributed to a 0.32 millimeter-per-year rise in sea levels.
 - B. did not reveal anything that scientists didn't already know.
 - C. used new techniques to assess ocean temperatures.

***Task 4: Read the passage and choose the best answer.**

A rather surprising geographical feature of Antarctica is that a huge freshwater lake, one of the world's largest and deepest, lies **hidden** there under four kilometers of ice. Now known as Lake Vostok, this huge body of water is located under the ice block that comprises Antarctica. The lake is able to exist in its unfrozen state beneath this block of ice because its waters are warmed by geothermal heat from the earth's core. The thick glacier above Lake Vostok actually insulates it from the **frigid** temperatures on the surface.

The lake was first discovered in the 1970s while a research team was conducting an aerial survey of the area. Radio waves from the survey equipment penetrated the ice and revealed a body of water of indeterminate size. It was not until much more recently that data collected by satellite made scientists aware of the tremendous size of the lake; the satellite-borne radar detected an extremely flat region where the ice remains level because it is floating on the water of the lake.

The discovery of such a huge freshwater lake trapped under Antarctica is of interest to the scientific community because of the potential that the lake contains ancient **microbes** that have survived for thousands of years, unaffected by factors such as nuclear fallout and elevated ultraviolet light that have affected organisms in more exposed areas. The downside of the discovery, however, lies in the difficulty of conducting research on the lake in such a harsh climate and in the problems associated with obtaining uncontaminated samples from the lake without actually exposing the lake to contamination. Scientists are looking for possible ways to accomplish this.

Question 1: The word "**hidden**" in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to ____.

- A. undrinkable B. untouched C. unexploitable D. undiscovered

Question 2: What is true of Lake Vostok?

- A. It is completely frozen. B. It is saltwater lake.
C. It is beneath a thick slab of ice. D. It is heated by the sun.

Question 3: Which of the following is closest in meaning to "**frigid**" in paragraph 1?

- A. extremely cold B. easily broken C. quite harsh D. lukewarm

Question 4: All of the following are true about the 1970 survey of Antarctica EXCEPT that it ____.

- A. was conducted by air B. made use of radio waves
C. could not determine the lake's exact size D. was controlled by a satellite

Question 5: It can be inferred from the passage that the ice would not be flat if ____.

- A. there were no lake underneath B. the lake were not so big
C. Antarctica were not so cold D. radio waves were not used

Question 6: The word "**microbes**" in paragraph 3 could best be replaced by which of the following?

- A. Pieces of dust B. Tiny bubbles C. Tiny organisms D. Rays of light

Question 7: Lake Vostok is potentially important to scientists because ____.

- A. can be studied using radio waves
B. may contain uncontaminated microbes
C. may have elevated levels of ultraviolet light
D. has already been contaminated

Question 8: The purpose of the passage is to ____.

- A. explain how Lake Vostok was discovered
B. provide satellite data concerning Antarctica
C. discuss future plans for Lake Vostok
D. present an unexpected aspect of Antarctica's geography