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Exam Skills Trainer 2

Reading

Strategy

In the cross-text multiple-matching task, you should read the texts first to determine the general attitude of each writer. As you read, underline parts of the text which give an opinion or an attitude and look for agreement and disagreement between the texts.



1 Read the strategy above and the question below. Follow the instructions in the strategy to answer the question.

Which expert has a different view from B about the possibility of producing enough meat in the future?

2 You are going to read four extracts from articles in which experts give their opinions on what would happen if the world decided to go meat free. For questions 1–4, choose from the experts A–D. The experts may be chosen more than once.

Which expert

- 1 expresses a different view to A about the range of vegetarian food available.
- 2 shares C's opinion about the impact of giving up meat on one of the world's natural resources?
- 3 has a different view from the others about the effect of global vegetarianism on health?
- 4 has a different view from D about the repercussions on air quality of not keeping farm animals?

Meat-free world

Four experts comment on the consequences if the world suddenly went vegetarian

A Becky Thomas nutritionist

First and foremost, I think we have to bear in mind the health benefits of a meat-free diet. While consuming meat in moderation isn't necessarily bad for you, too much can have a detrimental effect. The World Health Organisation has warned that consuming 50g of processed meat a day greatly increases the risk of cancer. Moreover, a change in the world's eating habits would be good for the environment. We could use our valuable water supply for human consumption rather than having to reserve so much for the cattle we keep. Turning to more practical issues, supermarkets stock a variety of meat-free options these days, and it's much easier to eat out. In general, the pros of giving up meat far outweigh the cons, so I fail to understand why more people don't do it.

B Nigel Bentley environmentalist

While it's clear that a vegetarian diet can prevent harmful medical conditions, a meat-free diet might become a necessity in the future. World population is set to exceed nine billion by 2050, which would entail having to produce 200 million tonnes of meat, which would be completely impossible to produce. If the current rate of population growth continues, we will be obliged to reduce our meat

intake and we may have to become vegetarians, because the meat industry will become unsustainable. Of course, a smaller amount of livestock would also have a far-reaching effect on the planet: there would be a massive fall in greenhouse gas emissions, because there would be fewer cows releasing huge quantities of methane into the air.

C Kiera Reed anthropologist

What concerns me most about a meat-free world is the effect it would have on our ability to resist illness. A vegetarian diet would not necessarily give people the nutrients they have until now obtained from meat, which would lead to more sickness and disease in the world. At the very least, people would require education about where to find these nutrients elsewhere. There are an estimated two billion undernourished people in the world today, but that figure would only grow if we all became vegetarians. Having said that, keeping fewer animals would help us save water. Apparently, giving up meat for one day saves the same amount of water used daily by nine people. There are so many different aspects to world vegetarianism, that it is difficult to say whether it would benefit us or not.

D Michael Townsend chef

While I accept that a meat-free diet may reduce the chances of developing certain illnesses, I wonder whether people might be exaggerating the effect it would have on the environment. Regarding the pollution generated by agriculture, surely, the fumes from a greater number of harvesting and processing machines would outweigh the lack of gases produced by cows? As for struggling to produce enough meat to feed the world's population, there are several cultures that have a meat-free diet, so less meat would be needed than certain figures suggest. I am sure the food industry could cope with the increase in meat production. The thing that worries me most is the lack of choice at mealtimes. For me, the pleasure of dining is in contemplating the variety of wonderful dishes available. If the world became vegetarian, there would only be salad on the menu!

Listening

Strategy

In the sentence-completion task, the answers are usually the exact words you hear on the recording. However, the wording of the questions paraphrases the actual recording. Read the question carefully and listen for what they are paraphrasing to help you identify the correct answer.

3 Read the Strategy and the short extract and complete the sentence below. How are the words around the gap paraphrased in the extract?

The Dead Sea has not lost its appeal for tourists, despite the fact that it is shrinking. However, hotels that were built on the lake in the 1980s now lie around 2 km from its banks. To reach the current water level, visitors have to climb down