

## EOI Topic Area: Climate, Weather and Technology

### Reading

**1. Match the comments (1 - 8) to the texts A - F. Two comments do not refer to any of the texts.**

#### Matching Comments to Texts:

- Read the extracts quickly for general understanding.
- Go through the comments and underline the key words-e.g. good and bad in comment 1.
- Now find the sentence or phrase that matches the comment. Make sure it matches the comment exactly.
- Look out for synonyms or paraphrases of the key words in the comments.

#### Example 0- B

##### 0 We're selling less of a particular product

- 1 I'm waiting to get permission to do something. \_\_\_\_
- 2 The affects of climate change on my business are mostly positive. \_\_\_\_
- 3 In my job, heavy rain is worse than dry weather. \_\_\_\_
- 4 Climate change has both good and bad points for my job. \_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_
- 5 Climate change has more bad points than good points for my job. \_\_\_\_
- 6 If the climate gets worse, I may need to move my business somewhere else \_\_\_\_
- 7 Businesses need to do more to stop climate change. \_\_\_\_
- 8 Recently, my business was badly damaged by bad weather \_\_\_\_

#### A Farmer

Sometimes it doesn't rain for months but when it does it absolutely pours. I've dealt with the first problem by planting dry weather crops. There's nothing you can do about the second problem. If it rains at the wrong time, you can lose everything. Last year, a huge storm fell on my cereal crops but I'd already completed the harvest so it didn't do too much damage.

## **B Owner of ski resort**

It doesn't snow as much as before, so there are a lot of days when it's impossible to ski. We've asked the local government if we can put our skiing slope higher up the mountain, but we haven't heard anything from them yet.

## **C Car Manufacturer**

The new environment tax has greatly reduced our sales of 4 by 4s. However, it's not all bad news: the sales of our new electric car are starting to increase.

## **D Building Contractor**

Climate change has caused us a few problems: Last month, a road we were building was destroyed by flooding; and we've spent a lot of money adapting our building methods to the new environmental laws. But it's an opportunity as well as a threat. The companies that are able to build the most ecological buildings will get the most projects.

## **E Insurance salesmen**

Our sales of insurance products have increased because of the risk of natural disasters. But we've also had to pay out huge amounts of money. At the moment we've lost much more than we've gained.

## **F Winemaker**

Wines are becoming a lot more alcoholic because there are more sunny days. In the long term we may have to stop making wines in this area and go somewhere with a colder climate.

## **2. Answering Multiple Choice questions**

- Read the text once fairly carefully to get a good general idea.
- Read the questions and options carefully, underlining the key words and phrases.
- Try to find the part of the text that contains the answer. Sometimes the answer is found in a whole paragraph rather than a single sentence.
- Decide which option best matches the information in the relevant part of the text.

**1 Jane and Bob....**

- A sell most of their food in the local market.
- B no longer buy any food.
- C still buy some of their food.

**2 Jane says that picking wild fruit and vegetables ...**

- A is entertaining.
- B is hard work.
- C can be dangerous.

**3 Bob.....**

- A didn't like goat's milk initially.
- B prefers goat's milk to cow's milk.
- C still doesn't like goat's milk.

**4 The Wilfords have kept their car because.....**

- A they need it for long journeys.
- B they haven't been able to sell it.
- C they need to make regular short journeys.

**5 The Wilfords are generally happy with the way the .....**

- A wind turbine works
- B solar panels work.
- C the way the solar panels and the wind turbine work.

**6 When the Wilfords sell their fridge, they will.....**

- A sell all their excess food.
- B sell and exchange all their excess food.
- C turn part of it into preserves and give the rest away free.

**7 Jane is worried that ..... the farm**

- A she will lose interest in managing
- B they will not have enough money to maintain
- C they will soon be too old to manage

## Becoming self-sufficient

Last year Jane and Bob Wilford gave up their well-paid jobs in London and bought a farmhouse in South West England. Their intention was to help protect the environment by becoming completely self-sufficient. EcoPlanet takes a look at how they've been doing.

In terms of food, Jane and Bob are now totally self-sufficient. They grow most of their fruits and vegetables in their own garden and get the rest from the plants growing wild in the country. "Wild fruit and vegetables taste great and they're really nutritious" Jane says, "but you have to be careful about what you pick and where you pick it. We got food poisoning last January because we'd picked the wrong mushrooms and last month a local farmer set his dog on us while we were looking for blackberries. We'd gone onto his land by mistake."

The Wilfords get fish from their garden stream, keep chickens for meat and eggs and a goat for milk. "We didn't fancy milking cows so we bought a goat instead" Bob says "Goat's milk tastes a bit sour at first but you soon get used to it". They make goat's cheese, which they sell at the local market.

In other ways, they are not yet self-sufficient. They originally planned to sell their car, but they soon realized that they couldn't do without it: "We need to go to the local town quite often and the bus service is just not reliable enough", Jane says. At the moment, they only generate about a quarter of the electricity they use. They have a small wind turbine, which produces electricity and they use solar panels for hot water. The wind turbine works OK most of the time, but the solar panels are proving unreliable. "We end up having cold showers most of the time", Bob says, laughing.

They have decided to get rid of their fridge next month in order to reduce their energy needs. They plan to turn some of the excess food into jams and pickles so that it keeps longer and to give the rest of it to the neighbours in return for clothes and other things.

So far, the Wilfords are both delighted with their new lifestyle but they're not sure how long they can keep it up. "Things are fun at the moment but in ten years time I might get bored with the farm" Bob says. Jane is more practical: "We'll keep doing this until the money runs out".

## Glossary

self sufficient = able to have all the things you need without help from other people.

## Grammar

Find more grammar exercises like this in *Oxford Practice Grammar Basic*.

### 1. Complete the conversation by choosing the correct form in brackets ( ).

Sarah: (0) Have you ever been (Have you ever been/Did you ever go) to the United States?

Jim: Yes, (1) .....(I've been/I went) to California last year.

Sarah: (2) ..... (Have you liked/Did you like) it?

Jim: Yes, (3) ..... (I've enjoyed/I enjoyed) the trip a lot.

Sarah: What (4) ..... (have you done/did you do) there?

Jim: (5) .....(I've visited/I visited) Hollywood, Disneyland and San Francisco.

(6) ..... (Have you been/Did you go) to California, Sarah?

Sarah: No, but (7) .....(I've booked/I booked) a holiday there. I've got my ticket and I'm going next week!

### 2. Complete the dialogues using the Present Perfect (*I have seen*) or Past Simple (*I saw*).

A: I (0) saw (see) Jack last night.

B: Oh really. I (1) .....(not/see) him for months. How is he?

A: We (2) ..... (go) to the theatre last Saturday.

B: (3) .....(you/enjoy) the play?

A: Yes, it (4) ..... (be) very good.

A: I (5) ..... (never/hear) of this group before. Are they famous in your country?

B: Yes, they are very popular. They (6) .....(be) famous in my country for years.

A: What (7) .....(you/do) last weekend?

B: I (8) .....(stay) at home. I (9) ..... (need) a rest.

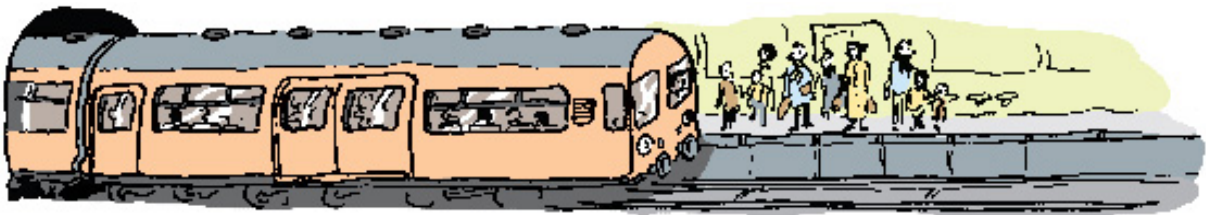
A: (10) ..... (you/ever/win) a competition?

B: Yes, I (11) .....(win) a photographic competition in 2001.

A: So, John is your best friend. (12) .....(you/meet) him when you were at university?

B: Yes. We (13) ..... (be) friends for more than ten years.

**3. Complete this paragraph about the London Underground by putting in the Present Perfect or Past Simple forms of the verbs in brackets ( ).**



## THE LONDON UNDERGROUND

London (0) has had (have) an underground train system since the nineteenth century. The London Underground (1) ..... (start) in 1863, when Victorian engineers and workers (2) ..... (build) the Metropolitan railway. This railway line (3) ..... (go) from Paddington Station to Farringdon Street Station, and steam engines (4) ..... (pull) the coaches. Eleven more lines (5) ..... (open) since then. The world's first underground electric railway (6) ..... (open) in 1890. This line (7) ..... (go) from the City of London to Stockwell in South London. The most modern line is the Jubilee line, which (8) ..... (open) in 1979. Since the London Underground (9) ..... (begin), many other cities, such as New York and Moscow, (10) ..... (build) their own systems.

## TEACHER'S NOTES AND ANSWER KEY

### Teacher's Notes

#### 1

- 1 Give part 1 of the reading exam to the students. Go through the instructions with them, checking understanding.
- 2 Tell them to read through the general advice for answering matching comment to texts.
- 3 If you wish to help the students further, you can write the following questions tips on the board/ overhead projector as they do the task.

#### Question Tips

Qu 1: Look for the text that mentions both rain and dry weather. What does it say about each one?

Qu 8: Badly damaged is a key phrase here: two texts mention specific incidents of bad weather, but only one says it badly affected their business.

#### 2

- 1 Give part 2 of the reading exam to the students. Go through the instructions with them, checking understanding.
- 2 Tell them to read through the general advice for answering multiple choice questions.
- 3 If you wish to help the students further, you can write all or some of the following questions tips on the board/ overhead projector.

#### Question Tips

Qu 4: Where do they need to go quite often? Does this suggest short journeys or long journeys?

Qu 5: Find a phrase in the section on energy that means generally.

## ANSWER KEY

### Reading

#### 1.

- 1 B:** *We've asked the local government if we can put our skiing slope higher up the mountain, but we haven't heard anything from them yet.*
- 2** The comment does not refer to any text
- 3 A:** *There's nothing you can do about the second problem (referring back to when it pours). If it rains, you lose everything.*
- 4 C:** the car manufacturer refers to advantages and disadvantages and states, "it's not all bad news"
- D:** the building contractor refers to advantages and disadvantages and states, "it's an opportunity as well as a threat".
- 5 E:** At the moment we've lost much more than we've gained.
- 6 F:** In the long term we may have to stop making wines in this area and go somewhere with a colder climate.
- 7** The comment does not refer to any text.
- 8 D:** Last month a road we were building was destroyed by flooding.

Note the answer is not A: In A, the farmer suffered a storm but "*it didn't do too much damage*".

#### 2.

- 1 B:** *In terms of food Jane and Bob are now totally self-sufficient.*  
*Note A is wrong:* They do not sell most of their food at the market, only goats cheese. Teachers could point out to students that this error can be avoided by underlining "qualifying words"-most, almost, nearly, part of etc in the questions and the options.
- 2 C:** Jane says "you have to be careful about what you pick and where you pick it". She then goes on to narrate two instances of danger- food poisoning and the time when a farmer set his dog on them for walking on his land.
- 3 A:** Goats milk tastes a bit sour at first but you soon get used to it.
- 4 C:** We need to go to the local town quite often and the bus service is just not reliable enough.
- 5 A:** The wind turbine works OK most of the time but the solar panels are proving unreliable.
- 6 C:** They plan to turn some of the excess food into jams and pickles so that it keeps longer and to give the rest of it to the neighbours in return for clothes and other things.
- 7 B:** We'll keep doing this until the money runs out.



## Grammar

### 1.

- 1 I went
- 2 Did you like
- 3 I enjoyed
- 4 did you do
- 5 I visited
- 6 Have you been
- 7 I've booked

### 2.

- 1 haven't/have not seen
- 2 went
- 3 Did you enjoy
- 4 was
- 5 've/have never heard
- 6 've/have been
- 7 did you do
- 8 stayed
- 9 needed
- 10 Have you ever won
- 11 won
- 12 Did you meet
- 13 've/have been

### 3.

- 1 started
- 2 built
- 3 went
- 4 pulled
- 5 have opened
- 6 opened
- 7 went
- 8 opened
- 9 began
- 10 have built