

# ENGLISH B1

## READING COMPREHENSION

Duration: 45 minutes

**PART ONE (6 x 0,8 mark = 4,8 marks)**

**Read the following extracts from an article published in the New York Times and match each of them with the corresponding question from the box below. There are two extra questions you do not need to use.**

**Climate Change is Complex**

**Question 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

As of early 2017, the Earth had warmed by roughly 2 degrees Fahrenheit (more than 1 degree Celsius) since 1880, when records began at a global scale. The number may sound low, but as an average over the surface of an entire planet, it is actually high, which explains why much of the world's land ice is starting to melt and the oceans are rising at an accelerating pace.

**Question 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

In theory, they could be. If the sun started putting out more radiation, for instance, that would definitely warm the Earth. But scientists have looked carefully at the natural causes known to influence planetary temperature and found that they are not changing nearly enough. The warming is extremely rapid on the geologic time scale, and no other factor can explain it as well as human emissions of greenhouse gases.

**Question 3:** \_\_\_\_\_

President Trump has sometimes claimed that scientists are engaged in a worldwide trick to fool the public, or that global warming was invented by China to damage American industry. The arguments of those people who do not believe in climate change have become so out of proportion that even oil and coal companies have distanced themselves publicly, although some still help to finance the campaigns of politicians who defend such views.

**Question 4:** \_\_\_\_\_

Over the coming 25 or 30 years, scientists say, the climate is likely to gradually warm, with more extreme weather. Coral reefs and other sensitive habitats are already starting to die. If emissions rise uncontrollably, scientists fear climate effects so severe that they might destabilize governments, produce waves of refugees, precipitate the sixth mass extinction of plants and animals in the Earth's history, and melt the polar ice caps, causing the seas to rise high enough to flood most of the world's coastal cities. The emissions that create those risks are happening now, raising deep moral questions for our generation.

**Question 5:** \_\_\_\_\_

Scientists have published strong evidence that the warming climate is making heat waves more frequent and intense. It is also causing heavier rainstorms, and coastal flooding is getting worse as the oceans rise because of human emissions. Global warming has intensified droughts in regions like the Middle East, and it may have strengthened a recent drought in California. However, in many other cases, — hurricanes, for example — the linkage to global warming for particular trends is uncertain or disputed. Scientists are gradually improving their understanding as computer analyses of the climate grow more powerful.

**Question 6:** \_\_\_\_\_

Society has delayed action for so long that the risks are now severe, scientists say. But as long as there are still unburned fossil fuels in the ground, it is not too late to act. The warming will slow to a potentially manageable pace only when human emissions are reduced to zero. The good news is that they are now falling in many countries as a result of programs like fuel-economy standards for cars, and emissions limits for power plants. But experts say the energy transition needs to speed up drastically to head off the worst effects of climate change.

*Adapted from www.nytimes.com*

**Climate Change is Complex**

Answer Sheet

- A. Are there any realistic solutions to the problem?
- B. Could natural factors be the cause of the warming?
- C. How do we know humans are not responsible for the increase in carbon dioxide?
- D. How much is the Earth heating up?
- E. How much should I worry about climate change affecting me directly?
- F. How much trouble are we in?
- G. Is recent crazy weather related to climate change?
- H. Why do some people refuse to believe that climate change is actually happening?

Extract	Question
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	



B1 RP1

<https://nyti.ms/2lau5xF>

ANSWER KEY

**1D, 2B, 3H, 4F, 5G, 6A, Extra questions: C ,E,**

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**PART TWO (6 x 0,8 marks = 4,8 marks)**

**You are going to read** a news story about a photograph of a young boy in the Philippines. **For questions 7 to 12, choose the option (a, b or c) that best completes each statement.**

## **Beware inspirational online images**

While walking past a McDonald's restaurant in the Philippines a medical student, Joyce Torrefranca, spotted a young boy sitting outside doing his homework at an improvised table. It was late in the evening, but the boy could read and write using the lights coming from the nearby restaurant. Moved by the scene, Torrefranca took a photograph and posted it on Facebook. "For me as a student," she wrote, "it just hit me a lot, like, big time."

Torrefranca wasn't the only one inspired by the nine-year-old boy without a home. Since Daniel Cabrera's house burned down, he has reportedly been living in a food stall with his mother and two brothers. His father is dead. Reports also say he owns only one pencil. A second pencil was stolen from him.

As the story went viral, people emerged to help the boy, giving him books, pencils and crayons. He also received a battery-powered lamp so he would no longer have to do his homework in the car park. A fundraising page was set up to help cover the costs of his schooling.

This is far from the first inspirational story to attract attention online. Whether it's a limbless man surfing, a cancer survivor climbing some of the world's highest peaks or a homeless woman making it all the way to Harvard, we are easily touched by these stories, and there's nothing strange or wrong with that. But we might want to examine some of the reasons why we – or others – love them so much, or at least question the conclusions some of us wish to draw from them.

One tabloid newspaper has recommended parents show the picture of the hardworking boy to their children next time they are moaning or complaining about something. In a similar vein, someone has turned the picture into an inspirational postcard with the caption: "If it is important to you, you will find a way. If not, you'll find an excuse."

In these interpretations, the picture is used to suggest that there are no excuses for failure or poverty. Even if you are poor and live in a temporary home, you have the choice to work yourself out of that difficult situation. All you need is determination, willpower and the right attitude. So, it is suggested that private troubles, such as poverty or unemployment, should remain private troubles. They should not be regarded as public issues because that is just a way of trying to find an excuse. Such is the lesson we should teach ourselves and take from this.

It is depressingly easy to find other examples of this way of thinking today, the idea that we can all rise above our circumstances – however difficult – just by ourselves.

Again, there is nothing wrong with being moved by a picture of a young boy concentrating hard on his homework. But we should remember that pictures of this kind may serve more sinister purposes when they are accompanied by "inspirational" messages. It is not easy to focus on discussing external circumstances when we receive the message that the only thing that stops a person from being successful is their attitude.

*Adapted from theguardian.com*

**7. Joyce Torre Franca saw a boy ...**

- a. inside a restaurant.
- b. studying outdoors.
- c. taking pictures.

**8. The boy ...**

- a. earns his living by selling food
- b. has 2 siblings who are being helped
- c. has become famous worldwide

**9. Online stories...**

- a. are always inspiring
- b. captivate people's feelings
- c. have to be original and unique.

**10. The MacDonald's story ...**

- a. has been used in various ways
- b. is being read by parents to their children
- c. is just an excuse to sell postcards

**11. Some interpretations of the picture suggest ...**

- a. being poor is a choice
- b. children are always complaining
- c. private troubles should be made a public concern

**12. In the writer's opinion, pictures like this...**

- a. are sinister
- b. help us rise above our problems
- c. may contribute to deliver the wrong message



## B1 RP2 Beware inspirational online images

Key

QUESTION	OPTION	Teacher's use only
7	<i>b</i>	√
8	<i>c</i>	
9	<i>b</i>	
10	<i>a</i>	
11	<i>a</i>	
12	<i>c</i>	

**READING COMPREHENSION**

**PART FOUR (7x 0,8 = 5,6 marks)**

You are going to read an article about learning English. There are seven gaps. For questions 19 - 25, choose the option (a, b or c) which best fits in each statement, as in the example (0 – c).

**How can I improve my English listening skill?**

At many universities, for example, teachers talk for long (0)\_\_\_\_\_ of time in English. You also may listen to recordings in English. Here are some things you can (19)\_\_\_\_\_ before, during and after this kind of intensive listening.

Imagine that you will hear a lecture about rainforests. (20)\_\_\_\_\_ you listen, think of what you already know. What kind of plants, animals or people live in rainforests? Are they in danger? Are there any related English words that you know? These (21)\_\_\_\_\_ can help you get ready to listen.

As you listen, keep your brain active by asking yourself other questions like: “Am I following the main points? What do I need to remember?” Be sure to take (22)\_\_\_\_\_ or record the lecture so you can listen later. You will probably hear new words you do not understand. Write them down. Then listen more (23)\_\_\_\_\_, does the speaker explain them? Is there a picture in the classroom or in your textbook that shows their meanings? If not, use the other words around them to (24)\_\_\_\_\_. You can find the definitions later.

Afterward, think about how much you understood. If you can, ask your teacher a question about whatever you did not understand. React to the lecture with your own (25)\_\_\_\_\_, even if you only do this in your notes or with a classmate. Your reaction could be: “I think people should work harder to protect rainforests.”

You should listen to news, our American Stories series, songs, movies, and other things in English every day. In time, you will understand better and better.

0. **EXAMPLE**      A. FRAGMENTS      B. HOURS      **C. PERIODS**
19. A. GUESS                      B. THINK                      C. TRY  
 20. A. AFTER                      B. AS SOON AS                      C. BEFORE  
 21. A. FACTS                      B. QUESTIONS                      C. SKILLS  
 22. A. INFORMATION                      B. NOTES                      C. OPINIONS  
 23. A. CAREFULLY                      B. HARDLY                      C. QUIETLY  
 24. A. FIND                      B. GUESS                      C. LOOK  
 25. A. EMOTIONS                      B. IDEAS                      C. WORDS

<b>GAP</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>ANSWER</b>	<i>Example C</i>							



KEY

<b>GAP</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>ANSWER</b>	<i>Example C</i>	<b>c</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>b</b>

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