

**I- Read the following text then do the tasks below:**

Desertification, which is the process in which productive land changes into desert, is an increasingly serious problem in over a hundred countries of the world. One billion people, out of a total world population of six billion, suffer from **its** effects. Desertification usually occurs in dry areas where there is no rain and where the climate is harsh. In these places, the top layer of soil is destroyed so that the land can no longer be used for growing crops or grazing animals. This means that people who depend on the land for food have to move to 'greener' areas in order to survive. A proportion of the population may survive by moving, but others may die because of shortages of food and water. Although natural changes in the climate often start the process, the activities of human beings are often the real cause of desertification. Because there are growing numbers of people to feed, farmers tend to overcultivate their land, with the result that the soil becomes poor and unproductive. Other farmers overgraze their land and this permanently kills off grass and other plants. In addition to the effects of farming, deforestation – the cutting down of trees – also erodes the soil. Trees are usually cut down to make more agricultural land, but once there are no longer trees and plants on an area of land, there is nothing to stop the wind and rain from blowing or washing away the top layer of soil. The dust, which this produces, can travel long distances and affect the health of people living in cities thousands of kilometres away. But this is not the end of the story: desertification can create conditions which produce strong winds and dangerous wildfires and this leads to even greater pressure on the Earth's most precious resource, water.

***Answer the following questions: (18 marks)**

1. Where does desertification take place?
2. What does the word in **bold** in the text refer to?
3. Why do farmers tend to overcultivate their land?

***Find words in the text which mean the following: (10 marks)**

4. dry powder made of very small pieces of earth
5. destroys slowly

***Rewrite these sentences about the text to correct the information: (12 marks)**

6. A quarter of the world's population is affected by desertification.
7. Natural changes are the real cause of desertification.

II- Read the following text then do the tasks below:

There is no day and night in space, so sleep is simply planned when it is most convenient. Astronauts sleep in small compartments using sleeping bags. They are loosely strapped into these so they will not float out of them in their sleep. **Blindfolds** and earplugs are also available for the astronauts, who might find it difficult to sleep with the noise from the machines. Daily routines should allocate eight hours for sleeping. Most of the time, however, astronauts will normally sleep for around six, as they often have so much work to do. Another important part of spending any long period in space is getting the right amount of exercise so that the bones and muscles can stay strong. On earth, human beings are always moving against the force of **gravity**, with the bones and muscles supporting the body. In space, there is no gravity so the bones and muscles will become weaker very quickly. In space, astronauts need to do about two hours of exercise a day, using exercise machines such as **treadmills** and exercise bikes.

***Choose the correct answer: (12 marks)**

8. Astronauts sleep
 - a. when it is most suitable
 - b. after using exercise machines
 - c. when it gets dark
9. Astronauts need to do about two hours of exercise a day so that
 - a. the bones can stay strong
 - b. the muscles can stay strong
 - c. both a and b

***Match the underlined words from the text to the definitions below: (12 marks)**

10. devices used to exercise by walking and running, but without travelling
11. cloths that cover eyes to prevent them from seeing

***Complete the following sentences with information from the text: (12 marks)**

12. Astronauts tie themselves in sleeping bags so that they
13. Because of microgravity, the bones and muscles

III- Complete the following paragraph by filling in the gaps: (18 marks)

There are extensive ruins 14..... tourists can walk around and where they can learn 15 many different civilisations. We arrived 16..... Tuesday evening and the first thing we did was set up our camp.

IV- Fill in the spaces with words from the list.

Use each word once only: (24 marks)

mad - brought - deaths - form - dogs

A woman 17..... him her son, who had been bitten by a 18..... dog. In those days, such a bite meant slow and painful death. But the child's mother heard of Pasteur work with such 19.....; he got out the germs from the dog's mouth and made a weaker 20..... of the same germs. Pasteur put these weak germs into the boy's body fourteen times and he lived.

V- Complete the following dialogue by writing suitable questions or answers. Write at least three words for each question: (32 marks)

21. A-?

B- I had my computer for six years.

22. A-?

B- It costs 50,000 Syrian Pounds.

23. A-?

B- I use my computer to do my homework.

24. A- What is the disadvantage of using computers for a long time?

B-.....

VI- Rewrite the following sentences as required in brackets: (32 marks)

25. Birds often build nests at the top trees.
(change into *passive*)

26. You waste too much paper.
(use *I wish*)

27. They completed the Mont Banc Tunnel in 1965
(change into *passive*)

28. My brother spends many hours talking on the phone. (use *I wish*)

VII- Complete the following sentences using clauses: (14 marks)

29. James was very nervous when

30. I can't remember where,

VIII- Choose the correct words in brackets:

(18 marks)

31. Bats (**can't be - must be**) birds – they don't have feathers.

32. Farmers need more land (**because - so that**) they can grow more soya beans.

33. If you want to listen to that side of the cassette again, you'll have to (**overwind, rewind**) it.

IX- Correct the verbs in brackets: (18 marks)

34. Irish people emigrated because so many (**die**) of starvation.

35. Samer couldn't contact his brother, Khaled. He (**switch**) his phone off.

36. They (**work**) hard since 8 o'clock this morning.

X- Translate:

Translate into Arabic: (10 marks)

37. All the supplies are important, yet spares cannot be carried because of limited space.

Translate into English: (8 marks)

38. كل شيء كان يسير على ما يرام حتى واجهوا مشكلة غير متوقعة

XI- Composition: (50 marks)

Write a composition of no less than 80 words on the following topic.

- **Write about a significant event that changed your life.**

END OF THE EXAM

انتهت الأسئلة

GOOD LUCK

1. Desertification usually occurs in dry areas where there is no rain and where the climate is harsh. (6.p)
2. It refers to desertification. (6.p)
3. Because there are growing numbers of people to feed. (6.p)
4. dust (5.p)
5. erode (5.p)
6. One billion people, out of a total world population of six billion, suffer from its effects. (6.p)
7. the activities of human beings are often the real cause of desertification. (6.p)
8. a. when it is most suitable (6.p)
9. c. both a and b (6.p)
10. treadmills (6.p)
11. Blindfolds (6.p)
12. they will not float out of them in their sleep. (6.p)
13. will become weaker very quickly. (6.p)
14. which / that (6.p)
15. about (6.p)
16. on (6.p)
17. brought (6.p)
18. mad (6.p)
19. dogs (6.p)
20. form (6.p)
21. How long did you have your computer? (8.p)
22. How much does it cost? (8.p)
23. Why do you use your computer? (8.p)
24. any suitable answer (8.p)
25. Nests are often built at the top of trees. (8.p)
26. I wish you didn't- wouldn't waste so much paper. (8.p)
27. the Mont Banc Tunnel was completed in 1965 (8.p)
28. I wish he didn't/wouldn't/ spend many hours talking on the phone. (8.p)
29. he arrived at the airport. (any past tense) (7.p)
30. I left my newspaper. (any possible answer) (7.p)
31. can't be (6.p)
32. so that (6.p)
33. rewind (6.p)
34. had died / were dying/died (6.p)
35. had switched (6.p)
36. have been working/ have worked (6.p)
37. كل المؤن المعونات تكون هامة ومع ذلك الاحتياطي لا يمكن ان يحمل بسبب المساحة المحدودة (10.p)
38. Everything was going very well until they came up against an unexpected problem. (8.p)
39. (50.p)

Last month, my friends and I visited Apamea. It is an ancient site on the bank of the Orontes River. When we arrived, we set up our camp. The next morning was very hot but we visited the Roman city. There were enormous columns and high walls. As we were walking around, we met a group of tourists. We told them about the history of the site, and they said we were good guides. After that, we climbed up the hill to the citadel. The views from the top were incredible. I will never forget that visit. Since then, I've decided to study history.