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Level 3: End-of-Course Test A

Reading Test Version 1

You will read three passages, with ten questions each. Choose the best answer A, B, C or D according to the passage.

Part 1: Passage

Paragraph 1

China is one of the world's most rapidly developing nations. Within the next 20 years the country's urban population is predicted to increase by an incredible 300 million putting a huge strain on the environment and its resources. Without careful planning, the negative impact on the environment and its cities will be significant. Urban designers all over China are now planning cities which are set to become the future of China's expansion. One of these is the city of Tianjin, just 150 km from Beijing. The eco-city's developers hope to build a green urban community which will include an eco-business park and housing for a population of 350,000 (5) inhabitants. The whole project is expected to take ten years to complete.

Paragraph 2

All buildings within the eco-city will be built to 'green' (ecological) building standards to ensure energy efficiency. Heating will be provided from waste heat from a nearby power plant. Renewable energy sources such as solar (the sun), wind and geothermal energy and clean fuel will provide electrical power. Also, over 60% of all household (6) waste will be recycled. To reduce carbon emissions, an (7) efficient public transport system will be available. A lightweight railway will pass through residential areas, making commuting easier, and residents will have schools, shops and entertainment within walking distance. The current target is for at least 90% of journeys within the city to be made by bicycle, public transport, or on foot.

Paragraph 3

As the eco-city is located in an area of low rainfall, a key feature will be water recycling. The water supply will mainly come from (8) desalinated water and recycled domestic and industrial waste water. Residents will be actively encouraged to monitor their domestic water usage, keeping it to below 120 litres per day.

Paragraph 4

Perhaps the most distinctive feature of the city will be its (9) integration with the natural environment. The biodiversity (plant and animal life) will be preserved, and plans reveal an average of almost 130 square feet of park land per resident. If this (10) innovative and ambitious project is successful, it could become a model for eco cities, not just across China, but all over the developing world.

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Part 1: Questions

1. Choose the correct heading for paragraph 1.
 - A. Eco-cities win urban design competition.
 - B. China's urban challenge.
 - C. Beijing's new eco-city.
 - D. China: The highest population density in the world.

2. Choose the correct heading for paragraph 2.
 - A. A carbon neutral city.
 - B. Environmental living solutions.
 - C. An eco-transport system.
 - D. Commuter links from your doorstep.

3. Choose the correct heading for paragraph 3.
 - A. Water sources.
 - B. China's driest eco-city.
 - C. Water supply limitations.
 - D. Desalination to solve water issues.

4. Choose the correct heading for paragraph 4.
 - A. Concern that eco-city may damage the environment.
 - B. Wildlife reserve to be located in the eco-city.
 - C. Residents demand more green space.
 - D. Model city for a better future.

5. Match the underlined word or phrase with the definition.
 - A. Places where people live.
 - B. Communities.
 - C. People who live in a particular place.
 - D. Commuters.

6. Match the underlined word or phrase with a definition.
 - A. Use more of something than is necessary or useful.
 - B. Recycled products.
 - C. Commodities.
 - D. Materials that are no longer needed for a particular process or purpose.

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7. Match the underlined word or phrase with a definition.

- A. Something that works well and thoroughly.
- B. Improved.
- C. Low-cost.
- D. Environmentally-friendly.

8. Match the underlined word or phrase with a definition.

- A. With salt removed.
- B. Purified water.
- C. With salt added.
- D. Underground water.

9. Match the underlined word or phrase with a definition.

- A. Respect for something.
- B. The act or process of combining things so they work together.
- C. The act of being close to something.
- D. The act of separating things so they work alongside each other.

10. Match the underlined word or phrase with a definition.

- A. Introducing or using traditional ways of doing things.
- B. Expensive.
- C. Introducing or using new ideas or ways of doing things.
- D. Cheap.

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Part 2: Passage

Conventional trading methods of supermarket chains and multi-national companies can severely disadvantage producers and workers. This happens particularly in developing countries where small-scale producers are often exploited so that companies can continue to achieve substantial profit margins. They are pressured into offering their product for low prices. This in turn affects workers who may be paid less and have to work longer hours, often in poor conditions. This situation is further complicated by unstable world markets – the market price of goods frequently drops below the cost of their production. Many farmers have been forced to abandon their farms and migrate to urban areas in an attempt to find alternative employment.

Products such as bananas, rice, coffee, and cotton are mainly grown by small-scale farmers marketing their own produce. Fairtrade recognizes the benefit of offering producers a fair price for their goods in order to relieve poverty, improve conditions for their workers, and achieve sustainable development for their businesses. Small-scale producers are given priority over larger plantations enabling families to stay and work on their land using traditional methods.

The Fairtrade minimum price ensures that producers receive enough money to cover the cost of the sustainable production of their goods. Buyers are also obliged to offer long-term trading contracts so that producers can predict their income and make realistic business plans for the future. Valentín Chinchay, a farmer from a Fairtrade certified coffee cooperative in Ecuador, explains the difference that Fairtrade has made to him. ‘During the world coffee crises, our situation was desperate. We received between 20 and 25 dollars per 100 pounds [of coffee] ... many of the Ecuadorian coffee producers left. We are currently selling 80% of our total coffee production under Fairtrade terms. But more important than the higher price is the stability that Fairtrade brings. We are not as vulnerable as we used to be.’

Since the international FAIRTRADE Mark was launched in the Netherlands in 1988, consumer awareness has grown steadily. Over 70% of the UK population now recognize the FAIRTRADE Mark and many supermarkets have increased their stock of Fairtrade products in response to consumer demand. Globally, consumers now spend over £1.6 billion on Fairtrade products per year. Fairtrade currently benefits over seven million farmers, workers and their families in 58 developing countries.

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Part 2: Questions

11. What is the writer's main aim?
- A. To raise concern over the fairness of Fairtrade.
 - B. To compare Fairtrade with conventional trading methods.
 - C. To explain how Fairtrade coffee is produced.
 - D. To explain the aims of Fairtrade.
12. What is the author's opinion about the effect of conventional trading on poorer countries?
- A. Small-scale producers continue to achieve substantial profit margins.
 - B. Small-scale producers and workers suffer exploitation and hardship.
 - C. Small-scale producers want to offer their produce for low prices.
 - D. Unstable world markets, not conventional trading, affect small-scale producers.
13. What does 'their' refer to in the following sentence?
... can predict their income and make realistic business plans for the future.
- A. Producers.
 - B. Income.
 - C. Buyers.
 - D. Long-term trading contracts.
14. What does 'our' refer to in the following sentence?
... during the world coffee crises, our situation was desperate.
- A. Valentín Chinchay.
 - B. Multi-national companies.
 - C. Ecuadorian coffee producers.
 - D. Fairtrade representatives.
15. Producers and workers in poorer countries are often _____ by multi-national companies.
- A. paid a fair wage
 - B. exploited
 - C. forced to abandon their farms
 - D. ignored
16. Fairtrade gives priority to _____.
- A. supermarket chains
 - B. larger plantations
 - C. achieving substantial profit margins
 - D. producers who work on small farms or plantations

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17. Small-scale producers are guaranteed a fair deal due to _____.

- A. improved business planning
- B. the Fairtrade minimum price regulation
- C. sustainable development
- D. consumer demand

18. The world coffee crisis forced many farmers to _____.

- A. lose 80% of their profits
- B. demand long-term trading contracts
- C. charge a higher price for their coffee
- D. give up producing coffee

19. Fairtrade is _____.

- A. not currently very successful
- B. increasing in popularity
- C. available in 70% of UK supermarkets
- D. now a priority for multi-national companies and supermarket chains.

20. Which is the best title for the text?

- A. Why supermarkets need Fairtrade.
- B. How fair is Fairtrade?
- C. The benefits of Fairtrade.
- D. Fairtrade producers get a poor deal.

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Major sporting events such the Olympics are viewed as a potential source of economic growth. Organizers of the London 2012 Olympic Games are cautiously optimistic that the event will offer the UK a much-needed boost, not just to the economy, but also to the mood of its population during the current economic recession. Speaking to an audience of investors and sports administrators, former Olympic Gold medallist, Lord Coe, said that the event could contribute approximately £7 billion to the UK economy.

According to the Transport and General Workers' Union (T&G), the Olympics will provide opportunities for the regeneration of East London and for jobs creation, particularly in the manufacturing, construction, hospitality, and tourism sectors. In fact, it is estimated that around 12,000 jobs will be created in construction alone. This is welcome news for businesses and individuals that have faced poor employment opportunities in recent economic conditions. Vast sums of money will also be spent on improving London's transport network, which will continue to serve the city long after the games have finished.

Many of the UK's industries will benefit through construction contracts. An estimated £1 billion will be spent on building the Olympic Village and its facilities, and £350 million on the Media Centre. Steel for the Olympic Stadium comes from Bolton in Northern England and steel for the Aquatics Centre, where the swimming competitions will be held, is from South Wales. Both of these are areas that had been hit hard by the economic recession. In addition, Olympic business contracts have protected jobs in both England and Wales for the next two and a half years. Tony Woodley, General Secretary of the T&G, said, 'This is fantastic news for London. UK companies and their workforces should be at the forefront of the projects to deliver the quality venues for the quality games in 2012.'

Another contribution to economic growth will be the influx of foreign visitors to London. People will primarily come to watch the Olympics, but 90% of their time will be spent outside Olympic stadiums. They will undoubtedly spend time and money as tourists in London and in other areas of the UK. Further income is expected to be made through the sale of lucrative broadcasting rights and sponsorship contracts. Welcoming the potential for increased employment and improvements to the capital, Tony Woodley has said that ethical trading will also be a priority for the 2012 Olympics. The T&G hope that merchandising to promote the games is produced under fairtrade conditions.

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21. Organizers of London 2012 are certain the Olympics will help the economy.
A. True
B. False
C. Does not say
22. Lord Coe will contribute a large amount of money to the organizing committee.
A. True
B. False
C. Does not say
23. There will be a lot of new building in East London prior to 2012.
A. True
B. False
C. Does not say
24. British steel is considered the best quality steel in the world.
A. True
B. False
C. Does not say
25. Northern England and South Wales have not suffered during the recent recession.
A. True
B. False
C. Does not say
26. Work on Olympic projects will only be done by UK-based companies.
A. True
B. False
C. Does not say
27. Increased tourism during the Olympics is expected to contribute to the UK economy.
A. True
B. False
C. Does not say

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28. One major source of revenue is from television coverage of the Olympics.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Does not say

29. London 2012 has already attracted large numbers of sponsors.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Does not say

30. Tony Woodley isn't interested in the role of fairtrade companies in the Olympics.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Does not say