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CENTRO DE HUMANIDADES
COORDENADORIA GERAL DAS CASAS DE CULTURA ESTRANGEIRA
CASA DE CULTURA BRITÂNICA
EXAME DE PROFICIÊNCIA LEITORA EM LÍNGUA INGLESA

This test measures your ability to comprehend written materials. **EXAM CODE: PP-**

TIME: 70 minutes

DIRECTIONS:

Read the passage carefully and, for each question, choose the one best answer (A, B, C or D) based on what is stated in the passage or on what can be inferred from the passage. Then mark the letter on your answer sheet that matches the letter of the answer that you have selected. (5 points each correct answer)

Renewble Energy – Powering a Safer and Prosperous Future

1 Most of the greenhouse gases that trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere come from burning fossil fuels to produce energy, mainly for electricity and heat. In 2023, the power sector was the largest source of global greenhouse gas emissions. The science is clear: to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, emissions must be reduced by almost half by 2030 and reach net-zero by 2050. To achieve this, we must end our dependence on fossil fuels and invest in energy sources that are clean, affordable, sustainable, and reliable.

2 Renewable energy sources — sunlight, wind, water, organic waste, and heat from the Earth — are abundant and emit little to no greenhouse gases. Fossil fuels still account for nearly 60 per cent of electricity generation, but renewables are expanding rapidly. Between 2015 and 2024, renewable electricity capacity grew by around 2,600 gigawatts, a 140 per cent rise, while fossil fuel capacity increased by only 640 gigawatts (16 per cent).

3 Around 80 per cent of the global population lives in countries that import fossil fuels. This makes about 6 billion people vulnerable to price volatility and political crises. Renewables, by contrast, are available in all countries and can reduce dependence on imports. The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) estimates that by 2050, 90 per cent of the world's electricity could and should come from renewable energy. This shift could protect economies, create inclusive growth, and reduce poverty.

4 The cost of renewable technologies is also falling sharply. Over 90 per cent of new renewable projects are now cheaper than fossil fuel alternatives. Solar and offshore wind are respectively 41 per cent and 53 per cent cheaper. Falling prices make renewables especially attractive to low- and middle-income nations where most future electricity demand will occur. Africa, for example, could produce ten times more electricity than it needs — entirely from renewables — by 2040.

5 Renewable energy can also meet growing electricity demands driven by Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data centres. A single AI data centre can consume as much power as 100,000 homes. Tech companies are urged to run on 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030. By then, renewables could supply 65 per cent of global electricity, decarbonizing 90 per cent of the power sector by 2050 and helping to slow climate change. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), about 99 per cent of people breathe air that exceeds safe pollution limits. Air pollution causes about 7 million premature deaths annually and costs $8.1 trillion a year — roughly 6.1 per cent of global GDP. Most pollutants come from burning fossil fuels. Shifting to clean energy would therefore reduce both climate and health damage.

6 Clean energy already employs more people than fossil fuels, with nearly 35 million workers worldwide. In 2023, 16.2 million people worked in the renewable sector, up from 13.7 million the year before. Each dollar invested in renewables creates three times as many jobs as in fossil fuels. The International Energy Agency (IEA) projects that by 2030, while about 5 million fossil fuel jobs may disappear, 14 million new clean energy jobs will emerge — a net gain of 9 million. Including industries like electric vehicles and hydrogen technologies, the total could exceed 30 million jobs. Ensuring a just transition will be essential to leave no one behind.

7 In 2024, $2 trillion was invested in clean energy, $800 billion more than in fossil fuels, and up nearly 70 per cent over the last decade. Clean energy drove 10 per cent of global GDP growth in 2023. Emissions from energy grew only 0.8 per cent in 2024, while the global economy grew more than 3 per cent. Yet fossil fuels still receive heavy subsidies: $7 trillion in 2022 through direct support, tax breaks, and unpriced damages. By comparison, about

$4.5 trillion a year is needed for renewable investments until 2030 to reach net-zero by 2050. Although the upfront costs are high, investing in renewables pays off. The reduction in pollution and climate impacts could save up to $4.2 trillion annually by 2030. Reliable renewable systems can also reduce market shocks, strengthen energy security, and support a cleaner, fairer future.

Adapted from: https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/raising-ambition/renewable-energy

1. According to the text, what was the largest source of global greenhouse gas emissions in 2023?
(A) The manufacturing sector that depends on coal-based energy.
(B) The power sector responsible for electricity and heat generation.
(C) The transportation industry that relies heavily on oil and gas.
(D) The agricultural sector producing methane and nitrous oxide.

2. What can be inferred about countries that import fossil fuels, according to paragraph 3?
(A) They face hihger exposure to price and political risks.
(B) They have greater control over domestic energy prices.
(C) They are less exposed to international conflicts.
(D) They benefit more from fossil fuel subsidies.

3. The word urged in paragraph 5 is closest in meaning to
(A) encouraged
(B) permitted
(C) ignored
(D) delayed

4. What is the author's main purpose in mentioning air pollution and health costs in paragraph 5?
(A) To link clean energy with health benefits.
(B) To question WHO's reports on clean air.
(C) To emphasize the difficulty of replacing fossil fuels entirely.
(D) To explain how AI directly contributes to air pollution.

5. Why does the author cite numerical data, such as "7 million premature deaths" and "$8.1 trillion a year"?
(A) To highlight the scale of fossil fuel harm.
(B) To suggest that statistics are unclear.
(C) To critisize the exaggerated economic losses are
(D) To show that air pollution mainly affects poor countries.

6. In paragraph 7, the word this in "Although the upfront costs are high, this pays off" refers to
(A) investing in renewable systems.
(B) subsidizing fossil fuel industries.
(C) reducing fossil fuel emissions.
(D) limiting global GDP growth.

7. Where would the following sentence best fit in paragraph 7?
"Such disparities in financial support slow progress toward global decarbonization."
(A) After "Clean energy drove 10 per cent of global GDP growth in 2023."
(B) After "By comparison, about $4.5 trillion a year is needed for…"
(C) Before "Yet fossil fuels still receive heavy subsidies…"
(D) Before "Although the upfront costs are high…"

8. Which sentence best captures the overall message of paragraph 7?
(A) Early costs lead to major long-term rewards.
(B) Renewable funding depends on trade policy.
(C) Fossil fuels generate fairer markets.
(D) Energy subsidies will end by 2030.

9. What role does paragraph 6 play in the overall structure of the passage?
(A) It introduces the global financial outlook for the energy market.
(B) It discusses the health implications of fossil fuel dependence.
(C) It summarizes the environmental benefits of renewables.
(D) It illustrates how renewable energy creates jobs.

10. Which of the following best expresses the central idea of the passage as a whole?
(A) Fossil fuels remain vital for globla progress.
(B) Expanding renewables is key to a stable and fair planet.
(C) Clean energy remains too costly and unreliable for widespread use.
(D) Countries should delay renewable investments until new technologies mature.

11. ( ) Teacher absences have decreased since schools reopened.

12. ( ) Some districts allow more than twice as many leave days as others.

13. ( ) Teachers were absent an average of twenty days per year before the pandemic.

14. ( ) Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing eighteen or more school days.

15. ( ) Stress and burnout are major reasons teachers miss work.

16. ( ) Teacher absenteeism has little effect on student performance in mathematics.

17. ( ) Absenteeism harms low-income and minority-serving schools the most.

18. ( ) Schools rarely struggle to hire substitute teachers.

19. ( ) Data-tracking systems help schools recognize absence patterns.

20. ( ) The author argues that strict punishment is the best way to reduce absences.

ANSWER TABLE

No.	Answer	Location	Explanation
1	**B**	P1	The paragraph states that absences continued to rise even after schools returned to normal, making this a major ongoing concern.
2	**A**	P2	The paragraph explains how teachers' time off works and compares it with other professions, showing that this is its purpose.
3	**A**	P3	Chronic absenteeism is described as harmful to school culture and student learning, matching option A.
4	**D**	P4	Deeper problems refers to underlying systemic issues like stress, burnout, and lack of support.
5	**C**	P4	The paragraph explains teachers miss more days partly because the job is emotionally demanding.
6	**C**	P4	Heightened means increased in intensity, especially relating to illness caution after the pandemic.
7	**B**	P5	The paragraph shows that fewer teacher absences improve achievement and motivation.
8	**A**	P6	These findings refers to evidence showing absenteeism harms equity and student outcomes.
9	**B**	P7	Paragraph 7 explains that data-tracking helps manage absence patterns.
10	**D**	Entire text	The overall message is that supporting teachers and managing absences improves student outcomes.
11	**F**	P1	Teacher absences increased, not decreased.
12	**T**	P2	Hartford allows 25 days, Dallas allows 10, showing large variation.
13	**F**	P3	Pre-pandemic averages were 9–11 days, not 20.
14	**T**	P3	Chronic absenteeism is defined as 18+ days.
15	**T**	P4	Burnout and stress are major causes of absence.
16	**F**	P5	Math scores are especially harmed by teacher absences.
17	**T**	P6	Absenteeism is more common and more harmful in underserved schools.
18	**F**	P1	Over three-quarters of schools report difficulty hiring substitutes.
19	**T**	P7	Data-tracking reveals patterns and helps early intervention.
20	**F**	P7	The author advocates support and better conditions, not punishment.