



**Concours d'entrée au cycle supérieur**  
**Session septembre 2017**

**Epreuve de langue anglaise**

**Durée : 02 heures / coef. : 02**

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*Read the following text and then answer the questions which follow.*

**Climate change**

1. It is hard to deny today that a serious climate change is taking place. It is basically the phenomenon of global warming. This refers to the rise in average surface temperatures on Earth. An overwhelming scientific consensus maintains that climate change is due primarily to the human use of fuels, which releases carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the air. The gases trap heat within the atmosphere, which can have several effects on ecosystems, including rising sea levels, severe weather events, and droughts that render landscapes more susceptible to wildfires.
2. There is broad-based agreement within the scientific community that climate change is real. Indeed, the community affirms that climate change is not an ordinary natural phenomenon, and is most certainly due to human activity.
3. The primary cause of climate change is the burning of fossil fuels, such as oil and coal, which emits greenhouse gases into the atmosphere—primarily carbon dioxide. Other human activities, such as land over-exploitation and deforestation, also contribute to the proliferation of greenhouse gases that cause climate change.
4. While some quantities of these gases are naturally occurring and are part of Earth's temperature control system, the atmospheric concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> is definitely the result of human activity. In fact, this concentration did not rise above 300 parts per million between the beginning of human civilization, about 10,000 years ago, and 1900. Today it is at about 400 parts per million, a level not reached in more than 400,000 years.
5. Even small increases in Earth's temperature caused by climate change can have severe effects. The earth's average temperature has gone up 1.4° Fahrenheit over the past century and is expected to rise as much as 11.5° F over the next century. That might not seem much, but the average temperature during the last Ice Age was about 4° F lower than it is today.
6. Rising sea levels due to the melting of the polar ice caps (again, caused by climate change) contribute to greater storm damage; warming ocean temperatures are associated with stronger and more frequent storms; additional rainfall, particularly during severe weather events, leads to flooding and other damage; an increase in the incidence and severity of wildfires threatens habitats, homes, and lives; and heat waves contribute to human deaths and other consequences.



7. While consensus among nearly all scientists, scientific organizations, and governments is that climate change is happening and is caused by human activity, a small minority of voices questions the validity of such assertions and prefers to doubt about clear facts. Climate change deniers often claim that recent changes attributed to human activity can be seen as part of the natural variations in Earth's climate and temperature, and that it is difficult or impossible to establish a direct connection between climate change and any single weather event, such as disastrous hurricanes. While this last idea is generally true, decades of data and analysis support the reality of climate change—and the human factor in this process. In any case, economists agree that acting to reduce fossil fuel emissions would be far less expensive than dealing with the consequences of not doing so.

### COMPREHENSION (8 points)

**I –** The text indicates that the causes of the climate change are mainly in relation with industry and agriculture. Find indications about that in the text. (1 pt)

**II -** The text mentions two opposite attitudes about the climate change (Complete with information from the text): (0.5 pt)

- Some people think that climate change is the result of ....., while some others think that it is .....

**III –** The text insists on saying that the majority of the scientists have the same attitude about the climate change. Find 3 expressions in the text that show this. (0.75 pt. 0.25 each)

- a. ....
- b. ....
- c. ....

**IV-** The text mentions several negative consequences of the climate change. Say which of the following are NOT among these consequences? (1.25 pt).

- a. Droughts
- b. Storms
- c. Wildfires
- d. Deforestation
- e. Burning of fossil fuels
- f. Earthquakes
- g. Floods
- h. Rising temperature
- i. Hurricanes

**V–** What is the right definition of an "ecosystem"? (0.25 pt).

- a- A specific economic system which relies mainly on natural resources
- b- A system including all living things, such as plants, animals and organisms, in a given area, interacting with each other, and also with their non-living environments.
- c- A system which improves the productivity of the economy.

**VI –** Read the text, and then say whether the following statements are right or wrong and give arguments from the text: (1 pt)

- a) A small part of greenhouse gases is the result of the evolution of nature (Right/Wrong) .....
- b) Over the next century, the earth's average temperature will be five times higher than the average temperature during the last Ice Age (Right/Wrong) .....

- c) Over the last century, the atmospheric concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> has increased by one fourth  
(Right/Wrong)  
.....

- d) The climate change has slowed down in the last period. (Right/Wrong)  
.....

**VII-** Find in the text words or phrases having the opposite meaning of the following words: (1 pt)

- a) Floods
- b) Certainty
- c) To confirm
- d) The freezing

**VIII -** Identify the verb (s) in the following sentence. (0.25 pt)

- The gases trap heat within the atmosphere.

**IX-**According to you, how can we reduce the serious consequences of climate change?  
(2pts). ( 3-4 lines)

**LANGUAGE (8 points)**

**I. Choose the right alternative (1 point; 0.25 each)**

- a) The landlady was (satisfied/satisfactory) with the repairs carried out by the carpenter.
- b) She asked the careers officer to (advice/advise) her on the best opportunities currently available on the job market.
- c) Patricia feels like (laugh/laughing) every time her husband mimics his mother-in-law telling a joke.
- d) They have not met again (for/since) 2005.

**II. Fill in the blank with the right preposition (1 point; 0.25 each)**

- a) The company invites applications ..... talented project-bearer candidates.
- b) Before you are interviewed ..... the manager, you have to call ..... his secretary and fix an appointment.
- c) I have been told that Robert's son is good ..... mathematics.

**III. Put the verbs in brackets in the right tense and form according to English usage (3 points; 0.5 each)**

- a) "Will you please stop at the next petrol station? I (buy) some gasoline."
- b) "I'm afraid you (miss) the beginning of the film."
- c) My house (rob), last night, when I (jog) in the park.
- d) If you (not to make) up your mind right away, it (be) too late.



**IV. Put the words in brackets in the right form (2 points; 0.5 each)**

- a) "The boss agreed to cut our (to work) week from forty-eight to thirty-five hours."
- b) "Don't forget to acknowledge (to receive) of my letter as soon as you get it."
- c) My elder brother has been placed on the (to retire) list.
- d) Catherine Destivelle, a rock climber, started (to climb) when she was five.

**V. Put in the plural (1 point)**

- a) "Tell this child to cut up the loaf!"
- b) "Can you see the calf over there?"

**WRITING (4points/20 lines)**

How can the coming municipal elections in Tunisia contribute to enhancing democratic participation and democratic governance at local level?