

Part 2: Reading comprehension

HUGE REDUCTIONS IN MEAT-EATING 'ESSENTIAL' TO AVOID CLIMATE BREAKDOWN

Huge reductions in meat-eating are essential to avoid dangerous climate change, according to one of the most comprehensive analyses of the food system's impact on the environment. In Western countries, the study states that beef consumption needs to fall by 90 % and be replaced by five times more beans and peas. The research also finds that enormous changes to farming are needed to avoid destroying the planet's ability to feed the 10 billion people expected to be on the planet in a few decades.

Food production already causes great damage to the environment, via greenhouse gases from **livestock**, deforestation and water shortages from farming, and vast dead zones in oceans from agricultural pollution. But without action, its impact will get far worse as the world population rises by 2.3 billion people by 2050. At the same time, global income is increasing, enabling more people to eat meat-rich Western-style diets. "It is pretty shocking," said Marco Springmann at the University of Oxford, who led the research team. "We are really risking the sustainability of the whole system. If we are interested in people being able to farm and eat, then we better not do that."

The new study follows the publication of a UN report in which the world's leading scientists warned there are just 12 years in which to keep global warming under 1.5 °C, beyond which even half a degree will significantly worsen the risks of **drought**, floods and extreme heat. The report said consuming less meat and dairy products (like eggs and cheese) was important. Nevertheless, current trends are in the opposite direction.

The new research, published in the journal *Nature*, is the most thorough to date and combined data from many countries to evaluate the impact of food production on the global environment. It then looked at what could be done to stop the **looming** food crisis. "There is no magic bullet," said Springmann. "But dietary and technological change [on farms] are the two essential things, and hopefully they can be complemented by a reduction in food loss and waste." About a third of food produced today never reaches the table.

The researchers recommended a global shift to a "flexitarian" diet in order to keep climate change under 2 °C. This flexitarian diet means drastic changes for many people: the average European or American would need to eat 75 % less beef, 90 % less pork and half the number of eggs, while tripling consumption of legumes such as beans, peas, and lentils and quadrupling that of nuts and seeds. This would cut emissions from livestock by 50 %, and better management of **manure** would enable further cuts. In contrast to what needs to occur in the U.S. and Europe, the millions of people in poor nations who are undernourished need to eat a little more meat and dairy.

Reducing meat consumption might be achieved by a mix of education, taxes, subsidies for plant-based foods and changes to school and workplace menus, the scientists said. To prevent deforestation, water shortages and pollution from overuse of fertiliser, they recommend profound changes in farming practices.

Ultimately, we live on a finite planet, with finite resources. It is a myth to imagine that there is a technological solution allowing us to produce as much food as we might ever want, allowing us to overeat and throw food away. The effects of the current food system on the environment will not allow future generations to live on a stable, ecologically rich planet.

Text adapted from an article by
Damian CARRINGTON. *The Guardian* [online] (October 10, 2018)

livestock: ramaderia / ganado

drought: sequera / sequía

looming: que s'acosta / que se avecina

manure: fems / estiércol

QUESTIONS

Choose the best answer according to the text. Only ONE answer is correct.

[3 points: 0.375 points for each correct answer. Wrong answers will be penalized by deducting 0.125 points. There is no penalty for unanswered questions.]

		Espai per al corrector/a		
		Correcta	Incorrecta	No contestada
1.	In order to avoid environmental damage ☐ people should eat less meat. ☐ people need to eat more fish. ☐ people should eat more meat and dairy. ☐ vegan diets need to be adopted.	☐	☐	☐
2.	In a few decades, the world population ☐ will increase to 2.3 billion people. ☐ will increase by 70 %. ☐ will increase to 10 billion people. ☐ will not change.	☐	☐	☐
3.	If global warming is kept under 1.5 °C ☐ traditional farming areas will experience major floods. ☐ the risk of drought, floods and extreme heat will increase. ☐ we will have a dozen years of continuous drought, floods and extreme heat. ☐ we will reduce the risk of drought, floods and extreme heat.	☐	☐	☐
4.	The report states that dietary habits and changes in farming should be accompanied by ☐ more emissions from livestock. ☐ less impact on beef production. ☐ a decrease in food loss and waste. ☐ a global increase in meat consumption.	☐	☐	☐
5.	A flexitarian diet implies ☐ eating mainly raw vegetables. ☐ eating no meat from farms. ☐ eating more meat and less legumes. ☐ eating more beans and peas and less meat.	☐	☐	☐
6.	In order to be effective against climate breakdown, dietary changes ☐ should be applied equally across the world's population. ☐ should be applied more strictly in developed countries. ☐ are unnecessary in developing countries. ☐ should not be applied in the U.S. or U.K.	☐	☐	☐
7.	What does the report recommend to reduce people's consumption of meat? ☐ Adopting traditional European farming practices everywhere. ☐ Using more fertilisers in developing countries. ☐ Changing menus served to children in schools. ☐ Clearing forests to increase the land available for agriculture.	☐	☐	☐
8.	Which of the following statements is NOT true? ☐ The Earth's resources are limited. ☐ The current food system does not enable future generations to have a sustainable planet. ☐ Technology will help us to continue with food production as we know it now. ☐ The current food system has a damaging impact on our climate.	☐	☐	☐
		Correctes	Incorrectes	No contestades
Recompte de les respostes		☐	☐	☐
Nota de comprensió escrita				

Part 3: Writing

Choose ONE topic. Your answer should be 125-150 words in length. There is no specific penalty for exceeding 150 words in length. Extra points are not given for exceeding 150 words.
[4 points]

1. Governments often try to influence what people choose to eat or drink by taxing some foods and beverages more than others. For example, sugary drinks have an extra tax on them in many places (Catalonia included), and the sale of alcoholic drinks is controlled by governments in most countries and highly taxed in many. The reading comprehension text suggests that meat should be taxed more in order to reduce the amount of meat people eat. Should governments try to influence our dietary habits? **Write a for-and-against essay.**
2. Reality television is extremely popular in many countries. Why are reality shows so successful? **Write an opinion essay.**
3. Many authors have written about time travel, and there have been several successful films about it, too. If you could time travel, would you visit the past or the future? Where would you go, and why? **Write an essay** about your ideal time travel experience.

Grammar	
Vocabulary	
Text	
Maturity	
Total	
Nota de la redacció	