

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (       ) Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. (23 marks)

**B1 level**

No. of Words: 763

## 2015 Paris Climate Summit

6 January 2016

[1] The 21st UN climate summit (COP21) ended on 12 December in Paris. The world's media praised the summit as 'the most important environmental meeting in history' and the agreement 'a major leap for mankind'.

[2] During the two-week international conference, representatives from all over the world  
 5 discussed a global agreement on the reduction of climate change. Many people think that the conference's success has brought a happy ending to 2015, after so many parts of the world had been threatened by terrorism and Europe challenged with the refugee crisis.

[3] After two weeks of discussions, participating countries agreed to limit the rise of global temperature to 'well below' 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and recognized that avoiding 1.5°C  
 10 of warming 'would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change'. Given the links between global warming and the emission of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, countries have agreed to reduce emissions at the Paris summit. To meet the targets, they will use cleaner sources of energy instead of fossil fuels.

[4] Led by Laurent Fabius, President of the Paris climate change conference, the agreement  
 15 reached by almost 200 nations shows their determination to safeguard our planet against the threat of dangerous warming caused by human activities. In addition to aiming to meet the temperature targets, countries have to achieve a balance between carbon emissions and carbon storage by the second half of the century. Their progress in reducing carbon emissions is to be reviewed every five years, and a yearly US\$100 billion in climate finance is to be given to  
 20 developing countries by 2020.

[5] While countries will have the legal responsibility to carry out certain aspects in the Paris deal, they do not have the legal responsibility to carry out other terms, such as the temperature targets. Moreover, experts have warned that the targets can hardly be achieved just by reducing carbon emissions alone. More drastic steps will have to be taken, including the rapid reduction  
 25 of carbon intensity of the global economy and the use of technologies to remove carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Despite the developments in technologies such as carbon capture and storage (CCS), the effectiveness of many of these measures in countering climate change is still uncertain. Scientists fear these new but not well-investigated technologies could lead to unexpected side effects.

30 [6] International representatives' pride in their success in making the deal in Paris was a big contrast to the atmosphere that appeared in the last global attempt to reach an agreement in combating climate change. The Copenhagen climate summit six years ago turned into chaos and blames. However, in a city recently hit by terrorist attacks, all countries were determined to make the summit successful. An overall encouraging agreement was reached with developed  
35 countries, rising economies and some of the world's poorest nations promising to cut down on emissions.

[7] Regardless of whether the temperature targets are achievable or not, world leaders believe that the summit will change the current environmental condition. Al Gore, the former US vice-president, who helped draft the 1997 Kyoto climate treaty and was present at the Paris  
40 conference, appeared moved when the French Minister of Foreign Affairs announced the adoption of the agreement. Later in a statement, Gore said that the agreement shows that the change from a fossil fuel-driven economy to one that is powered by sustainable economic growth is now 'firmly and inevitably underway'.

[8] The COP21 is also a diplomatic success because it also considered the concerns of  
45 developing nations. Giza Gaspar Martins, the chairman of the group representing some of the world's poorest countries, welcomed the deal and said that they could not have hoped for a better outcome. Indeed, the 1.5°C target would not have been included in the deal if the most developed nations had controlled the conference. However, many people question how 'global' the agreement has actually turned out to be. Even though there is scientific evidence for the 2°C  
50 limit, it was chosen by developed countries. Things would have been different if it had been chosen by Pacific island nations like Tuvalu and Palau, which face existential threat of rising sea levels.

[9] Whether the deal is the success of international diplomacy or political skills and strategic compromise, it is the atmosphere we are dealing with — one that only responds to the laws of  
55 physics. Whether or not agreements like the Paris deal will make a difference depends also on the will of our leaders. Only time — though little we may have — will tell if we are able to save the planet.

## Comprehension

1. How many UN climate summit has been held so far?

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2. In line 3, 'a major leap' means ...

- A. a long jump.  
B. a big increase.  
C. an important change.  
D. a quick move.

A	B	C	D
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. What is the aim of COP21?

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4. According to paragraph 3, participating countries agreed that to reduce the negative effects of climate change considerably, it is best to keep the increase in global temperature to ...

- A. less than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.  
B. 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.  
C. 1.5°C–2°C above pre-industrial levels.  
D. 2°C above pre-industrial levels.

A	B	C	D
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5. According to paragraph 3, why have participating countries agreed to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases?

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6. Use ONE word to complete each blank.

Faced with the \_\_\_\_\_ of global warming, participating countries at COP21 are \_\_\_\_\_ to do something to protect our planet.

7. The phrase 'by the second half of the century' (line 18) means at or before .....

- A. the mid-20th century.  
B. the end of the 20th century  
C. the mid-21st century.  
D. the end of the 21st century.

A	B	C	D
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. According to paragraph 5, what may affect the effectiveness of controlling the temperature as agreed in the Paris climate summit? (3 marks)

- i) \_\_\_\_\_  
ii) \_\_\_\_\_  
iii) \_\_\_\_\_

9. What does 'a city recently hit by terrorist attacks' (line 33) refer to?

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10. Based on paragraphs 6 and 7, decide whether the following statements are **True**, **False** or the information is **Not Given**. Blacken ONE circle only for each statement. (3 marks)

	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>NG</b>
i) The Copenhagen climate summit has failed.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ii) Both rich and poor countries were at the Copenhagen climate summit.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
iii) Al Gore was sceptical about the use of the Paris treaty.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. Find a word in paragraph 7 that means 'undoubtedly'.

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12. Match the main points (A–D) with one of the corresponding paragraphs on the left. Write the correct letter (A–D) on the line next to the paragraph number. ONE main point is NOT used. (3 marks)

<b>Paragraph No.</b>	<b>Main Point</b>
i) Paragraph 7 _____	A. Poorer nations contributed in the conference although some decisions are still made by developed countries.
ii) Paragraph 8 _____	B. To combat climate change, our leaders need to be determined to make necessary changes.
iii) Paragraph 9 _____	C. People at the conference in general welcomed the agreement.
	D. Al Gore has done a lot since the Kyoto climate treaty to enable the success of the Paris climate conference.

13. What may happen to Pacific nations like Tuvalu and Palau if global warming continues?

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14. Match each person with the correct speech bubble. Write the letter of the speech bubble on the line next to the person given. (4 marks)

<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; width: 200px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> A. The agreement is useless if we don't implement it. </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; width: 200px;"> C. We're so glad that our voices were heard. </div>	i) Laurent Fabius: _____ ii) Al Gore: _____ iii) Giza Gaspar Martins: _____ iv) The writer: _____	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; width: 200px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> B. I was so touched when the agreement was finally adopted! </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; width: 200px;"> D. I'm honoured to have chaired such a fruitful climate summit. </div>
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## 2015 Paris Climate Summit

### Answer key

1. 21 (line 1)
2. C
3. To reach a global agreement on the reduction of climate change (line 5)
4. A (lines 9–10)
5. There is a link between global warming and the emission of greenhouse. // Greenhouse gases lead to global warming. (lines 10–12)
6. threat (line 16) // danger (line 16); determined (line 15)
7. C
8. (i) Countries do not have the legal responsibility to carry out some terms in the agreement (and they may not do it). (lines 21–22)  
(ii) Reducing carbon emissions alone is not enough to reach the targets (lines 23–24)  
(iii) The effectiveness of reducing dioxide in countering climate change is still uncertain. (lines 26–27)
9. Paris (line 1)
10. (i) T (lines 33–34)  
(ii) NG  
(iii) F (lines 42–43)
11. inevitably (line 43)
12. (i) C  
(ii) A  
(iii) B
13. They will not exist. // The sea level will rise and cover them. (lines 51–52)
14. (i) D (line 14)  
(ii) B (lines 38–40)  
(iii) C (lines 45–47)  
(iv) A (line 55–56)