

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

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. (35 marks)

**B2 level**

No. of Words: 884

## 2015 Paris Climate Summit

6 January 2016

[1] ‘With a small hammer you can achieve great things,’ declared Laurent Fabius, president of the Paris climate change conference, as he gavelled the agreement, bringing an end to the two weeks of tense negotiations and, perhaps more importantly, to the fossil fuel era.

[2] Ended on 12 December in Paris, the 21st UN climate summit (COP21) was unanimously  
5 hailed by the world’s media as ‘the most important environmental meeting in history’ and the agreement ‘a major leap for mankind’. It was a two-week international conference of marathon negotiating sessions, where delegates from all over the world discussed a global agreement on the reduction of climate change. Many would say the conference’s success perhaps concluded the rather tempestuous 2015 — consider the threat of global terrorism and Europe’s refugee  
10 crisis — on a somewhat more heartening note.

[3] At the core of the deal that culminated two weeks of negotiations are targets so ambitious that many of the world’s climate analysts roll their eyes: the agreement aims to limit the rise of global temperature to ‘well below’ 2°C above pre-industrial levels and recognizes that avoiding 1.5°C of warming ‘would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change’. Given  
15 the well-established links between global warming and the emission of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, countries have pledged to reduce emissions at the Paris summit and the targets are to be met through a worldwide shift away from fossil fuels and towards cleaner sources of energy.

[4] Under Fabius, the deal struck at the conference on the outskirts of the French capital was  
20 no ordinary agreement. Agreed on by almost 200 nations, the accord signifies the iron will of the world’s nations to safeguard our planet against the threat of dangerous warming caused by human activities. In addition to aiming to meet the temperature targets, countries are to peak greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible and achieve a balance between carbon emissions and carbon storage by the second half of the century. Countries’ progress on curbing carbon  
25 emissions is to be reviewed every five years, while a yearly US\$100 billion in climate finance is to be allocated to developing countries by 2020.

[5] While certain aspects of the Paris deal are legally binding, which means that countries will have the legal obligation to enforce terms included in those sections, parts of the pact, most notably the temperature targets themselves, will not be legally binding. Moreover, experts have  
30 warned that the targets will be close to unfeasible just by curbing carbon emissions alone. More

drastic steps will have to be taken, including a rapid decarbonization of the global economy and the deployment of technologies to remove atmospheric carbon dioxide. Despite the promising developments we have witnessed in technologies such as carbon capture and storage (CCS), the effectiveness of many of these measures in countering climate change is yet to be proved. They  
35 are at best still in their embryonic stages and at worst not even in existence. Scientists fear these new but not well-investigated technologies could lead to unanticipated side effects.

[6] The palpable sense of triumphalism among the international negotiators in Paris was in marked contrast to the atmosphere emerged from the last global attempt to forge a concerted front in combating climate change. The Copenhagen climate summit six years ago collapsed  
40 into chaos and recriminations, whereas in a city recently hit by terrorist attacks the collective will seemed to have prevailed and an overall encouraging deal was struck to commit developed countries, rising economies and some of the world's most impoverished nations to cut down on emissions.

[7] Irrespective of how attainable the temperature targets are, world leaders have lauded it as a  
45 game-changing achievement. Al Gore, the former US vice-president, who helped draft the 1997 Kyoto climate treaty and was present at the Paris conference, appeared evidently moved when the pact was announced adopted by the French Minister of Foreign Affairs. Later in a statement, Gore said that the landmark accord signals that the transformation from a fossil fuel-driven economy to one powered by sustainable economic growth is now 'firmly and inevitably'  
50 underway'.

[8] Some has called COP21 the world's greatest diplomatic success. The Paris talks are seen as an occasion where developing nations have had their concerns attended to. 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  
55 aspirational 1.5°C target would not have been included in the deal if the most developed nations had dominated the entire conference. That being said, many question how 'global' the agreement has actually turned out to be. Even though there is concrete scientific evidence for the 2°C limit, it was in any case chosen by developed countries. Things would have been different if it had been chosen by Pacific island nations like Tuvalu and Palau, which face  
60 existential threat of rising sea levels.

[9] Consider it success of international diplomacy or mere political craft and strategic compromise, it is the atmosphere we are dealing with — one that only responds to the uncompromising laws of 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 —  
65 will tell if we are capable of saving the planet.

## Comprehension

1. Why does Laurent Fabius 'gavelled the agreement' (line 2)?  
A. Different nations have come to a consensus.  
B. The court was too noisy for the meeting to continue.  
C. He did not like the agreement.  
D. He wanted to signal the end of the fossil fuel era.  

A

B

C

D

☐

☐

☐

☐
2. According to paragraph 1, what is one of the 'great things' (line 1) achieved with the small hammer?  
  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why is the agreement hailed as 'a major leap for mankind' (line 6)?  
  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. i) What was the COP21 compared to in paragraph 2?  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
ii) Why was this comparison made?  
  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Find a word in paragraph 2 which means the opposite of 'peaceful'.  
  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Complete this summary of paragraph 3 by choosing a word from the eight options given below. Write the correct word in the space provided. Each word can be used ONCE only.

(3 marks)

accessible	contemptuous	determined	feasible
laid-back	optimistic	sceptical	unreachable

Many climate analysts are (i) \_\_\_\_\_ about the summit as the targets seemed (ii) \_\_\_\_\_. The participating countries, however, are (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ about shifting to cleaner sources of energy.

7. Which of the following can best replace 'significantly' in line 14?  
A. importantly  
B. gloriously  
C. considerably  
D. successfully  

A

B

C

D

☐

☐

☐

☐

8. Based on paragraph 4, 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 agreement indicates that the world is resolute in protecting Earth against global warming.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ii) According to the agreement, countries should start reducing their greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
iii) The US is responsible for coordinating the yearly climate finance for developing countries.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. What does it mean that the temperature targets ‘will not be legally binding’ (line 29)?

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10. According to paragraph 5, what is considered unfeasible by the experts?

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11. What does ‘embryonic stages’ (line 35) suggest about these carbon removal technologies?

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12. What are the two problems countries have to face if they want to use technologies to combat climate change? (2 marks)

i) 

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ii) 

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13. Which of the following best explain ‘atmosphere’ in line 38?

A. The gasses surrounding Earth				
B. The air in a place				
C. A pleasurable mood	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
D. The tone or mood of a place	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

14. What is the attempt to fight climate change compared to in paragraph 6?

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15. What does ‘the collective will’ (lines 40–41) refer to?

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16. Who was the 'French Minister of Foreign Affairs' (line 47) who announced the adoption of the Paris conference pact?

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17. What was Al Gore's role in the climate conferences? (2 marks)

i) \_\_\_\_\_

ii) \_\_\_\_\_

18. Find two words in paragraph 7 that mean the same as 'agreement'. (2 marks)

i) \_\_\_\_\_ ii) \_\_\_\_\_

19. Why is COP21 considered a 'diplomatic success' (line 51)?

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20. Below is a summary paragraph 8. In three of the lines, there is ONE mistake. If you find a mistake, underline the mistake and replace the word with one that expresses the correct idea. Write the word in the space on the right. If there is no mistake, put a tick (✓) in the space. The first has been done for you. (4 marks)

	Summary	Correction
e.g.	Even the world's <u>richest</u> countries welcome the deal in Paris,	<i>poorest</i>
i)	and thanks to them, a specific target was excluded in the deal.	
ii)	Nonetheless, if big nations had had a louder voice in the meeting,	
iii)	a higher temperature limit would have been set because they	
iv)	are likely to be drowned should sea levels continue to rise.	

21. Which of the following can best replace 'That being said' (line 56)?

A. With all due respect

B. However

C. At the same time

D. On the other hand

A      B      C      D  
☐   ☐   ☐   ☐

22. What is the importance of 'strategic compromise' (lines 61–62) in face of the 'uncompromising laws of physics' (line 63)? (3 marks)

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# 2015 Paris Climate Summit

## Answer key

1. A
2. Bringing an end to the fossil fuel era (lines 2–3)
3. Nothing so drastic has been agreed on before.
4. (i) A marathon (line 6)  
(ii) It was a long conference of two weeks, similar to a marathon run, which is long.
5. tempestuous (line 9)
6. (i) sceptical (line 12)  
(ii) unreachable (line 11)  
(iii) determined (line 16)
7. C
8. (i) T (lines 20–21)  
(ii) F (lines 22–23)  
(iii) NG
9. Countries do not have the legal obligation to meet the temperature targets. (lines 27–28)
10. Meeting the target of limiting the increase in temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels just by curbing carbon emissions alone (lines 29–30)
11. They are still new (and not well-investigated). (line 36)
12. (i) These technologies may not exist. (line 35)  
(ii) These technologies may have side effects. (line 36)
13. D
14. A war (lines 38–39: forge a concerted front in combating)
15. The determination of the developed countries, rising economies and some of the world's most impoverished nations in cutting down on emissions (lines 41–43)
16. Laurent Fabius (line 1)
17. (i) He helped draft the 1997 Kyoto climate treaty. (lines 45–46)  
(ii) He was a participant of the Paris climate conference. (line 46)
18. (i) pact (line 47)  
(ii) accord (line 48)
19. It takes into consideration the concerns of developing nations. (line 52)
- 20.

	Summary	Correction
e.g.	Even the world's <b>richest</b> countries welcome the deal in Paris,	<i>poorest</i>
i)	and thanks to them, a specific target was <b>excluded</b> in the deal.	included
ii)	Nonetheless, if <b>big</b> nations had had a louder voice in the meeting,	small / island
iii)	a <b>higher</b> temperature limit would have been set because they	lower
iv)	are likely to be drowned should sea levels continue to rise.	✓

21. B
22. Since the atmosphere obeys the uncompromising laws of physics, (1 mark)  
we can only reduce carbon emissions if we want to limit temperature increase. (1 mark)  
To do this, different countries have to negotiate (compromise) to come to an agreement. (1 mark)