

## READING COMPREHENSION

### 1. Let Them Eat Organic

Baron Wolfgang Von Münchhausen gets a premium price for his premium crops. Ten years ago, after getting ill from some of the 125 different pesticides he was spraying on his 300 acres of wheat, rye and other grains, he converted his farm in the German state of Schleswig-Holstein to organic agriculture, avoiding chemical fertilizers and toxic pesticides in favour of traditional measures. Today he delivers his produce to “bio” bakeries, where wealthy Germans pay extra for the privilege of eating organic bread. So what if Münchhausen’s yields are 50% lower than those of chemical-happy colleagues?

At least that’s how critics of organic farming see it. Organic farmers are just skimming the cream. Agrochemicals, the argument goes, were an essential part of the “green revolution” of the 1950s and 1960s that made it possible for Third World countries like India to feed their fast-growing populations. But is this really true? No, say scientists at two Swiss agricultural research institutes. Their study published recently in the journal *Science* shows that organic farming may make more economic sense than conventional farming for medium and small farms.

For the past 21 years, the researchers closely monitored four different cultivation methods, from organic to full-blown chemically fertilized to mixtures of the two. Organic methods, they say, turned out to be more “efficient and more sustainable” than conventional farming. Crop yields were lower, but by less than anticipated – about 20 percent. The organically grown plants needed disproportionately fewer resources: 40 percent fewer nutrients and 97 percent fewer pesticides (a limited use of chemicals was allowed). Since fewer chemicals were needed, the organic crops required 56 percent less energy. Microbes present in the soil helped plants take in nutrients more efficiently, which meant about half the nutrients were needed to produce the same amount of crop. Soils appeared to be healthier – they contained more fungi that help plants take in water, and earthworms and spiders were more prevalent. “In the end, organic farming is more economical,” says Andreas Fliesbach of the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, an author of the report.

But can organic farming feed the world? Critics have argued that the lower yields would require a proportionate increase in land under cultivation, which would cause an environmental nightmare. But the Swiss study undermines that argument. So does the experience of the world’s largest organic cooperative, in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, where 1,100 farmers in 77 villages have stopped using expensive chemicals and reverted to traditional methods and Western organic techniques. Planting a larger variety of crops has increased the diversity of natural predators such as wasps and spiders, which feed on pests. And after years of losing topsoil to erosion, the increased use of compost and manure has built it back up.

Farmers say they actually harvest more now than they did before. “When the farmers stopped fertilizing, the yields dropped the first three years,” says Rajeev Baruah, who heads the project and trains farmers. “Then they stabilized and started going up.” Baruah says yields of cotton, the main cash crop, are about 20 percent higher now than at neighbouring conventional farms. “It’s a matter of looking after the land and making sure the soil is healthy instead of just buying instant fertilizer and pesticides,” he says. That’s a luxury the Third World can afford.

**Task 1**

Read the text and provide short answers to the questions according to the example (0), in no more than 7 words.

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS	MARKING BOX	
		1.	2.
Why did W. Münchhausen convert his farm to an organic one?	0. <i>he got ill from pesticides</i>	✓	✓
What is the critics' main argument against organic farming?	1.		
How was the Swiss research carried out?	2.		
What findings of the research showed that organic farming is more economical?	3. 4. 5. 6.		
What environmental benefits did the change to organic farming bring in the Indian cooperative?	7. 8.		
How did yields change in the Indian project after using organic methods?	9. 10. 11.		
SCORE			

**Task 2**

Read the text again and use it to decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F). Write your answers in the table below according to the example (0). Please note that if all your answers are marked as true or as false, your answers will be disqualified.

STATEMENTS	TRUE OR FALSE	MARKING BOX	
		1.	2.
0. <i>Today W. Münchhausen produces organic bread.</i>	<i>F</i>	✓	✓
12. The yield of the organic farm monitored in the Swiss research was higher than expected.			
13. The Swiss study shows that it is possible to get higher yields without causing environmental problems.			
14. In the Indian cooperative farmers could harvest more because they increased the land for cultivation.			
15. Rajeev Baruah thinks organic farming is a luxury for Third World countries.			
SCORE			

## 2. Under the Hole in the Sky

**0** Maria Alvarado can tell whether it's a green-light day or an orange-light day or, as happens more frequently these days in the Chilean town of Punta Arenas, the world's most southerly city, a red-light day. Alvarado, 35, works 12-hour shifts in the streets of Punta Arenas keeping track of parked cars. She knows what it means when the sky turns white and the windows and the sea becomes blinding. It means the hole in the Earth's ozone layer is right overhead: it's a red-light day.

**1** To the rest of the world, the ominously expanding Antarctic ozone hole was dispatched with the worldwide ban on the use of ozone-depleting substances in 1987. To the 120,000 residents of Punta Arenas, the ozone-hole is a local nightmare. Each spring it still swells to about the size of North America. As variable as the weather, the hole makes sudden visits to the city. For days at a time, the sun's harsh ultraviolet rays, with no ozone shield to stop them, beat directly down on residents.

**2** A few decades ago sunburns and skin cancer were virtually non-existent in this cloudy, windy region. The expanding ozone hole changed all that. Skin cancer has soared 66 percent in the past seven years. Since UV-related disorders take decades to surface, the true impact may not be known for decades. "It's like being placed on top of a high mountain without any time to acclimatize," says the city's only dermatologist.

**3** In 1998 health department officials devised the "solar stoplight" to give residents warning of intense periods of UV radiation. From September to December they activate actual stoplights in schools and businesses and issue updates to newspapers, television and radio stations. The solar stoplight has four colors: green (normal), yellow (wear a hat and sunglasses), orange (apply sunscreen) and red (stay in the shade "as much as possible"). But the vast majority of residents ignore the color-coded warnings. A recent survey revealed that more than 60 percent of residents have never used sunscreen and only 42 percent even own sunglasses.

**4** To raise awareness, local authorities have organized workshops for people who work outdoors. The health department's ozone education program tells citizens that they should learn to live with the ozone hole as if "it's our friend." "There is nothing else they can do," says director Lidia Amarales. More stoplights and education projects are planned, but resources are limited.

**5** Chilean government officials and environmental groups are calling on the international community to dole out funds for monitoring of and research on the ozone's impact on the region's people and the ecosystems. "The world definitely owes some of these countries economic relief," says Marco Pinzon, coordinator of the UN's Latin America ozone program. Industrial nations, after all, caused the ozone loss in the first place with their use of refrigerants, aerosol sprays made with CFCs and other ozone-depleting substances. Although worldwide consumption of CFCs has fallen by 80 or 90 percent, the ozone hole won't begin shrinking for at least another five years and won't recover fully until 2050, scientists say. It may take longer still, say environmentalists, if the protocol isn't modified to include new ozone-depleting substances not covered in the treaty, or if the worst-case predictions of global warming are true.

**Task 1**

Read the text and match the summaries with the correct paragraphs. Write your answers in the table according to the example (0).

There is one extra summary you don't need to use.

SUMMARIES	
<b>A. Training for the locals</b>	
<b>B. A car park attendant's observations</b>	
<b>C. The responsibility of the developed world</b>	
<b>D. The establishment of a warning system</b>	
<b>E. Chile's special geographical situation</b>	
<b>F. The health impacts of the ozone hole</b>	
<b>G. Consumption of CFCs in Chile</b>	

0	1	2	3	4	5
<b>B</b>					
MARKING BOX					
<b>1.✓</b>					
<b>2.✓</b>					
SCORE					

**Task 2**

Read the text and provide short answers to the questions according to the example (0), in no more than 7 words.

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS	MARKING BOX	
		1.	2.
Why is it dangerous to go out in Punta Arenas on a red-light day?	<i>0. the ozone hole is over the city</i>	✓	✓
What harmful health effect of the radiation can be seen today in Chile?	6.		
What measures has the health department taken to make residents better-informed?	7. 8.		
How does the population react to the advice issued by the authorities?	9.		
What should the developed countries do to help Chile and countries in a similar position?	10.		
SCORE			

## WRITING SKILLS

### Task 1

Study the table, and describe it in about 120-160 words, using the 10 given words or expressions in their right forms. You may include numerical data as well to support your description, which should refer to tendencies.

**Consumption of the main dairy products in the BRICS countries  
in 2015**

	liquid milk	butter	cheese
	(kg/person)		
<b>Brasil</b>	59.9	0.4	3.6
<b>Russia</b>	37.3	2.8	6.6
<b>India</b>	41.3	3.6	0
<b>China</b>	19.9	0.1	0.1
<b>South Africa</b>	23.8	0.3	1.5

Source : <http://www.planetoscope.com>

#### Words and expressions to use:

amount column compare except for	express high more same as	significant while <del>table</del>
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0. The table shows the consumption of the most important dairy products in the BRICS countries in 2015.

### Task 2

You have bought some test tubes for your laboratory, but you have some problems with the delivery. (Your name and address in this role: Erdei István/ Irén, Head of Erdei Laboratories, 12 Coronet Street, Birmingham, BR6 7T2)

Write a letter to the manufacturer, (Quality Glassware, 58 Inverness Street Leeds, LW3 NE2), in 140-160 words.

In the letter you should

- complain about:
  - being overcharged
  - late delivery
  - broken test tubes
- write about
  - the action you want them to take

**LISTENING COMPREHENSION****Text 1**

Listen to the text about the way the selling of bottled water is regulated in the American city of Concord.

Based on the text, decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F). Write your answers in the table below, according to the example (0). *Please note that if all your answers are marked as true or as false, your answers will be disqualified.*

STATEMENTS	TRUE OR FALSE	MARKING BOX	
		1.	2.
0. <i>It is forbidden to sell water in bottles smaller than 1 litre</i>	<i>T</i>	✓	✓
1. The new law was initiated by the authorities.			
2. Jean Hill thinks bottled water is harmful to people's health.			
3. The new law came into force on 1 January.			
4. Shops are allowed to sell soft drinks in small bottles.			
5. Local shops expect the new law will help their business.			
6. Anna Davidson is against the new law.			
7. The consumption of bottled water in the U.S. is 50 billion litres per year.			
SCORE			

**Text 2**

Listen to the text about Smithfield food market in London. Use what you heard to complete the table with your notes of no more than 3 words each, according to the example (0).

		NOTES	MARKING BOX	
			1.	2.
0.	<i>opening time of Smithfield market</i> (Example)	..... four o'clock ....	✓	✓
1.	type of meat market Smithfield is	.....		
2.	most buyers of the market	.....		
3.	proportion (%) of meat and poultry sold there in 1963	.....		
4.	competition to the market from the following players (Give 1 example.)	.....		
5.	problems for trucks at the market	.....		
6.	type of market moved to South West London	.....		
7.	type of market redeveloped in 2005	.....		
8.	type of meat West Africans mostly buy at Smithfield (Give 1 example.)	.....		
9.	meat East Europeans buy at Smithfield	.....		
10.	new types of restaurants around Smithfield market	.....		
11.	kind of dishes called Ogbono and Edikang- ikong	.....		
12.	advantages of Smithfield over supermarkets	.....		
13.	food West Africans buy at Queen's Road market (Give 1 example.)	.....		
SCORE				

## **SPEAKING SKILLS**

### **Task 1: Professional discussion**

### **Task 2:**

#### **Situation 18**

#### **Examiner's copy**

### **THE EXAMINEE'S ROLE**

You are the owner of a shop that sells fertilisers, pesticides, insecticides, seeds and garden tools. A safety inspector is visiting your shop and is asking questions about consumer protection, health and safety provisions.

You should discuss

- air-conditioning
- rules concerning smoking in the shop
- storage of products
- protective clothing

### **THE EXAMINER'S ROLE**

*You are a safety inspector visiting a shop sells agrochemicals, seeds and garden tools. Ask the owner about consumer protection, health and safety provisions in the shop.*

- *ask if the shop has air-conditioning, fire-extinguisher, etc.*
- *ask about protective clothing: gloves, gown*
- *ask if smoking is possible in the building*
- *ask about warning notices*
- *say you'll send him/her a copy of your report*



**Task 3**