

## **MODULE G – TEST ONE**

### **PART I: ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM WRITTEN TEXTS (60 points)**

Read the article below and answer questions 1-5.

#### **DUTCH HOME BUILDERS TRY A NEW TACTIC AGAINST RISING TIDES**

*by Anthony Deutsch*

Have you ever heard the story of the little Dutch boy who stood for hours with his finger stuck in a hole that had appeared in the dike, so as to prevent his town from being flooded? While that is only a children’s tale, it is based on the reality of the Netherlands’ unusual topography. Holland is one of the lowest, flattest  
5 countries in the world, so for centuries, the Dutch have built dikes to protect themselves from the sea. Actually, if it weren’t for the system of dikes and canals, as much as half of the Netherlands could be submerged!

Now, with predictions of more frequent flooding due to climate change, the Dutch are looking for ways to live with water, not fight it. That change of  
10 thinking is reflected at a new housing project in the village of Maasbommel, which is about 100 kilometers southeast of Amsterdam. It is the world’s first community of amphibious homes, houses that are built on solid ground but that are also designed to float on flood water.

The Maasbommel homes are nothing like the many  
15 houseboats that line Holland’s canals. Each house is made of lightweight wood, and the concrete base is hollow, giving it ship-like buoyancy. With no foundations anchored in the earth, the structure rests on the ground and is fastened to five-meter-long posts with sliding rings, allowing it to float upward should the river flood. All the electrical cables,  
20 water and sewage flow through flexible pipes that can also move up and down with the house.



In addition to helping the Dutch weather increasing amounts of rain and a rapidly rising sea level, the 64-square-meter homes also address another constant  
25 battle in the Netherlands: finding space for housing in Europe’s most densely populated country. Because amphibious houses can be built in areas which suffer from frequent flooding, otherwise known as “flood plains,” floating

houses could help make up the forty percent shortfall in land suitable for development over the next fifty years, according to the company behind the project.

- 30 Builder Hans van de Beek emphasizes that despite the houses' unique features, "they are pretty much just regular houses." Perhaps the biggest change that home owners will have to accustom themselves to is the need to park their car at the dike during times of high tide, which means that they will require boats to go reach the comfort of their homes.
- 35 The amphibious community has generated a lot of interest among potential home buyers, but at a starting price of 260,000 euros (US \$310,000) for a house with three small bedrooms, the homes are at the high end of the market for a village like Maasbommel. Nevertheless, many have been sold, and the first residents are about to move in. It is to be hoped that none of them suffer from seasickness.

*(Adapted and reprinted with permission of The Associated Press)*

**QUESTIONS** (60 points)

Answer questions 1–5 in English as instructed, according to the article.

**1. COMPLETE THE SENTENCE.** (lines 1–7)

The story of the little Dutch boy illustrates \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

(7 points)

**3. What are TWO major problems that Holland is facing which are mentioned in the text?** (lines 8–29)

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

(2x7=14 points)

**4. COMPLETE THE TABLE BELOW (WRITE THREE ANSWERS).**

What are **THREE** instances of cause and effect mentioned in the text?

	<b>Cause</b>	<b>Effect</b>
i)		There is now more land suitable for building projects in Holland.
ii)	When the sea level rises, the amphibious homes will be surrounded by water.	
iii)		Most of Holland is made up of dry land.

(3x8=24 points)

**SEE THE REST OF THE QUESTIONS FOR THIS PASSAGE IN THE A.E.L. BAGRUT PRACTICE BOOK FOR THE 5-POINT BAGRUT!**

**PART II: WRITTEN PRESENTATION** (40 points)

Write 120–140 words in English on the following topic.

**WRITE IN INK (NOT IN PENCIL). PAY CAREFUL ATTENTION TO HANDWRITING. MAKE SURE YOU WRITE LEGIBLY AND TO THE POINT.**

**6.** It has been suggested that all students be obligated to learn a third language in school, in addition to English, such as Arabic, French, Spanish or Russian.

Do you agree or disagree with the proposal? Explain your opinion with the help of 2–3 examples.