

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

Read the interview below and then answer questions 1–5.

LIVING THE NATURAL LIFE

Many people spout ideals about saving the environment, but few actually do anything concrete about it. Consequently, the Jansens' year-long experiment to reduce their negative impact on the environment has attracted much attention. Eager to discover how a family residing in the heart of New York City could possibly survive without all the comforts of modern civilization, our correspondent interviewed Ted Jansen in his ninth-floor, electricity-free apartment.

No electricity? Isn't that a bit extreme?

Perhaps, but the experiment is only for twelve months, and to tell you the truth, there are some benefits. Since you have no fridge, we buy fresh food every day, which is a big improvement over frozen dinners and all the other junk we used to eat. In the evenings, we spend quality family time together, sitting around our candlelit dining room table and playing board games. However, we're not entirely stuck in the Dark Ages. Thanks to a solar panel up on the roof, we can keep on one light and operate my laptop, which I must have for work purposes.

15 What other steps have you taken as part of your environmental experiment?

We've managed to cut down considerably on the amount of trash we generate. We take along cloth bags when we go shopping, and we no longer purchase disposable goods. We have also stopped using buses, trains, and all other forms of carbon-producing transportation, so now we walk or ride bicycles to get from place to place. Would you believe that I've lost fifteen pounds (seven kilos) in less than five months? Of course, walking up eight flights of steps several times a day has also helped. Our next goal is to reduce our water consumption by eighty or ninety percent.

I understand that you're the one behind this initiative. How does your family feel about it?

25 Of course, everyone's had to make adjustments, but on the whole, my wife and children have been very enthusiastic. Actually, the results have been so positive that we've

already made a firm commitment not to revert to all our old habits when this year is over. For example, we won't be turning the air conditioner back on, and will only use the refrigerator minimally.

30 **Do you really believe that your actions will make a difference in the long run?**

I don't delude myself into thinking that the four of us can save the world all on our own. Nevertheless, we still have to do our share. Besides, I'm hoping that the more exposure our story gets, the more others will also be inspired to do something for the environment. I can't imagine too many people going as far as we have, but even
 35 minor lifestyle changes could be significant when multiplied by tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands of people.

QUESTIONS (60 points)

Answer questions 1–5 in English according to the interview and the instructions.

1. Give ONE comparison that the writer makes in lines 1–6.

COMPLETE THE SENTENCE

Between _____
 and _____.

(2x6=12 points)

2. What information are we given in lines 1–14?

PUT AN X BY THE TWO CORRECT ANSWERS

- ___ i) How the Jansens' experiment has negatively impacted their lives.
- ___ ii) How Ted Jansen conceived the idea for his experiment.
- ___ iii) What changes the Jansens have made in their lifestyle.
- ___ iv) The reason that Ted Jansen is being interviewed.
- ___ v) How long the experiment has already been taking place.
- ___ vi) The next steps that the Jansens plan to take in their experiment.

(2x6=12 points)

3. What are TWO personal benefits of his experiment that Ted Jansen mentions in the interview? Take ONE answer from lines 7–14, and ONE answer from lines 15–22.

COMPLETE THE SENTENCE.

The experiment has had a positive impact on _____
 _____ and on _____.

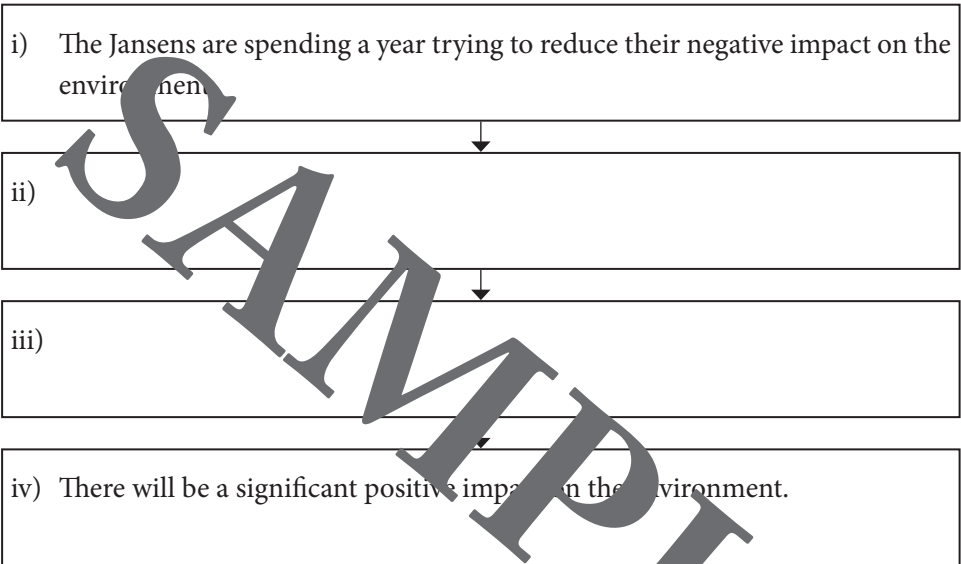
(2x6=12 points)

4. COMPLETE THE SENTENCE.

In his third answer, Ted Jansen explains what _____
_____.

(8 points)

5. What does Ted Jansen hope that the results of his family’s experiment will be?
COMPLETE THE TIMELINE OF CAUSE AND EFFECT. (lines 30–36)



(4x8=16 points)

PART II: WRITTEN PRESENTATION (40 points)

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

6. Your school newspaper has asked readers to write on the following topic:

The Ministry of Education has proposed a new student exchange program. In this program, 5,000 Israeli high school students will travel abroad to study for a year in a foreign country, and 5,000 high school students from other countries will come to Israel for a year’s time. All of the students in the program will be hosted by families with high school age children. What do you think of this proposal?

Write a passage for the newspaper stating and explaining your opinion.

BAGRUT STRATEGY # 13—COMPARISONS

Writers sometimes use **comparisons** to emphasize a point. On the Bagrut, you may be asked a question relating to comparisons that the writer makes. For example, question 1 asks:

Give ONE comparison that the writer makes in lines 1–6.

COMPLETE THE SENTENCE.

Between _____
and _____.

Comparisons can be made between two people, books, situations, etc. When comparing, the writer may use adjectives with “than,” such as “better than” and “more difficult than,” or adjectives with “as,” like “not as interesting as.” However, the writer may also just write two contrasting descriptions (often with connectors of contrast such as “however”), from which we can draw our own conclusions. Here is an example of both types of comparison.

I had heard many good things about Almond Blossom Restaurant on Baldwin Square, so I decided to pay it a visit. Some of the food was indeed excellent, especially the chef’s choice of roast lamb with almonds and figs. However, not all the dishes were as good; the chicken scaloppine was especially disappointing. The food was all beautifully and meticulously presented, which somewhat made up for the unattractive interior design at the restaurant.

You could get the following question about that paragraph:

The reviewer makes TWO different comparisons. What are they?

COMPLETE THE SENTENCES.

- i) Between _____.
- ii) Between _____.

The first comparison is easier to identify, because the reviewer uses the comparison words “as good” (line 4). However, there is a clue that can help us identify the second comparison: two words that are almost antonyms (beautifully–unattractive).

Other questions related to comparisons include: “How is ... different from ...?” and “Give ONE similarity and ONE difference between ... and ...”

Remember! A comparison must always be between two people or things.

BAGRUT STRATEGY PRACTICE

Read the paragraphs below and answer the questions.

1. Generally, people go to the zoo to look at the animals. If you visit the Kabul Zoo, however, you might find yourself staring at the humans' startling behavior instead. It seems that after years of war, Afghans just don't know how to behave around animals. "They fight with the animals," says Aziz Gul Saqib, the zoo director. Visitors routinely throw stones, shoes, garbage, and hats at the animals, which are so used to the situation that they just continue eating, sleeping, or roaming passively around their cages.

What is ONE comparison that the writer makes?

COMPLETE THE SENTENCE.

Between _____.

2. Britain boasts a large number of restaurants serving a staggering variety of British and ethnic foods, but at home, Britons' eating habits are very unadventurous. A survey of 2,000 British households found that the average family has an eating routine which includes only four different dishes: Spaghetti Bolognese, stew, sausages and potatoes, and fish and chips. Two out of five respondents blamed the lack of variety on not having enough time to cook other things, and one in five said that they didn't cook well enough to make anything else.

What is ONE comparison that the writer makes?

ANSWER: _____.

3. They just don't make machines like they used to. Nowadays, how often do you have to replace a household appliance such as a refrigerator? If it's of inferior quality, you will probably need to replace it after ten or fifteen years of use. If the quality is good, perhaps once every twenty years is enough, still a laughably low figure for British grandmother Maureen Mace. She bought her seventy-seven-year-old refrigerator secondhand in 1969, and it hasn't broken down once despite constant use. She hasn't even had to replace the light bulb! "They built things to last in those days," Mace said.

What is ONE comparison that the writer makes?

COMPLETE THE SENTENCE.

Between _____.