

First Foreign Language

Duration: 120 Minutes

Grade: 9

In the 2-hour period allotted for the following test, you are to respond to the questions of two main parts: *Reading* and *Writing*. You are advised to time your performance reasonably - spending about 55 minutes on the Reading, Vocabulary and Structure part, and 55 minutes on the Writing part. See that you reserve some time for *proofreading* since your paper will be assessed for both content and form. Make sure that your answers are set in tidy and legible handwriting

Read the following instructions carefully before you start.

- Skim through the entire test before you attempt any question.
- Go through the reading text thoroughly and carefully.
- Do exactly as the directions require.
- Start with the questions that you find easy, then attempt the remaining ones.
- Use complete sentences in your answers, unless you are instructed otherwise.
- You will not be allowed to ask questions or make comments during real test sessions.

Read through the following text and work out the activities that follow.

Making Every Drop Count

- 1- Drip, trickle, splash. Do you ever think about the fresh water we use every day for cleaning, drinking, cooking, and growing plants? Water is essential to life. It is one of the most common substances in the universe, and our planet is lucky to have it. Unfortunately, 97percent of that water is salty, and much of the rest is in form of ice at the North and South Poles. Getting an adequate supply of fresh water is not always easy, especially in the developing world, where drought is a constant threat in some areas.
- 2- Half of the world's population still suffers from services inferior as available to those which the ancient Greeks and Romans had. More than one billion people don't even have access to clean water, and they face problems and diseases caused by water pollution. As the world's population grows, there is increasing pressure on agriculture, which demands large amounts of water. To have enough supply of fresh water, man is changing the course of rivers and building dams, threatening marine life. For instance, some rare species of fish are becoming extinct in some seas and lakes.
- 3- Throughout the first three quarters of the 20th century, the quantity of fresh water used by each person doubled. The emphasis was on using more and more water. Large-scale facilities were built for water treatment and recycling, and large number of reservoirs were constructed to store water. However, many people have now realized that basic human and environmental needs are the top priority. The building of new water facilities is now less important than using what we already have efficiently and wisely. Repairing the existing system could have huge benefits. Through leaking pipes and faulty equipment, Mexico City loses enough water to meet the needs of a city the size of Rome.
- 4- Over the last twenty-five years, technology and greater awareness of the problem have meant that water is used more efficiently. Industrial processes that use less water have been discovered; it now takes only six tons of water to make a ton of steel, compared to sixty tons sixty years ago.
- 5- Despite this, a lot of water is still wasted. We can all do our bit for the environment by following a few simple water conservation dos and don'ts. For example, use short showers that use less water than baths, keep the tap closed when brushing, use dishwashers and washing machines when they are full, and many other ways can be used to save water. So, next time you have a shower or open a bottle of water, think about where the water comes from and where it's going.

A- What does each of the following pronouns refer to? (0.75 pt.)

1. those (paragraph 2)
2. it (paragraph 4)
3. they (paragraph 5)

B- In no more than two sentences, answer each of the following questions in your own words. (3.75 pts.)

1. What is the author's purpose behind writing the text?
2. Why can't man use all the fresh water available on Earth?
3. What is causing man's need of fresh water to increase?
4. According to the text, what are two ways man is using to meet his need of fresh water?
5. State one way for saving water other those mentioned in the text.

C- The following statements are false. Rewrite them so that they harmonize with what the text says or implies. (1.5 pts)

- 1- The most important action man may take to save water is building new water facilities.
- 2- Water can be saved in the bathroom by having showers and baths more often.

D- Find in paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 words that nearly have the following meanings. (2 pts.)

1. one regarded as a possible danger
2. to need or require
3. no longer existent
4. to restore to good condition after damage

E. Complete the following cause- effect chart with reference to paragraphs 1 and 2. (1.5 pts.)

Causes	Effects
Drought is a major problem encountered nowadays.	
	Some sea creatures are becoming extinct.

F. Find the grammatical mistake in each sentence below and correct it. (1 pts.)

1. When people wash their hands, they are usually leaving the tap running open.
2. By the end of the 21st century, people will witness new discoveries for saving water.
3. While my dad and I watched the river yesterday, we could notice the great damage man's activities had caused to the marine life.
4. America doesn't have the right to consume all the water it has access to, for that water is also belonging to future generations.

G. Rewrite the following statements, starting as indicated. (1.5 pts.)

1. People face problems and diseases caused by water pollution.
Problems ...
2. Large-scale facilities were built for water treatment and recycling.
Man ...

Writing Part (8 pts.)

"We can all do our bit for the environment..." says the writer in the last paragraph.

Imagine that your school has invited you to suggest ways in which ordinary people can help with protecting the environment. Write an essay of about 150-200 words, mentioning at least two suggestions and shedding light on their benefits.

First, fill out the chart below. Then develop the ideas there into an essay, provided with a title.

Suggestions for Protecting the Environment	Benefits of the Ideas

Score: 2 pts. for the graphic organizer

3 pts. for the content(ideas, vocabulary, originality, ...)

2.5 pts. for the form (grammar, sentence structure, organization, ..)

0.5 pt. for the neatness and legible handwriting

In His Name

English Department

Subject: **Answer Key** of the First Common Exam, 9th Grade

School Year: 2009 - 2010

I. Reading Part (12 pts.)

A-

1. those (paragraph 2): services
2. it (paragraph 4): making a ton of steel
3. they (paragraph 5): dishwashers

Score: 0.25 pt. for each correct answer

B-

1. The author's purpose is to inform
people about the importance of water and persuade them to preserve it.

**Score: 0.5 pt. for identifying the purpose
0.25 pt. for sentence structure**

2. Man can't use all the fresh water available on Earth because much of it is in the form of ice at the North and South Poles.

**Score: 0.5 pt. for identifying the reason
0.25 pt. for sentence structure**

3. What is causing man's need of fresh water to increase is mainly the world's overpopulation.

**Score: 0.5 pt. for the idea
0.25 t. for sentence structure**

4. To meet his need of fresh water, man is building dams and constructing large-scale facilities for water treatment and recycling.

**Score: 0.5 pt. for the identifying the two ways
0.25 pt. for sentence structure**

5. Answers vary, so accept what is reasonable

**Score: 0.5 pt. for stating a new way
0.25 pt. for sentence structure**

C-

- 1- The most important action man may take to save water is using what we already have efficiently and wisely.
- 2- Water can be saved in the bathroom by having short showers rather than taking long baths.

**Score: 0.5 pt. for correcting the idea
0.25 pt. for sentence structure**

D-

1. threat
2. demand
3. extinct
4. repair

Score: 0.5 pt. for every correct answer

E.

Causes	Effects
	Some people are not getting an adequate supply of fresh water.
Man is building dams and changing the course of rivers.	

**Score: 0.5 pt. for providing the cause or the effect properly
0.25 pt. for sentence structure of each**

F.

1. are usually leaving: usually leave
2. will witness: will have witnessed
3. watched: were watching
4. is also belonging: also belongs

Score: 0.25 pt. for correcting every mistake

G.

1. Problems and diseases caused by water pollution are faced by people.
2. Man built large-scale facilities for water treatment and recycling.

**Score: 0.5 pt. for the verb form in every sentence
0.25 pt. for sentence structure of each sentence**