

**English Language Exam**

**Part One: Reading**

**(Score: 11/20)**

*Read the following article from ATHENSPLUS magazine, 2008 in which the writer discusses an innovative plan to improve environmental surrounding. When you are through with the article, answer the questions that follow.*

**Bioclimatic Plan to Improve Neighborhood**

Pilot program for Aghia Paraskevi Street to replace asphalt with natural materials.

By Tousa Zappa

- 1) A pioneering plan to improve the quality of life along a main suburban street in Athens is about to begin as a pilot study for the rest of the city.
- 2) Aghiou Ioannou Street in the northern suburb of Aghia Paraskevi is to have all heat-absorbing materials replaced, more vegetation planted, its signs taken down, sidewalks widened and vehicle lanes reduced. These changes are expected to reduce temperatures by two degrees and pollution levels by 25 percent, as well as increase wind speeds.
- 3) According to bioclimatic design by Matheous Santamouris, professor of physics at Athens University, the effects also imply lower energy bills in the area.
- 4) "It will have considerable benefits for local residents as it will improve living conditions and make it more pleasant place to visit. Aghiou Ioannou will act as a reference point," Santamouris told a public meeting recently held by Aghia Paraskevi's Mayor Vassilis Giannakopoulos.
- 5) The plan utilizes three plans- traffic, bioclimatic and architectural -that will make the street a focal point for a pedestrian network throughout the municipality.
- 6) The traffic survey carried out by Costas Iliopoulos for the Environment and Public Works Ministry calls for one-way traffic from Mesogeion Avenue to Elvetias Street in order to provide enough space to widen the sidewalks.
- 7) Santamouris's bioclimatic design targets the street's main problems: man-made heat from building materials and locally high temperatures, high concentration of airborne particles three times above acceptable limits and low wind speeds.
- 8) "Summer temperatures vary as much as four degrees from one part of the street to the other due to the proximity of Mesogeion Avenue," says Santamouris.
- 9) The architectural design has been awarded to Giorgos Provelengios, who had to work with a street width of just 14 meters so there was no room for sidewalks, bicycle lanes nor bus and car lanes in either direction.
- 10) "By making it one-way, space for vehicles has been limited to a width of 4.5 meters," said Provelengios. "There will be side spaces for parking, bus stops and supplying stores."
- 11) Sidewalks will be 3-4 meters wide, paved most probably with porphyrite, a tough natural material that does not stain and is durable. The gutter will be just 3-5 centimeters high to allow baby carriages and wheelchairs easy access, and will be protected by low pylons.
- 12) The street surface will be made of stone tiles, while the new technology of "cold" asphalt used in the US is also being investigated.
- 13) All power lines, natural gas pipes, and garbage dumpsters are to be underground.
- 14) Deciduous trees such as plane trees will be planted to give shade in summer and let sunlight through winter.
- 15) Construction is scheduled to begin in September, but will have to be done in stages so as not to close the entire street of to traffic.
- 16) The technical aspects of the project also call for expert work, particularly in the substructure, but it is expected to be finished next year.

17) The refurbishment is to be continued in a similar manner in Aghia Paraskevi's Elpidos, Pendelis and Chiou bringing the total to 3 kilometers from the top of the road, at Pierce College, to the metro station.

**A. Answer the following set of questions using your own words.**

- 1) What does the improving plan involve and for what purposes is it initiated? (1pt)
- 2) How can Aghiou Ioannou become an attractive place? (1pt)
- 3) What effect will limited space for vehicles leave behind? (1pt)
- 4) How could street surface become reconstructed? (0.5pt)

**B. 1) Suggest another title for the text. (0.5pt)**

**2) Identify the organizational pattern of paragraph 13. (0.5pt)**

**3) What is the writer's purpose in writing his article. (0.5pt)**

**C.**

**1) List paragraph 14 in sequence. (0.75pt)**

**2) Write another suitable conclusion of your own for this article. (0.75pt)**

**D. Use the information presented in the text to fill the chart below. Copy the chart on your booklet. (1.5pt)**

<b>Plans</b>		
<b>P</b>	<b>Kind</b>	<b>Purpose</b>

**E. Write paragraph 5 in one-sentence summary. (1pt)**

**F. Skim paragraphs 1, 3, 5, and 11 to find words that have the opposite of: (1pt)**

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| a) deteriorate | b) show clearly |
| c) secondary   | d) definitely   |

**G. What do the following pronouns in the text refer to? (1pt)**

- |            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| a) it/ p16 | b) that/ p11 |
| c) it/ p4  | d) its/ p2   |

**Part Two: Writing**

**Score: 9/20**

You live in a neighborhood that needs improvement. Write about three ways you like to apply in order to improve three things there either with the support of governmental authority or with nongovernmental organizations. See that you put the reader in the general atmosphere of your topic by writing a clear thesis statement in the introduction that must be backed up with relevant details in your body paragraphs and end with a suitable conclusion. Draft, revise, and proofread your essay before you hand it in. Your writing will be assessed as follows: 5pts for content and organization; 3 pts for language and style; and 1 pt for tidiness and legibility.

GOOD WORK 😊

## Answer Key

- A. 1) The improving plan involves replacing heat-absorbing materials, planting more vegetation, taking down signs of Aghiou Ioannou Street, widening its sidewalks, and reducing vehicle lanes. Purposes that it is initiated for are: reducing temperature and pollution and increasing wind speeds.  
2) Aghiou Ioannou Street can become an attractive place by improving living conditions for residents and making it a more pleasant place to visit.  
3) The effect that limited place for vehicles will leave behind is having side spaces for parking, bus stops, and supplying stores.  
4) Street surface could be reconstructed by making it of stone tiles and investigating the new technology of “cold” asphalt used in the US.
- B. 1) Answers vary.  
2) Paragraph 13 follows the listing pattern, showing a problem-solution organization.  
3) The writer’s purpose is to inform the reader about initiatives that will be taken to improve neighborhood by applying bioclimatic plan.
- C. 1) a- Deciduous trees will be planted.  
b- They give shade in summer.  
c- They let sunlight through in winter.  
2) Answers vary.

D.

<b>Plans</b>		
P	Kind	Purpose
6	Traffic	One-way traffic to provide enough space to widen the sidewalk
7	Bioclimatic	To manage the summer temperature
9	architectural	To give room for sidewalks, bicycle lanes, bus and car lanes

- E. Zappa in his article entitled “Bioclimatic Plan to Improve Neighborhood” says that a building program will be achieved in steps to involve all streets.
- F. a- improve/ p1    b- imply/ p3  
c- focal/ p5    d- probably/ p11
- G. a- project    b- porphyrite  
c- biochemical design                                      d- street