

G R A M M A R

Read the following text and decide which ONE word best fits each gap (1-10). Write your answers in the space provided below the text. Spelling counts!

The city of Turin in Italy is famous 1 ... cars, football, the Winter Olympics – and now vegetarianism, after new mayor Chiara Appendino announced plans to turn it 2 ... Italy's first “vegetarian city” earlier this year. Traditional butchers 3 ... expressed their horror 4 ... the proposals, 5 ... include introducing a weekly meat-free day, and teaching schoolchildren about animal welfare and ecology.

Vegetarian visitors wandering 6 ... streets of the northern Italian city won't take long to stumble 7 ... one of the growing number of new vegetarian delis and cafés. 8 ... the reputation of the Piedmont region 9 ... hearty Alpine fare (one of the most famous local dishes is *bollito misto*, a stew made 10 ... boiled veal, beef and chicken), the choice on offer is impressive.

- | | | |
|--------|--------|---------|
| 1..... | 5..... | 9..... |
| 2..... | 6..... | 10..... |
| 3..... | 7..... | |
| 4..... | 8..... | |

Complete the passage by filling the gaps with the proper verb form or verb tense. Write your answers in the spaces below the article. Spelling counts!

“Turin 11 ... (**be, always**) at the forefront of things,” says Claudio Viano, who 12 ... (**open**) the city's first vegetarian restaurant, Mezzaluna, with his partner Daniele 20 years ago. “Turin and maybe Milan are now the best places in Italy to visit for vegan food,” he says, 13 ... (**praise**) the Slow Food Movement which 14 ... (**set up**) in the nearby town of Bra. Stefania Giannuzzi, the deputy mayor behind the initiative, insists that she 15 ... (**not, try, clash**) with the city's meat producers and agricultural associations. She instead emphasises the environmental benefits of turning vegetarian, citing UN guidelines and the Paris climate agreement as good reasons to cut down on the city's meat consumption.

- | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|
| 11..... | 13..... | 15..... |
| 12..... | 14..... | |

Total Points: /15 pts

V O C A B U L A R Y

Complete the gaps 1-10 in the following passage with the best answer (A-D). Circle your answers.

Does global warming keep you up at night, or do you have **1 ...** believing that the threat is real? Those who remain sceptical may find their brain is to blame. Humans feel sudden weather changes, such as cold **2 ...** or heat waves, very **3 ...**, but we're not so good at sensing small increases in temperature **4 ...**. This is **5 ...** because our experience of temperature is relative: if you place one hand in hot water and the other in cold water and then put both in a **6 ...** bath, you can't tell how warm the bath actually is – your cold hand will feel it as boiling hot, while your hot hand will feel it as **7 ...** chilly.

So gradual changes in climate are **8 ...** by our short-term responses to the weather, which fluctuates every day. We also adapt to long-term changes, so they are harder to notice: you'll immediately jump out of a **9 ...** hot bath, while if you get into a lukewarm one and keep adding hot water, you might not even realise when it's **10 ...** on dangerous (if you ignore the rising water levels and rubber ducks in distress). Let that be a warning to the climate sceptics.

- | | | | | |
|----|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1 | A pain | B trouble | C problem | D concern |
| 2 | A breaks | B bursts | C snaps | D strokes |
| 3 | A seriously | B keenly | C intently | D briskly |
| 4 | A over time | B in time | C at times | D with time |
| 5 | A partly | B somewhat | C extensively | D halfway |
| 6 | A sombre | B bland | C tepid | D gelid |
| 7 | A effusively | B scathingly | C movingly | D soothingly |
| 8 | A eclipsed | B highlighted | C inflamed | D extinguished |
| 9 | A vaulting | B scalding | C parching | D hauling |
| 10 | A edging | B trenching | C verging | D swerving |

Total Points: / 10 pts

R E A D I N G C O M P R E H E N S I O N

Read the following article. Complete the gap in each of the paragraphs (A-F) with a suitable phrase from the list on the following page by writing the corresponding paragraph letters next to the numbers on the following page. Two phrases will remain unmatched.

A

There is a corner of England where the weather is distinctly West African: the International Cocoa Quarantine Centre, in suburban Reading. Inside this newly built greenhouse, which transforms watery British sunshine into _____, some four hundred varieties of cacao grow in orderly potted rows. The \$1.5 million structure is about the size of an Olympic swimming pool and is almost entirely controlled by an octopus-like network of tubes and sensors, which monitor everything from the plants' electrical conductivity to over-all humidity levels.

B

For years, newspaper headlines and industry reports have been gloomily predicting that chocolate will soon become a delicacy available only to the super-rich. Accelerating consumption is part of the problem, as epicures in China, India, and Russia develop _____, but the vulnerability of the cacao plant itself poses the greatest challenge. According to Paul Hadley, a professor of horticulture at the University of Reading, the plant's many unpleasant-sounding scourges—vascular-streak dieback, swollen-shoot virus, frosty pod, witches' broom—routinely reduce yields by about thirty per cent worldwide. The solution, of course, is for farmers and researchers to trade plants, using a cacao variety developed in, say, Ecuador to improve production in Côte d'Ivoire, or crossbreeding a specimen from the International Cocoa Genebank, in Trinidad, with one in Indonesia. But frosty pod can lurk in a plant asymptotically for months. Allowing such a blight to migrate from one country to another, Hadley said, "would be curtains for chocolate."

C

Preventing that fate is the primary goal of the International Cocoa Quarantine Centre, which has received funding from many of the deep-pocketed emperors of chocolate, including Cadbury, Mars, and members of the London cocoa-futures exchange. Ninety-five per cent of the world's itinerant cocoa germplasm—shoots, pods, and the like—has a required layover in Reading, where it is kept until proved uncontaminated. Although the electricity bills incurred in transforming drizzly Berkshire into something more like Ghana's cocoa-producing Ashanti region are not insignificant, it is precisely _____ that makes England an ideal quarantine zone. There are no local cacao plantations to be threatened with infection or infestation, and stowaways of any description, being adapted to life in a rainforest, are unlikely to survive an escape attempt.

D

Cacao plants usually travel as budwood, a short length of branch with a bud sprouting from it. As Heather Lake, one of two technicians at the I.C.Q.C., explained, she and her colleague graft the budwood onto a seedling, from which it grows into a genetic clone of its parent. Each graft gets its own pot, and each pot is placed in an insect-proof cage, where it remains for two months, just in case there were any larvae on the budwood. After being given the all-clear for insects, the plant is allowed to grow for another nine months, until it is mature enough to produce buds of its own. The new buds are grafted onto another seedling, a so-called indicator varietal, which has _____ to show clear symptoms of viral infection. This plant, a second-generation clone of the original, is placed with its cohort in a polyethylene tunnel, where it is checked weekly for any signs of disease. If, after two years, it is deemed disease-free, the indicator plant is destroyed. Then a final piece of budwood is collected from the mother plant and sent on to complete its journey.

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“This is a slow process,” Hadley said. “If you ask me for a particular variety, it will take a minimum of three years before we actually deliver something.” Meanwhile, everything is done to keep the plants safe and thriving during their stay: netting on the air-intake fans wards off insects; sterile vermiculite takes the place of soil; and a high-tech hydroponic system delivers drip feeds on a two-hour cycle. The main threats, according to Hadley, are power failures and window-smashing vandals: if the temperature drops below fifty-three degrees for more than a minute or two, the plants die. The precursor to the new I.C.Q.C. facility was nearer to the road, and people occasionally broke in. The new centre is walled off, which not only helps Hadley sleep at night but also acts as _____, lowering the otherwise exorbitant heating bill a little.

F

In their more than thirty years hosting the world’s roving cacao, the University of Reading’s horticulturalists have ended up developing substantial ancillary expertise. With _____ in their collection, Hadley and his colleagues have been able to model the effects of climate change on cacao. The good news is that the plant actually seems to grow better and yield more when it is exposed to elevated levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide. “As long as no horrible new disease emerges and the plants aren’t subject to water stress, there’s no reason to fear for the future of chocolate,” Hadley said. As a man whose professed idea of heaven is a family-size bar of Dairy Milk, preferably consumed in front of a Formula One race, he seemed relieved.

1. _____ a series of muddy trenches and gravel mounds
2. _____ a taste for the product
3. _____ a layer of insulation
4. _____ a representative of most of the important varieties
5. _____ the production of chocolate and many other foods
6. _____ this gap between temperate and tropical
7. _____ a useful tendency
8. _____ the shady conditions of a rain-forest understory

For items 9-12, mark the information contained in each statement as true (T), false (F) or not stated (NS) in the article. For each statement also write the letter (A-H) of the paragraph in which you found the evidence for your answer.

Statement	T, F or NS?	Para.
9. Scientists at the University of Reading established that a cacao plant can thrive if the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is twice as high as normal.		
10. All the cacao genetic material treated in the quarantine centre in Reading remains in England after being declared contamination-free.		
11. Due to the low pestilence resistance level in cacao plants, the key challenge to ensuring the undisturbed production of chocolate lies in preventing horticultural diseases from spreading to uncontaminated areas.		
12. The quarantine centre for cacao plants currently occupies a new facility which surpasses the old one in terms of intruder protection.		

Total points:...../10pts

L I S T E N I N G C O M P R E H E N S I O N

You will hear information about studies being done on the sense of smell across species. For questions 1 to 5, fill in the gaps with the information you hear. You should only write 1 or 2 words in each gap. Write your answers in the space provided. You will hear the recording only once.

1. A smell trace from a handshake carries information about the other person's state of _____.
2. Human smelling abilities are not so easily revealed because the process of smelling largely goes beyond _____.
3. The measurement of the smelling abilities of animals is complicated by the need to first teach them how to identify smells with a _____.
4. The common feature of all animal species in the Swedish experiment was that they were _____.
5. Humans surpass animals in identifying scents from _____.

Total points:...../5pts

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