



LANGUE VIVANTE II

Epreuve du 1^{er} groupe

ANGLAIS

Delegates from nearly 200 countries spent two weeks in Warsaw, Poland. More than 9,000 representatives gathered for a United Nations conference on climate change. Organizers called the meeting to work toward a treaty to fight rising temperatures on our planet. However, several environmental groups walked out of the climate talks. They were protesting what **they** considered a lack of progress towards a deal to limit carbon dioxide and other global warming emissions. Studies have shown links between such gases and the rise in temperatures.

In the United States, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is leading government efforts to fight climate change. The agency just ended a series of public hearings across the country. The EPA was seeking comments as it considers tightening clean air rules for coal-burning power plants ⁽¹⁾. America's 1,000 coal-burning power plants supply 40 percent of the nation's electricity. The plants are responsible for one-third of the global warming emissions.

Mitch McConnell, the leader of the Republican Party in the United States Senate, spoke at the EPA hearings in support of his home state of Kentucky, which is a major coal producer: "By now it is clear that this administration and **your agency** have declared war on coal. For Kentucky, this means a war on jobs and on our state's economy." Apart from the Republican senator, another representative at the meeting, Brian Patton who comes from a long line of Kentucky coalmine workers, spoke at the EPA hearings as the president of James River Coal Service. His company has recently dismissed 725 workers and he fears that new rules could bring even greater hardship to an area that is already economically depressed.

However, according to David Doniger, a climate policy expert with the Natural Resources Defense Council, it is the EPA's duty to control carbon as a pollutant and establish new rules for a cleaner energy environment. "That is the only way to avoid destroying the quality of life **we** have."

Adapted from VOA Learning English

Note: 1) *Coal-burning power plants: Centrale électrique à charbon.*

I. READING COMPREHENSION (8 marks)

A. Complete this passage meaningfully with words/phrases from the indicated paragraphs. (0.5 x 4 = 2 marks)

A few years ago, experts coming from different countries (1) (**par. 1**) in Warsaw, the capital of Poland, to discuss global warming. They all admitted the (2) (**par. 1**) between rising temperatures on our planet with the release of certain gases in the atmosphere. However, having noticed a (3) of (**par. 1**) motivation to limit the emission of greenhouse gases, some environmental groups decided to leave the conference. They reminded the organizers that it's their (4) (**par. 4**) to control coal producers by imposing new rules.

B. Read the text and fill in the missing information about electricity in the US (0.5 x 3 = 1.5 marks)

Facts	Figures (<i>chiffres</i>)
Coal-based electricity production	(5) %
Other sources	(6) %
Job losses in Kentucky	(7)

C. Who is for or against coal-burning plants? Complete the table with the names in the box. (0.5 x 4 = 2 marks)

The EPA – Brian Patton – David Doniger – Mitch McConnell

Coal-burning plants	
For	Against
8	10.
9.....	11.

D. Quote the passage of the text that shows little or no advancement in the fight against rising temperatures on the planet. (1 x 1 = 1 mark)

12. “.....”

E. Who or what do the following terms refer to? (0.5 x 3 = 1.5 marks)

13. they (what they consider / parag 1):

14. your agency (parag. 3):

15. we (parag.4):

II. LINGUISTIC AND COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE (6 marks)

F. Choose the correct option to complete these sentences. (0.5 x 4 = 2 marks)

The environmental groups argue that (16) (developing / developed) countries, which are the biggest (17) (polluters / pollutants), do not want to put in practice the treaty which limits carbon dioxide and other global warming emissions for (18) (economic / economical) reasons. For example, in the state of Kentucky, some people are afraid that getting rid of coal as a source of energy would mean the (19) (destroy / destruction) of the state’s economy and greater poverty.

G. A journalist is interviewing Michael, a militant of the environmental groups who boycotted the talks in Warsaw. Complete the interview coherently. (0.5 x 6 = 3 marks)

Journalist: Hello, Sir! (20) a few questions?

Michael: Hello! Most pleased to answer!

Journalist: You’ve walked out of the room, but the talks are still going on! (21)?

Michael: We don’t want to waste our time in a talking shop. They just don’t care about (22)

Journalist: Who do you mean?

Michael: (23) !

Journalist: (23) Do you doubt their political will to (24)?

Michael: Definitely! I don’t think they are willing to do anything! Very little progress has been made!

Journalist: (25)..... have they been negotiating this deal?

Michael: For many years now!

H. Reorder the words below to make a meaningful sentence. Provide punctuation. (1 x 1 = 1 mark)

will get / The quality of life / unless we change / worse and worse / our attitude towards the environment.

26.

III. WRITING: Choose one topic and write about 150-200 words. (6 marks)

TOPIC 1: Serious environmental issues such as deforestation, plastic bags, air pollution, etc. prevail in many parts of the world. Paul Sarr, a conscious citizen, writes a letter to the Minister of the Environment to complain about the problem in his country. Reproduce his letter.

TOPIC 2: “Climate change impacts will destroy the quality of the life we have”. Comment on this statement with relevant examples.