

### DEVOIR DE FIN DE SEMESTRE N°1

#### *The Text :*

1. The Amazon rainforest, this wonder of nature sprawling across nine countries in Latin America, holds a special place on this planet. Faced with stark climate and biodiversity crises, we cannot afford more damage to it – or to human health from the haze that hangs over communities and cities. We must help Brazil extinguish these fires and offer long-term support to prevent further illegal deforestation.
2. To get the job done, it is important to understand that while fires are burning in record numbers, they happen every year. The blazes and wider deforestation are driven by demand for agricultural land to meet the growing global demand for beef and animal feed. Rising global temperatures are also an exacerbating factor. There is a lot Brazil itself can quickly do once it has dealt with the immediate crisis of extinguishing the blazes. The country has a strong historical tradition of protecting the Amazon; in fact, between 2004 and 2012, Brazil managed to reduce deforestation by over 80 per cent. Yet since then we have gone backwards. In the immediate term, we need to do three key things.
3. Firstly, it is time to return to stronger enforcement. More than 100 countries including Brazil have legislation enshrining the right to a healthy environment. But it is useless if it is not enforced properly. The message needs to be sent actions that destroy our natural world will not be tolerated. Secondly, recent global assessments have shown that indigenous communities living close to nature are far better stewards of the forests and land. It is essential that they are given more control and their rights are protected. This way our vital ecosystems will be stewarded effectively.
4. Offering incentives to landowners and farmers – such as payments for conservation – has also worked. The international community and private sector have a clear role to play here. The Sustainable Commodities Facility is one route to provide finance to Brazilian farmers to grow soy on already cleared land instead of causing more deforestation.
5. But the Amazon is just one piece of the puzzle. Just as the rainforest is a haven for biodiversity and a natural defence against global warming, so too are the Congo Basin and Indonesian rainforests. Wildfires are raging across Indonesia, as they do regularly. According to an analysis of satellite data run by the UNEP GRID centre in Geneva, there were more fires burning in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Angola than Brazil between 19 and 26 August.
6. Protecting mega forests is clearly a global imperative. And the biggest positive action we could take is to reform the global food systems that are driving the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, water insecurity, and soil and water pollution. Agriculture and related land-use change are responsible for over 70 per cent of tropical deforestation and around one quarter of all greenhouse gas emissions. Brazil's drop in deforestation ended when commodity prices increased, demonstrating a clear link to the production and export of soy, beef and, to a lesser extent, ethanol/sugarcane. Increases in commodity prices have always led to more land grabbing globally. They have been a major driver of the Indonesian fires since the early 1980s.
7. The private sector must step up, adopting zero-deforestation and sustainable commodity supply chain targets. Governments need to shift to more long-term public policies for sustainable agricultural production, integrated land-use planning at the national scale and sustainability standards. And citizens should continue to stand up and demand more responsible environmental policies from their governments – and their right to do so must be protected.



8. If we used all of the food we produced – we currently waste or lose about one-third – there would be less need to clear land. By switching to more sustainable proteins and a more plant-based diet, we can reduce the global demand for meat. Our actions on an individual level are important. As we head towards 2020 – a crucial year in which the Paris Agreement will hit full stride, we need to remember the heart-breaking images of this natural wonder ablaze and do everything in our power to change our relationship with nature before it is too late.

By Inger Andersen

*The Independent*, 30 August 2019

(NB.: Inger Andersen is the executive director of the UN Environment Programme).

**PART ONE: READING COMPREHENSION (30 mks):**

**I-Say what type of text it is and justify your choice on the answer sheet (1.5mks) :**

Narrative / Descriptive / Argumentative / Instructive

**II-Select the statement that best relates to the text(1.5mks) :**

- 1- The Amazonian rainforests are being destroyed at an unprecedented rate due to the expansion of agriculture and lack of oversight and surveillance.
- 2- Deforestation in Amazonia has resulted in global warming and its subsequent climate change.
- 3- The Amazon rainforests are carelessly devastated and the sooner we protect them the better.

**III-Choose the 3 adjectives that best describe the mood of the writer (1.5mks) :**

Anxious / Pessimistic / Enthusiastic / Hopeless / Desperate / Regretful

**IV- Mention 4 factors behind the destruction of the Amazon rainforests (2mks):**

**V-Say whether the statements below are true or false and justify from the text (4.5mks):**

- 1- Since 2012 Brazil has made a big progress in terms of fighting deforestation.
- 2- Inger Andersen thinks that people caught harming the environment should be strictly punished.
- 3- People living by forests should be given more power to control them.

**VI-Choose the correct alternative (2mks):**

- 1- The text states that Brazil and many other countries throughout the world are currently:
  - a- adopting protective policies by including the environmental issue in their laws and legislations.
  - b- trying to buy sophisticated equipment to overcome forest fires more effectively.
  - c- getting funds from the international community to help them combat poverty and raise farmers' awareness of the dangers of grabbing land.
- 2- In reaction to the ecological disaster, citizens should ask their governments to:
  - a- help farmers financially so that they could buy soy and beef.
  - b- sensitize landowners to the dangers of deforestation through environment-protecting campaigns.
  - c- employ more serious measures to deal with environmental crises .



**VII-Sort out the 4 harmful effects resulting from the global food system (4mks):**

**VIII-Complete the sentences on the answer sheet with reference to the text(3mks):**

**IX- Explain the sentence below in your own words on the answer sheet(1mk):**

“Protecting mega forests is clearly a global imperative”( §6)

**X-Answer the following questions on the answer sheet with reference to the text(2mks):**

1- Which products do Brazilian farmers export to the world?

2- How can the worldwide demand for meat be decreased?

**XI -Find words in the text having nearly the same meaning as the following (4mks):**

1- unpleasant and impossible to avoid (§1).

2- making a problem worse (§2).

3- things that encourage you to do something (§4).

4- change or switch (§7).

**XII-What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (3mks):**

1- it (§1).

2- they (§3).

3- that (§6).

## **PART TWO: LANGUAGE(30mks):**

### **TASK ONE: Put the bracketed words in the right tense or form (10mks):**

For decades, most scientists 1(see) climate change as a distant prospect. We now know that thinking was wrong. Last summer, for instance, a heat wave in Europe 2(penetrated) the Arctic, pushing temperatures into the 80s across much of the Far North and 3(melted) some 40 billion tons of Greenland's ice sheet. Had a scientist in the early 1990s suggested that within 25 years a single heat wave 4(raise) sea levels, at an estimated two one-hundredths of an inch, bake the Arctic and produce Sahara-like temperatures in Paris and Berlin, the prediction 5(dismissed) as alarmist. But many worst-case scenarios from that time are now realities. Science is a process of 6(discovery). It can move 7(slowly) as the pieces of a puzzle fall together and scientists refine their 8(investigation) tools. But in the case of climate, this deliberation 9(accompanied) by inertia born of bureaucratic caution and politics. A recent essay in Scientific American Magazine has argued that scientists “tend to underestimate the 10(severity) of threats and the rapidity with which they might unfold.”

### **TASK TWO: Choose the right option (answer on the answer sheet) (10mks):**

A powerful earthquake struck near Indonesia's Moluccas islands on Thursday, prompting panicked residents to 1( flee / fly / climb) to higher ground, though a tsunami alert was later lifted and there were no immediate reports of 2( refugees / patients/casualties). Indonesia's geophysics agency lifted the tsunami warning after two hours 3(because / due to /whereas) it detected only small waves in Ternate, Jailolo and Bitung. The quake was also felt 4(strongly / deliberately /scarcely) on the island of Sulawesi, to the west of the epicenter, 5 (when / which /where) authorities urged people to move to higher ground and stay away from the beaches. Indonesia is situated 6(in / off /on) the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire, which frequently 7(has /have / had) earthquakes and sometimes accompanying tsunamis. A magnitude 7.3 earthquake had struck the Moluccas islands in July, killing at least four people. The most 8(heart-breaking / challenging /devastating) in recent Indonesian history was on Dec. 26, 2004, when a magnitude-9.5 quake 9(resulted / triggered / led) a massive tsunami along the shorelines of the Indian Ocean. Last year, a tsunami 10(blasted/ occurred /hit) the city of Palu in Sulawesi, killing thousands.



**TASK THREE: Express differently starting as given on the answer sheet(10mks) :**

- 1- I should have helped you.
- 2- You must stop wasting money .
- 3- They're going to erect a 30-floor skyscraper near the shopping mall.
- 4- Maria should work harder this year to make ends meet.
- 5- The Smiths seldom buy toys for their kids.
- 6- As one grows older, one becomes more intolerant.
- 7- "The coup was planned here" says the army general.
- 8- Despite the freezing temperatures, they managed to climb the snow-covered mountain.
- 9- I prefer reading a book than surfing the Net.
- 10- If your handwriting isn't clear, the examiner won't accept your paper.

**PART THREE: WRITING(20mks):**

**TASK ONE: Each sentence below includes 2 mistakes. Find them out and correct them in the space provided on the answer sheet(2mks):**

- 1- Only the Nations United can bring peace and long-term stability for the region.
- 2- There is no doubt that the greater threat to polar bears come from global warming.

**TASK TWO: Reorder the following sentences to get a coherent paragraph(3mks):**

- a- made by the plant operators.
- b- The April 1986 disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine was the product of a
- c- the resulting lack of any safety culture
- d- flawed Soviet reactor design coupled with serious mistakes
- e- which should be reinforced to avoid such a tragedy.
- f- It was a direct consequence of Cold War isolation and

**TASK THREE: ESSAY(15mks):**

Some scientists claim that science and technology have made our life on earth easier, better and safer. In your opinion, to what extent is this true? Give sound arguments and examples to support your point of view in a 15-line essay.

***Good Luck!***

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**DEVOIR DE FIN DE SEMESTRE N°1**  
**(ANSWER SHEET)**

**PART ONE: COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (30mks) :**

**I / Text type (1.5mks) :**

(-----) Justification:-----

**II / The statement that best relates to the text (1.5mks) :**

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**III / The 3 adjectives that best describe the writer's mood (1.5mks):**

1)----- 2)----- 3)-----

**IV/ The 4 factors behind the destruction of the Amazon rainforests (2mks):**

- 1)-----
- 2)-----
- 3)-----
- 4)-----

**V/ True or False Statements (4.5mks) :**

- 1) (-----) Justification:-----  
-----
- 2) (-----) Justification:-----  
-----
- 3) (-----) Justification:-----  
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**VI / The correct alternative (2mks) :**

- 1) The Brazil and many other countries throughout the world are currently :  
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- 2) In reaction to the ecological disaster, citizens should ask their governments to:  
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VII / The 4 harmful effects resulting from the global food system (4mks):

- 1) .....
- 2) .....
- 3) .....
- 4) .....

VIII / Sentence completion(3mks):

- 1) The Amazon rainforest as well as (a)----- and  
(b)-----are regarded as (c) -----  
----- and (d)-----.
- 2) The increase in commodity prices has resulted in (a)-----  
-----and it is also to blame for (b)-----.

IX / Sentence explanation (1mk) :

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X / Answer the questions with reference to the text (2mks) :

- 1) The products that the Brazilian farmers export to the world:  
a)----- b)----- c)----- d)-----
- 2) The worldwide demand for meat can be decreased by:  
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XI / Vocabulary Items (4mks) :

- 1) .....
- 2) .....
- 3) .....
- 4) .....

XII / References (3mks) :

- 1)----- 2)-----
- 3)-----

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**PART TWO: LANGUAGE (30mks) :**

**TASK ONE (10mks) :**

1		6	
2		7	
3		8	
4		9	
5		10	

**TASK TWO (10mks) :**

1		6	
2		7	
3		8	
4		9	
5		10	

**TASK THREE (10mks) :**

- 1) I wish-----
- 2) It's time you-----
- 3) A 30-floor skyscraper-----
- 4) If I were Maria,-----
- 5) Seldom-----
- 6) The older-----
- 7) The army general said-----
- 8) Although-----
- 9) I'd rather-----
- 10) Provided that-----

**PART THREE: WRITING (20mks) :**

**TASK ONE: Mistakes and Correction (2mks) :**

	Mistake	Correction
Sentence n° 1	1.	1.
	2.	2.
Sentence n° 2	1.	1.
	2.	2.

**TASK TWO: Reordering (3mks) :**

1 → .....	2 → .....	3 → .....	4 → .....	5 → .....	6 → .....
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**TASK THREE: Essay (15mks) :**

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