

PART I

A. Comprehension questions on the text. Read the text and choose the correct answer. You must choose and answer only 2 out of 3 questions below. (0,5 points each).

Discarded mattresses that currently end up in landfill could be used to grow food for refugees in desert environments around the world, according to scientists at the University of Sheffield. The team of experts in hydroponics (growing plants without soil) and soil health have collaborated with a group of Syrian refugees – many of whom are experienced farmers – to grow tomatoes, peppers, aubergines and herbs using waste materials in Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan.

Aid workers discard thousands of used foam mattresses in camps around the world – but the scientists, who have been developing foam ‘soils’ in their labs in Sheffield, recognised that they could be used as a growing medium for crops. They have shown the refugees how to fill waste containers from around the camp with mattress foam and a carefully balanced nutrient solution, and plant seedlings straight into the foam, which supports the plant’s roots as it grows.

Working closely with the refugees, the team has created ‘desert gardens’ that provide people in the camp with fresh herbs and vegetables, training opportunities and longed-for greenery in a harsh desert landscape. University of Sheffield scientists have learned from the refugees in turn, whose use of the foam in real-world conditions has demonstrated its potential to grow crops more sustainably, and in places with degraded soils. This method of growing uses 70-80 per cent less water than planting straight into the soil, and eliminates the need for pesticides.

The project is a collaboration between the Grantham Centre for Sustainable Futures and the Institute for Sustainable Food at the University of Sheffield. With funding running out for the project, which has so far trained nearly 1,000 refugees to grow food with foam, the University has launched a public appeal to make the initiative sustainable and roll it out to other camps. They hope to raise £250,000 to supply seeds, nutrient solution and training for 3,000 refugees. Using a “train the trainers” model, this will enable the project to become self-sustaining – with refugees sharing knowledge and skills with each other and using money made from selling produce to buy more supplies.

The University of Sheffield’s Desert Garden project gives people the tools and skills they need to grow their own fresh produce and gain future employment, as well as boosting mental health and greening the camp.

1. According to the text,
 - a) you can grow vegetables in mattresses themselves.
 - b) you can grow vegetables in containers using foam of the mattresses.**
 - c) mattresses are not good for growing plants.
2. According to the text, a good advantage of this way of growing plants is it doesn’t need
 - a) any water
 - b) any nutrient solution
 - c) any pesticides**

3. According to the text,
- a) both refugees and scientists have learned from one another.
 - b) funding for the project will continue for a few years
 - c) the University of Sheffield is going to give 250,000 pounds to the project.

B. Use of English. Choose the correct answer. You must choose and answer only 8 out of 11 questions below (0,5 each question)

- 4) "Look_____! There is a bus coming"
- a) up
 - b)out
 - c)down
- 5) Peter: "Jim went to the stadium an hour ago." Peter said that Jim_____
- a) went to the stadium an hour ago
 - b) had gone to the stadium an hour ago
 - c) had gone to the stadium an hour before
- 6) Mary_____as a model if she_____taller.
- a) could have worked/had been
 - b) could work/had been
 - c) could have worked/has been
- 7) Which word means the same as "sustainable"?
- a) stable
 - b) justifiable
 - c) maintainable
- 8) It's not such a terrible thing! Don` t worry! Cheer____!
- a) out
 - b) over
 - c) up
- 9) I _____do my homework yesterday evening.
- a) must
 - b) had to
 - c) should
- 10)_____ you play fair with them, they will respect you.
- a) As long
 - b) when
 - c) as long as
- 11)He is not as hard working _____you.
- a) than
 - b) as
 - c) that
- 12)The noun formed from the verb depend is_____
- a) dependency
 - b) dependancy
 - c) dependense

- 13) A: Can you do the washing up? B: why don't you do it_____ -?
a) by you
b) you
c) yourself
- 14) Tom never worries_____ friends
a) about to make
b) about making
c) of making

PART II

Write an essay of 120-150 words on ONE of the following subjects (5 points).

- A. We all have regrets. There are things that we did which we now wish that we hadn't done, or there are things we didn't do which we wish we had done. Describe in detail one thing, big or small, that you are sorry about. Make sure the reader understands the context, what happened, what the consequences were, and what you wish had happened instead.**

It all started during a summer afternoon. I was 21 years old; it was so hot in Madrid that day. I was studying my degree in English studies all alone in that big city.

I was working as a waiter and a strange looking man entered the bar. He was all covered in sweat due to the heat. Then, he ordered me a glass of water but I told him that I couldn't just serve him water; he needed to order any other thing so that I could get paid something. He didn't answer, instead he just put a smile on his face and left. After a couple of minutes, my manager came and told me I was fired.

I couldn't believe what was happening; he told me that the man who I hadn't served a glass of water to was, actually, the owner of the bar. I wish I had served that glass of water, but I did what I was supposed to do according to the bar policy. Now that I've grown up I understand that one should never deny a glass of water to a thirsty person regardless the consequences.

- B. Should rich countries all debts for poor countries? Explain your view.**

Rich countries take advantage from poor countries due to historical battles and wars, which ended up by a small number of territories imposing over a majority with fewer resources. Thus, poor countries have always lived at the mercy of the richer ones.

First, a common thought is that the so-called "poor countries" are in debt to the Western European countries and the USA (some of the rich countries). But, isn't that debt just something rich countries have created in order to maintain their privileges? Historically, rich countries always invade poor ones so that they can spread their imposing cultures. Therefore, developing countries will always have debts to pay in order to maintain the status quo of the world map.

In conclusion, I personally believe that rich countries should not only forgive debts for poor countries, but also to supply them with the resources that once were taken from their hands.