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OPTION A

DEFORESTATION

Trees are an amazing life form on our planet. With some trees estimated to be over 2,000 years old, they are the longest living things. By looking at their growth rings we can interpret what the seasons were like throughout their lives, so they have a great connection with the past, present and future weather.

When whole forests are cut down and the timber is either burnt or allowed to degrade naturally, carbon dioxide is then released back into the atmosphere. It has been estimated that a young, vigorously growing rain forest can absorb something in the order of 1,000 tonnes of carbon per acre each year. The fact that we are losing around 1.3 million acres a year is quite frightening.

This is an enormous problem as far as future weather is concerned. Even if we only cut back on deforestation to 50% of its current rate, this would still greatly reduce the warming of the atmosphere.

The problems of climate change and global warming in particular have to be solved internationally. If we can find a will and a way to inspire national companies and enable individuals in the developing nations to conserve and replant their rain forests, it can only help us all in the long run.

QUESTIONS

1. Translate the following paragraph into Spanish (4 points):


When whole forests are cut down, carbon dioxide is then released back into the atmosphere. It has been estimated that a young, vigorously growing rain forest can absorb something in the order of 1,000 tonnes of carbon per acre each year. The fact that we are losing around 1.3 million acres a year is quite frightening.

2.- Read the text and answer the questions. Use your own words. Answers will be assessed from 0 to 1 (2 points as a whole).

- a) What kind of information can we get from trees?
- b) Why is deforestation bad?

3.-Complete the following sentences. Use the appropriate form of the word in brackets when given. Answers will be assessed from 0 to 0.5 each (4 points as a whole).

- a) The current process of deforestation in various geographical regions _____ (1. destroy) this unique environment. Consequently, many animals and plants that live _____ (2) the rainforests face the spectre of extinction. The extinction of the plants and animals leads to a diminished gene pool. This lack of biodiversity _____ (3) have many unforeseen ramifications, some of _____ (4) could be fatal to the future of humanity.
- b) Another issue that probably _____ (5. concern) the North more than the South is the advancement of humanity. _____ (6) the planetary gene pool continues to diminish, there is _____ (7) opportunity for advancements in many fields, particularly medicine, which benefits _____ (8) the cultivation of certain plants growing only in rainforests.

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OPTION B

STUDENTS COULD BOOST MARKS BY SHOWING 'CORPORATE SKILLS'

British universities draw up plans to accredit undergraduates who gain workplace skills or experience in jobs market. Some UK universities are considering awarding students in all subjects extra marks to their degrees if they can show "corporate skills" or experience in the jobs market, *The Guardian* has learned.

Undergraduates on all courses could earn credits for showing they possess the ability to run a workshop or make a good presentation, under the University of Leicester's plans. University College London's career unit is in discussions with senior managers over how to accredit employment skills, and Durham University is considering giving marks for work experience. Workplace skills courses have been a compulsory part of vocationally-oriented undergraduate degrees, such as engineering, for several years. But awarding credits to an English literature student for these skills is thought to be a new step.

Supporters of the courses argue that a growing number of students will soon pick a degree based on whether they think it will prepare them for the jobs market. This is largely because graduates will soon have to pay back up to £9,000 in tuition for each year of their degree – up from the current £3,290 a year.

QUESTIONS

1. Translate the following paragraph into Spanish (4 points):

British universities draw up plans to accredit undergraduates who gain workplace skills or experience in jobs market. Some UK universities are considering awarding students in all subjects extra marks to their degrees if they can show "corporate skills" or experience in the jobs market, *The Guardian* has learned.

2.- Read the text and answer the questions. Use your own words. Answers will be assessed from 0 to 1 (2 points as a whole).

- a) What's University College London going to do to certify employment skills?
- b) Which students have had compulsory workplace skills courses for several years?

3.-Complete the following sentences. Use the appropriate form of the word in brackets when given. Answers will be assessed from 0 to 0.5 each (4 points as a whole).

University managers _____ (1. be) discussing whether students should be able to complete their courses without _____ (2. take) a corporate skills course. Prof. Anthony Forster said Durham was reviewing its curriculum and exploring ways _____ (3) "allow academic credit to be _____ (4. award) for student employment or short-term community and work-based placements that have involved the application or development of academic knowledge and skills." Karen Barnard, at UCL, _____ (5. say) some degree courses already ran workplace skills courses, _____ (6) students tended not to get credits for attending them. She said she was "looking _____ (7) some form of skills accreditation." _____ (8) addition, the university's council, which advises on how the institution should be governed, was "quite keen" on the idea, she said.