STUDENT TEST BOOKLET

READING SECTION (40 questions)

PASSAGE 1

The Origins and Principles of Organic Farming

Organic farming, a method of crop and livestock production that involves much more than choosing not to use pesticides, fertilizers, genetically modified organisms, antibiotics and growth hormones, is a system that is holistic and sustainable. It is a production system that strives for sustainability, the enhancement of soil fertility and biological diversity. The philosophy behind organic farming is to work in harmony with nature, rather than against it. This involves using techniques to achieve good crop yields without harming the natural environment or the people who live and work in it.

The history of organic farming dates back to the early 20th century, a time of great change in the agricultural world. The development of artificial fertilizers in the mid-19th century, followed by chemical pesticides in the 1940s, led to a revolution in farming practices. These new technologies, while offering short-term benefits in terms of increased yields, had serious long-term consequences. Soil compaction, erosion, and a decline in overall soil fertility became widespread problems. Furthermore, concerns grew about the potential health risks of toxic chemicals entering the food supply.

In response to these challenges, pioneers of the organic movement began to explore alternative approaches to farming. Sir Albert Howard, a British botanist working in India in the early 1900s, is often referred to as the “father of organic farming.” He observed traditional Indian farming practices and was impressed by their sustainability. He developed a system of organic agriculture that integrated traditional methods with modern scientific knowledge. His work, particularly his book “An Agricultural Testament,” published in 1940, laid the foundations for the modern organic movement.

Another key figure in the history of organic farming was Rudolf Steiner, an Austrian philosopher who gave a series of lectures on agriculture in 1924. He introduced the

concept of “biodynamic agriculture,” a holistic approach that views the farm as a living organism. Biodynamic farming emphasizes the importance of balancing the relationship between the soil, plants, and animals, and creating a self-sustaining system.

The term “organic farming” was first coined by Lord Northbourne in his 1940 book, “Look to the Land.” He defined it as a system where the farm is viewed as a complex, living entity. This holistic perspective remains a core principle of organic farming today. The movement gained further momentum through the work of individuals like J.I. Rodale in the United States, who founded the Rodale Institute to promote organic methods, and Lady Eve Balfour in the United Kingdom, who conducted the Haughley Experiment, the first scientific comparison of organic and conventional farming.

At its core, organic farming is guided by a set of principles that distinguish it from other agricultural systems. These principles, as defined by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), are health, ecology, fairness, and care. The principle of health emphasizes that organic agriculture should sustain and enhance the health of soil, plants, animals, humans, and the planet as one and indivisible. The principle of ecology is based on the idea that organic agriculture should be based on living ecological systems and cycles, work with them, emulate them and help sustain them. The principle of fairness highlights the importance of equity, respect, justice, and stewardship of the shared world, both among people and in their relationships with other living beings. Finally, the principle of care states that organic agriculture should be managed in a precautionary and responsible manner to protect the health and well-being of current and future generations and the environment.

Questions 1-13

Questions 1-6

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 1?

In boxes 1-6 on your answer sheet, write

- **TRUE** if the statement agrees with the information
- **FALSE** if the statement contradicts the information
- **NOT GIVEN** if there is no information on this*

1. Organic farming exclusively forbids the use of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers.

2. The use of artificial fertilizers and chemical pesticides started in the same century.
3. Sir Albert Howard was the first person to use the term “organic farming.”
4. Biodynamic agriculture is a central component of modern organic farming practices.
5. The Haughley Experiment was the first of its kind to compare organic and conventional farming.
6. The IFOAM has more than 100 member organizations.

Questions 7-10

*Choose the correct letter, **A, B, C** or **D**.*

Write the correct letter in boxes 7-10 on your answer sheet.

1. The main idea of the first paragraph is to A. list all the prohibited substances in organic farming. B. explain the sustainable nature of organic farming. C. define organic farming and its core philosophy. D. compare organic farming with conventional farming.

2. What was the main problem with the new agricultural techniques of the 19th and 20th centuries? A. They were too expensive for most farmers. B. They led to a decrease in crop yields over time. C. They had negative long-term effects on the environment and health. D. They were not effective in controlling pests and weeds.

3. Who is considered the “father of organic farming”? A. Rudolf Steiner B. Lord Northbourne C. J.I. Rodale D. Sir Albert Howard

4. Which of the following is NOT a principle of organic farming according to IFOAM? A. Profitability B. Ecology C. Fairness D. Care

Questions 11-13

Complete the summary below.

*Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.*

Write your answers in boxes 11-13 on your answer sheet.

The development of organic farming was a reaction to the problems caused by modern agricultural techniques. The use of artificial fertilizers and chemical pesticides had a number of 11 _____, *including soil degradation and health concerns. Pioneers like Sir Albert Howard and Rudolf Steiner developed alternative farming methods based on traditional practices and a 12* _____. The term "organic farming" was first used by Lord Northbourne and the movement grew thanks to the work of advocates like J.I. Rodale and Lady Eve Balfour. Today, organic farming is guided by four main principles: health, ecology, fairness, and 13 _____.

PASSAGE 2

The Multifaceted Benefits of Organic Agriculture

A. Organic farming, a practice that has gained significant traction in recent years, offers a compelling array of benefits that extend beyond the farm gate. These advantages can be broadly categorized into three interconnected areas: environmental, health, and economic. By eschewing synthetic inputs and embracing ecological principles, organic agriculture presents a viable path towards a more sustainable and equitable food system. This passage will explore the multifaceted benefits of organic farming, delving into its positive impacts on the planet, human well-being, and the livelihoods of farmers.

B. From an environmental perspective, organic farming is a powerful tool for conservation and restoration. One of its most significant contributions is the improvement of soil health. Organic farmers utilize practices such as crop rotation, cover cropping, and the application of compost to build and maintain healthy soil. This, in turn, enhances water retention, reduces soil erosion, and promotes a vibrant community of beneficial microorganisms. Furthermore, by avoiding synthetic pesticides and fertilizers, organic farming protects water quality, preventing the contamination of rivers, lakes, and groundwater. The absence of these chemicals also fosters greater biodiversity, creating a haven for wildlife, including pollinators and natural predators of pests.

C. The health benefits of organic food are a primary driver for many consumers. While the nutritional differences between organic and conventionally grown food are still a subject of ongoing research, studies have consistently shown that organic produce contains lower levels of pesticide residues. This is a significant advantage, as exposure to pesticides has been linked to a range of health problems. Moreover, some studies suggest that organic foods may have higher concentrations of certain nutrients, such

as antioxidants and omega-3 fatty acids. The prohibition of antibiotics and growth hormones in organic livestock farming also addresses public health concerns about the rise of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

D. Beyond the direct health benefits of consuming organic food, the practice of organic farming also contributes to a healthier environment for farmworkers and rural communities. Farmworkers on conventional farms are at a high risk of exposure to toxic chemicals, which can lead to acute and chronic health issues. By eliminating the use of these substances, organic farming provides a safer working environment. The reduction in chemical runoff also means cleaner air and water for those living in agricultural areas, contributing to the overall well-being of rural populations.

E. The economic viability of organic farming is a critical factor in its long-term sustainability. While organic farming can be more labor-intensive and may have lower yields in some cases, organic farmers can often command premium prices for their products. This “organic premium” can offset the higher production costs and lead to increased profitability. Furthermore, organic farming can reduce input costs by eliminating the need for expensive synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. By building healthy soil, organic farmers can also improve the long-term productivity of their land, making their farms more resilient to drought and other environmental challenges.

F. The economic benefits of organic farming are not limited to individual farmers. The growth of the organic sector creates jobs in farming, processing, and retail. It also stimulates rural economies by promoting local food systems and creating new market opportunities. The demand for organic products is growing globally, providing a significant export market for many countries. By supporting organic agriculture, consumers can contribute to the development of a more resilient and prosperous food system that benefits both people and the planet.

Questions 14-26

Questions 14-19

*Reading Passage 2 has six paragraphs, **A-F**.*

Choose the correct heading for each paragraph from the list of headings below.

*Write the correct number, **i-viii**, in boxes 14-19 on your answer sheet.*

List of Headings

i. The economic advantages for farmers and beyond ii. A safer environment for workers and communities iii. The growing demand for organic products iv. The positive impact on soil and water v. An overview of the benefits of organic farming vi. The nutritional superiority of organic food vii. The health advantages of consuming organic food viii. The role of organic farming in combating climate change

1. Paragraph A
2. Paragraph B
3. Paragraph C
4. Paragraph D
5. Paragraph E
6. Paragraph F

Questions 20-23

*Choose the correct letter, **A, B, C** or **D**.*

Write the correct letter in boxes 20-23 on your answer sheet.

1. According to the passage, what is a key environmental benefit of organic farming? A. It uses less water than conventional farming. B. It improves soil health and water quality. C. It eliminates the need for crop rotation. D. It produces higher yields than conventional farming.

2. What is the main reason why consumers choose organic food? A. It is cheaper than conventionally grown food. B. It has a longer shelf life. C. It contains lower levels of pesticide residues. D. It is always more nutritious than conventionally grown food.

3. How does organic farming benefit farmworkers? A. It provides them with higher wages. B. It reduces their exposure to toxic chemicals. C. It offers them more job security. D. It requires less physical labor.

4. What is the “organic premium”? A. A government subsidy for organic farmers. B. The higher price that consumers are willing to pay for organic products. C. A tax on conventionally grown food. D. The additional cost of organic certification.

Questions 24-26

Complete the sentences below.

*Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the passage for each answer.*

Write your answers in boxes 24-26 on your answer sheet.

1. Organic farming promotes a vibrant community of _____ in the soil.
2. The prohibition of antibiotics in organic livestock farming helps to address the problem of _____.
3. The growth of the organic sector stimulates rural economies by promoting _____.

PASSAGE 3

The Hurdles and Complexities of Organic Farming

While the benefits of organic farming are widely recognized, the transition to and practice of this agricultural system are not without their challenges. A host of obstacles, ranging from agronomic and economic to regulatory and market-related, can make organic farming a difficult path for many farmers. Understanding these hurdles is crucial for developing effective strategies to support the growth of the organic sector and make it a more accessible and viable option for producers worldwide.

One of the most significant challenges in organic farming is managing pests and weeds without the use of synthetic herbicides and pesticides. Organic farmers must rely on a diverse toolkit of alternative strategies, including crop rotation, intercropping, mechanical weeding, and the use of biological pest control agents. These methods can be more labor-intensive and may not always be as effective as their chemical counterparts, leading to potential yield losses. The risk of crop failure due to pest or disease outbreaks is a constant concern for organic farmers, particularly during the transition period when the farm's ecosystem is still adapting to the new management practices.

Soil fertility management is another key challenge. Organic farmers are prohibited from using synthetic fertilizers and must instead rely on natural sources of nutrients, such as compost, manure, and green manures. Building and maintaining healthy, fertile soil is a long-term process that requires careful planning and management. In the short term, organic farmers may face challenges in providing their crops with sufficient nutrients, which can impact yields. The availability and cost of organic-

approved fertilizers and soil amendments can also be a limiting factor for some farmers.

Economic considerations are a major hurdle for many farmers considering a switch to organic production. The transition period, which typically lasts for three years, can be particularly challenging. During this time, farmers must adhere to organic standards but cannot yet sell their products as certified organic. This means they may face higher production costs and lower yields without the benefit of the organic price premium. The cost of organic certification itself can also be a barrier for small-scale farmers. While the organic premium can lead to higher profitability in the long run, the initial investment and financial risks can be daunting.

Market access and infrastructure can also pose significant challenges for organic farmers. In some regions, the demand for organic products may be limited, or the infrastructure for processing, distributing, and marketing organic goods may be underdeveloped. This can make it difficult for farmers to find a reliable market for their products and receive a fair price. Furthermore, the risk of contamination from neighboring conventional farms, through pesticide drift or genetically modified pollen, is a constant threat to the integrity of organic crops and the certification status of organic farms.

Finally, the regulatory landscape of organic farming can be complex and difficult to navigate. Organic standards vary from country to country, and the certification process can be bureaucratic and time-consuming. Keeping up with changes in regulations and maintaining the necessary records can be a significant administrative burden for farmers. The lack of adequate research and extension services focused on organic farming in many regions can also make it difficult for farmers to access the information and support they need to succeed.

Despite these challenges, the organic sector continues to grow, driven by increasing consumer demand for healthy and sustainable food. By addressing the hurdles faced by organic farmers through research, policy, and market development, we can help to create a more resilient and sustainable food system for the future.

Questions 27-40

Questions 27-32

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 3?

In boxes 27-32 on your answer sheet, write

- **YES** if the statement agrees with the claims of the writer
- **NO** if the statement contradicts the claims of the writer
- **NOT GIVEN** if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this*

1. The challenges of organic farming are solely economic.
2. Pest and weed management in organic farming is often more labor-intensive than in conventional farming.
3. The transition to organic farming is a quick and easy process.
4. The demand for organic products is declining globally.
5. Organic farmers are not allowed to use any type of fertilizer.
6. The risk of contamination from conventional farms is a major concern for organic farmers.

Questions 33-36

*Choose the correct letter, **A, B, C** or **D**.*

Write the correct letter in boxes 33-36 on your answer sheet.

1. What is a major challenge for organic farmers during the transition period? A. They cannot sell any of their products. B. They have to pay higher taxes. C. They cannot use any machinery. D. They face higher costs without the organic price premium.

2. What is a potential solution to the challenges of organic farming? A. Increased use of synthetic pesticides. B. More research and support for organic farmers. C. A global standard for organic certification. D. A ban on all conventional farming.

3. What is a common problem related to market access for organic farmers? A. There is no demand for organic products. B. Organic products are too expensive to transport. C. The infrastructure for organic goods may be underdeveloped. D. Organic farmers are not allowed to export their products.

4. What is the main idea of the final paragraph? A. Organic farming is not a viable option for most farmers. B. The challenges of organic farming are insurmountable. C. The organic sector is growing despite the challenges. D. Conventional farming is more sustainable than organic farming.

Questions 37-40

Complete the notes below.

*Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.*

Write your answers in boxes 37-40 on your answer sheet.

Challenges of Organic Farming

- **Pest and Weed Management:**
  - Reliance on alternative strategies like crop rotation and 37 _____.
  - Risk of crop failure, especially during the 38 _____.
- **Soil Fertility:**
  - Dependence on natural nutrient sources.
  - Building healthy soil is a 39 _____ process.
- **Economic Hurdles:**
  - High initial investment and financial risks.
  - Cost of 40 _____ can be a barrier.
- **Market and Regulatory Issues:**
  - Limited market access and infrastructure.
  - Complex and bureaucratic certification process.

LISTENING SECTION (40 questions)

SECTION 1 Questions 1-10

Complete the form below.

*Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.*

Organic Veggie Box Subscription

Customer Details

- Name: Sarah **1** _____
- Address: 15, **2** _____ Lane, Cambridge

- Postcode: CB2 3AD
- Phone Number: **3** _____

Subscription Details

- Box Type: **4** _____ Box
- Size: Medium (for 2-3 people)
- Frequency: Every **5** _____
- First Delivery Date: **6** _____

Preferences

- Dislikes: **7** _____
- Special Requests: No **8** _____ in the box.

Payment Details

- Payment Method: **9** _____
- Total Cost per month: **10** £_____

SECTION 2 Questions 11-20

Questions 11-15

*Choose the correct letter, **A, B** or **C**.*

1. The speaker says that the main purpose of the talk is to A. encourage people to start their own organic farm. B. provide information about the local community farm. C. promote the sale of organic vegetables.

2. What is the name of the community farm? A. Green Fields Farm B. Green Valley Farm C. Greenwood Farm

3. How is the farm managed? A. By a team of professional farmers. B. By a cooperative of local residents. C. By the local council.

4. What is one of the benefits of volunteering at the farm? A. Free vegetables B. A share of the profits C. A discount on workshops

5. What is the farm's main challenge? A. Lack of funding B. Pest control C. Water scarcity

Questions 16-20

What activity is available at the following locations on the farm?

*Choose **FIVE** answers from the box and write the correct letter, **A-G**, next to questions 16-20.*

Activities

A. Beekeeping B. Composting C. Fruit picking D. Seed saving E. Vegetable harvesting F. Weeding G. Workshop on soil health

Locations

1. The Polytunnels _____
2. The Orchard _____
3. The Community Garden _____
4. The Barn _____
5. The Wildlife Pond _____

SECTION 3 Questions 21-30

*Choose the correct letter, **A, B** or **C**.*

1. What is the main topic of the students' discussion? A. The benefits of organic farming for the environment. B. The challenges of implementing organic farming methods. C. The economic viability of organic farming.

2. What does Chloe say about the use of pesticides in conventional farming? A. It is necessary to ensure high yields. B. It has a devastating effect on biodiversity. C. It is becoming less common.

3. According to Mark, what is the main problem with organic farming? A. It is too expensive for consumers. B. It cannot produce enough food to feed the world. C. It is not as efficient as conventional farming.

4. What point does Chloe make about the yield gap between organic and conventional farming? A. It is a myth created by the chemical industry. B. It can be closed with the right techniques. C. It is a major obstacle to the growth of organic farming.

5. What does Mark suggest about the role of technology in organic farming? A. It has no place in organic agriculture. B. It can help to improve the efficiency of organic systems. C. It is too expensive for most organic farmers.

6. What do the students agree is the key to the future of farming? A. A combination of organic and conventional methods. B. A greater focus on local food systems. C. A shift towards more sustainable practices.

Questions 27-30

*Choose the correct letter, **A, B** or **C**.*

1. What is Chloe's attitude towards the future of organic farming? A. Optimistic B. Pessimistic C. Neutral

2. What does Mark think about the government's role in supporting organic farming? A. It is doing enough. B. It should provide more financial incentives. C. It should focus on research and development.

3. What does Chloe suggest about consumer awareness? A. It is not a significant factor. B. It is crucial for driving change. C. It is already very high.

4. What will the students do next? A. Write a report on their discussion. B. Prepare a presentation on organic farming. C. Conduct further research on the topic.

SECTION 4 Questions 31-40

Complete the notes below.

*Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** for each answer.*

The Future of Food: Agroecology and Organic Farming

Introduction

- The current food system is unsustainable and has a negative impact on the **31** _____.
- Agroecology is a potential solution, combining ecological principles with agricultural practices.

What is Agroecology?

- A holistic approach that views farms as **32** _____.

- Focuses on building healthy soil and promoting biodiversity.
- Emphasizes the importance of **33** _____ and farmer knowledge.

Key Principles of Agroecology

- **Recycling:** Nutrients and resources are recycled within the farm system.
- **Input Reduction:** Minimizing the use of external inputs like synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.
- **Soil Health:** Building and maintaining healthy soil through practices like cover cropping and **34** _____.
- **Animal Welfare:** Integrating animals into the farming system in a humane and sustainable way.
- **Biodiversity:** Promoting a diverse range of crops, animals, and wildlife.

Agroecology and Organic Farming

- Organic farming is a form of agroecology, but not all agroecological farms are **35** _____.
- Agroecology is a broader concept that also includes social and **36** _____ dimensions.

Benefits of Agroecology

- **Environmental:**
  - Reduces greenhouse gas emissions.
  - Protects water quality and **37** _____.
  - Enhances biodiversity.
- **Social:**
  - Empowers farmers and local communities.
  - Improves food security and **38** _____.
- **Economic:**
  - Reduces production costs.
  - Creates new market opportunities.

Challenges and the Way Forward

- **Challenges:** Lack of policy support, research funding, and consumer awareness.
- **The Way Forward:**
  - Need for a **39** _____ in our food system.
  - Greater investment in agroecological research and education.
  - Building stronger connections between farmers and **40** _____.

WRITING SECTION

WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The chart below shows the growth of organic farming in a European country between 1995 and 2025.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.

(A bar chart would be inserted here showing the number of organic farms and the total area of organic land in hectares for the years 1995, 2005, 2015, and 2025 (projected).)

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Some people believe that organic food is just a marketing gimmick and not worth the extra cost. Others argue that it is essential for our health and the environment.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

SPEAKING SECTION

PART 1: Introduction and interview (4-5 minutes)

1. Do you like to eat organic food? Why or why not?
2. What are the benefits of eating organic food?
3. Is organic food popular in your country?
4. Do you think organic food is expensive?
5. Would you like to grow your own vegetables in the future?

PART 2: Individual long turn (3-4 minutes)

Describe a farm you have visited.

You should say:

- where the farm was
- what kind of farm it was
- what you did there

and explain what you enjoyed about the visit.

PART 3: Two-way discussion (4-5 minutes)

1. What are the main differences between traditional and modern farming?
2. Do you think it is important for a country to be self-sufficient in food?
3. How can we encourage more young people to become farmers?
4. What is the impact of climate change on farming?
5. Do you think that technology will play a bigger role in farming in the future?

GRAMMAR SECTION (20 questions)

Questions 1-5: Error Correction

Identify the error in each sentence and correct it.

1. The number of organic farms have increased significantly in recent years.
2. I am preferring organic food because it is more healthier.

3. The farmer, who he is an expert in organic methods, gave a talk at the conference.
4. Despite of the challenges, many farmers are converting to organic agriculture.
5. The government should to do more to support organic farming.

Questions 6-10: Sentence Transformation

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given.

1. Organic food is more expensive than conventional food. (**AS**) Conventional food is not _____ organic food.
2. The farmer started using organic methods ten years ago. (**FOR**) The farmer has been using organic methods _____ ten years.
3. "I think you should buy organic vegetables," she said to me. (**ADVISED**) She _____ organic vegetables.
4. They didn't have enough money to buy the organic farm. (**TOO**) The organic farm was _____ for them to buy.
5. The government is responsible for regulating organic standards. (**IS**) Regulating organic standards _____ the government.

Questions 11-15: Fill in the Blanks

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets, or a suitable article or preposition.

1. If I _____ (have) more time, I would start my own organic garden.
2. The use of pesticides is strictly _____ (prohibit) in organic farming.
3. He has been working _____ an organic farm since he left university.
4. _____ organic food is becoming increasingly popular, it is still a niche market.
5. The farmer is committed _____ sustainable agricultural practices.

Questions 16-20: Word Formation

Use the word in capitals to form a word that fits in the gap.

1. The _____ of organic farming has led to a greater demand for organic products. (POPULAR)
2. Organic farmers aim to work in _____ with nature. (HARMONIOUS)
3. The _____ of the soil is crucial for growing healthy crops. (FERTILE)
4. Many people are concerned about the _____ effects of pesticides on their health. (HARM)
5. The _____ of organic farming requires a significant investment of time and money. (CONVERT)

LISTENING SCRIPTS

SECTION 1

(Sound of a phone ringing)

Representative: Good morning, Green Box Organics. How can I help you?

Sarah: Oh, hello. I'm calling to inquire about your organic veggie box subscription.

Representative: Of course. I can certainly help you with that. First, could I take your name?

Sarah: Yes, it's Sarah. That's S-A-R-A-H.

Representative: And your surname?

Sarah: It's **Jones**. J-O-N-E-S.

Representative: Great. And could I have your address?

Sarah: It's 15, **Apple** Lane, Cambridge.

Representative: Apple Lane. Got it. And the postcode?

Sarah: CB2 3AD.

Representative: Perfect. Now, what about a contact number?

Sarah: My mobile is **07700 900123**.

Representative: 07700 900123. Thank you. Now, let's look at the subscription options. What kind of box were you interested in?

Sarah: I was looking at the **Mixed** Box, the one with both fruit and vegetables.

Representative: Excellent choice. And what size would you like? We have small, medium, and large.

Sarah: The medium should be fine. It's for two or three people, right?

Representative: That's right. And how often would you like to receive your box? We offer weekly or fortnightly deliveries.

Sarah: I think every **two weeks** would be best for us.

Representative: Okay. And when would you like your first delivery?

Sarah: Let's see… Today is the 10th of March. Could I have the first one on the **24th of March**?

Representative: Yes, that's fine. Now, are there any vegetables you particularly dislike? We can exclude them from your box.

Sarah: Oh, that's great. I'm not a big fan of **cabbage**.

Representative: No cabbage. Noted. Any other special requests?

Sarah: Yes, could you make sure there are no **potatoes** in the box? We seem to have a lot of them at the moment.

Representative: No potatoes. I've made a note of that. Now, for payment. How would you like to pay?

Sarah: I'll pay by **credit card**.

Representative: Okay. The total cost for the medium mixed box delivered every two weeks is **£25.50** per delivery. So, that's £51 per month. Is that okay?

Sarah: Yes, that sounds fine.

Representative: Great. I'll just take your card details…

SECTION 2

(Sound of people chatting, birds singing)

Speaker: Good morning everyone, and a very warm welcome to Greenwood Farm. My name is David, and I'm the farm manager. It's great to see so many new faces here today. The main purpose of this introductory tour is to show you around the farm and explain how you can get involved as a volunteer. We're a community-run project, which means the farm is managed by a cooperative of local residents, and we rely on the help of volunteers like you to keep things running smoothly.

First, I'll give you a brief overview of the farm. We're a 10-acre site, and we grow a wide variety of organic vegetables, fruits, and herbs. We also have a small flock of chickens for eggs. Our aim is to provide fresh, healthy, and affordable food for the local community, while also promoting sustainable farming practices. As a volunteer, you'll have the opportunity to learn new skills, meet like-minded people, and, of course, you'll get to take home a share of the harvest. We also offer a discount on our workshops for all our regular volunteers.

Now, let's start our tour. If you look at the map I've given you, you'll see the layout of the farm. We're currently standing at the entrance, next to the farm shop. The first area we're going to visit is the polytunnels. These are the large plastic tunnels over there. This is where we grow our salad crops and other vegetables that need a bit of extra protection from the weather. Your main task here will be **vegetable harvesting**, especially in the summer months.

Next, we'll move on to the orchard. We have a variety of fruit trees here, including apples, pears, and plums. In the autumn, this is where we do all our **fruit picking**. It's a really enjoyable task, and the views from the top of the orchard are amazing.

After the orchard, we'll head to the community garden. This is a space where local residents can rent a small plot of land to grow their own food. As a volunteer, you might be asked to help with **weeding** or watering in this area.

From the community garden, we'll make our way to the barn. This is where we store our tools and equipment, and it's also where we run our workshops. This weekend, for example, we have a **workshop on soil health**. If you're interested, you can sign up at the farm shop later.

Finally, we'll end our tour at the wildlife pond. This is a really important part of the farm's ecosystem, as it attracts a wide range of beneficial insects and other wildlife. We have a small beehive here, and you can often see our beekeeper at work. The main

activity here is **beekeeping**, but we ask that you don't get too close to the hives unless you're with the beekeeper.

So, that's a brief overview of the farm. Now, are there any questions before we start our walk?

SECTION 3

(Sound of students chatting in a common room)

Chloe: So, Mark, have you started thinking about our presentation on organic farming?

Mark: A little bit. I've been looking at the economic viability of it. It seems like a pretty complex issue.

Chloe: I know. I've been reading up on the environmental benefits. It's fascinating how much of a positive impact it can have. The way conventional farming uses pesticides, for example, has a devastating effect on biodiversity.

Mark: I agree that the environmental side is important, but we also need to be realistic. The main problem with organic farming is that it can't produce enough food to feed the world. The yields are often lower than conventional farming, and that's a major concern.

Chloe: I'm not so sure about that. I've read some studies that suggest the yield gap between organic and conventional farming can be closed with the right techniques, like intercropping and crop rotation. It's not a simple black and white issue.

Mark: Maybe, but those techniques are often more labor-intensive, which drives up the cost for consumers. And let's be honest, not everyone can afford to pay a premium for organic food.

Chloe: That's true, but I think we also need to consider the role of technology. There are some really interesting innovations in agritech that could help to improve the efficiency of organic systems and bring down the costs. Things like precision weeding and drone technology for pest control.

Mark: I'm a bit skeptical about the role of technology in organic farming. It seems to go against the whole philosophy of working in harmony with nature.

Chloe: I see your point, but I think we need to be open to new ideas. The key to the future of farming is a shift towards more sustainable practices, and that might mean

combining the best of both worlds – the ecological principles of organic farming and the technological advancements of modern agriculture.

Mark: I suppose you're right. It's not about one system being better than the other, but about finding a balance.

Chloe: Exactly. So, for our presentation, we could discuss both the challenges and the opportunities of organic farming, and then propose a more integrated approach for the future.

Mark: That sounds like a good plan. I'm feeling more optimistic about it now.

Chloe: Me too. I think consumer awareness is also a crucial factor. The more people understand the true cost of cheap food, the more they'll be willing to support sustainable alternatives.

Mark: And the government has a role to play too. They should provide more financial incentives for farmers to transition to organic methods.

Chloe: Absolutely. So, shall we start putting together a structure for our presentation?

Mark: Yes, let's do it. I'll start by creating a shared document and we can both add our ideas.

Chloe: Great. I'll start by writing up my notes on the environmental benefits.

Mark: And I'll focus on the economic aspects and the role of technology. This is going to be a great presentation.

SECTION 4

(Sound of a university lecture)

Professor: Good morning, everyone. In today's lecture, we're going to be looking at the future of food, and specifically, the role of agroecology and organic farming in creating a more sustainable food system. As you know, the current industrial model of agriculture is having a significant negative impact on the **environment**. It's a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, water pollution, and biodiversity loss. So, we urgently need to find a new way of feeding the world that is both productive and sustainable.

One of the most promising solutions is agroecology. Now, what do we mean by agroecology? Well, it's a holistic approach to agriculture that views farms as **ecosystems**. It's about designing farming systems that mimic natural processes, in order to build healthy soil, promote biodiversity, and minimize the need for external inputs. A key aspect of agroecology is the emphasis on **local knowledge** and the participation of farmers in the research and development process.

So, what are the key principles of agroecology? The first is recycling. This means that nutrients and resources are recycled within the farm system, rather than being imported from outside. For example, animal manure is used to fertilize the crops, and crop residues are used to feed the animals. The second principle is input reduction. This means minimizing the use of external inputs like synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. Instead, agroecological farmers rely on natural processes to maintain soil fertility and control pests. The third principle is soil health. Building and maintaining healthy soil is the cornerstone of agroecology. This is achieved through practices like cover cropping and **composting**. The fourth principle is animal welfare. Animals are integrated into the farming system in a humane and sustainable way. And the final principle is biodiversity. Agroecology promotes a diverse range of crops, animals, and wildlife, which makes the farming system more resilient to pests, diseases, and climate change.

Now, you might be wondering how agroecology relates to organic farming. Well, organic farming is a form of agroecology, but not all agroecological farms are **certified organic**. Agroecology is a broader concept that also includes social and **economic** dimensions. It's about creating a food system that is not only environmentally sustainable, but also socially just and economically viable.

So, what are the benefits of agroecology? From an environmental perspective, it can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect water quality and **soil**, and enhance biodiversity. From a social perspective, it can empower farmers and local communities, and improve food security and **nutrition**. And from an economic perspective, it can reduce production costs and create new market opportunities.

Of course, there are also challenges. The main ones are a lack of policy support, research funding, and consumer awareness. To move forward, we need a **paradigm shift** in our food system. We need greater investment in agroecological research and education, and we need to build stronger connections between farmers and **consumers**. Only then can we create a food system that is truly sustainable and equitable for all.

Now, are there any questions?

ANSWER KEY

READING

1. TRUE
2. FALSE
3. FALSE
4. NOT GIVEN
5. TRUE
6. NOT GIVEN
7. C
8. C
9. D
10. A
11. long-term consequences
12. holistic perspective
13. care
14. v
15. iv
16. vii
17. ii
18. i
19. i
20. B
21. C
22. B
23. B

24. beneficial microorganisms
25. antibiotic-resistant bacteria
26. local food systems
27. NO
28. YES
29. NO
30. NO
31. NO
32. YES
33. D
34. B
35. C
36. C
37. biological pest control
38. transition period
39. long-term
40. organic certification

LISTENING

1. Jones
2. Apple
3. 07700 900123
4. Mixed
5. two weeks
6. 24th of March
7. cabbage
8. potatoes
9. credit card
10. 25.50

11. B
12. C
13. B
14. C
15. B
16. E
17. C
18. F
19. G
20. A
21. B
22. B
23. B
24. B
25. B
26. C
27. A
28. B
29. B
30. B
31. environment
32. ecosystems
33. local knowledge
34. composting
35. certified organic
36. economic
37. soil
38. nutrition
39. paradigm shift

40. consumers

GRAMMAR

1. has increased
2. prefer / healthier
3. who is
4. Despite the challenges
5. should do
6. as expensive as
7. for
8. advised me to buy
9. too expensive
10. is the responsibility of
11. had
12. prohibited
13. on
14. Although/While
15. to
16. popularity
17. harmony
18. fertility
19. harmful
20. conversion

TUTOR GUIDE

Model answer for Writing Task 1

The bar chart illustrates the development of organic farming in a specific European nation over a 30-year period, from 1995 to 2025. The data presented covers the number of registered organic farms and the corresponding total land area dedicated to organic cultivation.

Overall, the trend for both metrics is one of significant growth, indicating a substantial expansion of the organic farming sector in this country. The number of organic farms is projected to increase more than tenfold, while the area of organic land is expected to see an even more dramatic rise.

In 1995, there were just under 2,000 organic farms, cultivating a total of approximately 100,000 hectares of land. A decade later, in 2005, the number of farms had more than doubled to around 4,000, and the area of organic land had tripled to 300,000 hectares. This strong growth continued over the next ten years, with the number of farms reaching 8,000 and the land area expanding to 700,000 hectares in 2015.

Projections for 2025 suggest that this upward trend will continue, albeit at a slightly slower rate. The number of organic farms is expected to reach 12,000, while the total area of organic land is predicted to hit the 1 million hectare mark. This indicates a sustained and growing commitment to organic agriculture in the country.

Model essay for Writing Task 2 (Band 9 level)

The debate surrounding organic food is a contentious one, with strong arguments on both sides. While some consumers view it as a marketing ploy designed to extract a premium from the health-conscious, others passionately advocate for its benefits to both human well-being and the environment. This essay will discuss both perspectives before offering a concluding opinion.

On one hand, the skepticism towards organic food is not entirely unfounded. The term “organic” has become a powerful marketing tool, and the higher price tag associated with these products can be a significant barrier for many consumers. Critics argue that the nutritional benefits of organic food are often exaggerated and that conventional produce is perfectly safe and healthy when consumed as part of a balanced diet. They

point to the lack of conclusive scientific evidence to support the claim that organic food is significantly more nutritious than its non-organic counterpart. Furthermore, the complex and often bureaucratic nature of organic certification can lead to suspicion and mistrust, with some questioning the integrity of the standards and the consistency of their enforcement.

On the other hand, the arguments in favour of organic food are compelling. Proponents emphasize the significant environmental benefits of organic farming, which prohibits the use of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers. These chemicals have been shown to have a detrimental impact on soil health, water quality, and biodiversity. By supporting organic agriculture, consumers are investing in a more sustainable and ecologically sound food system. From a health perspective, the lower levels of pesticide residues in organic food are a key advantage, particularly for vulnerable groups such as children and pregnant women. While the nutritional debate may be ongoing, the avoidance of potentially harmful chemicals is a clear and tangible benefit.

In my opinion, while the marketing of organic food can sometimes be overzealous, the fundamental principles of organic agriculture are sound and offer a viable path towards a more sustainable future. The higher cost of organic food reflects the true cost of producing food in a way that does not harm the environment or human health. While it may not be a feasible option for everyone, the growing demand for organic products is a positive trend that is driving change in the agricultural industry. Ultimately, the choice to buy organic is a personal one, but it is a choice that has far-reaching implications for our planet and our collective well-being.

Speaking Part 2 sample response

Last summer, I had the opportunity to visit a wonderful little farm called “Green Shoots,” which is located just outside my hometown. It’s a community-supported agriculture (CSA) farm, which means it’s a small-scale, independent farm that sells its produce directly to local residents through a subscription service.

I went there with a friend who is a subscriber, and we spent a lovely afternoon helping out with the harvest. We picked everything from ripe, juicy tomatoes to crisp, green lettuce. The farmer, a very friendly and knowledgeable man named Tom, showed us around the farm and explained the principles of organic farming. It was fascinating to see how he used natural methods to control pests and maintain the fertility of the soil.

What I enjoyed most about the visit was the feeling of being connected to the food I eat. It was so rewarding to see the vegetables growing in the fields and to know that they were being produced in a way that was good for the environment. The taste of the freshly picked tomatoes was incredible – so much better than anything you can buy in a supermarket. The whole experience gave me a much greater appreciation for the hard work and dedication of farmers, and it has inspired me to seek out more locally grown and organic food.

Key vocabulary list

1. **Sustainable:** Able to be maintained at a certain rate or level.
2. **Holistic:** Characterized by the belief that the parts of something are intimately interconnected and explicable only by reference to the whole.
3. **Biodiversity:** The variety of plant and animal life in the world or in a particular habitat.
4. **Pesticides:** Substances used for destroying insects or other organisms harmful to cultivated plants or to animals.
5. **Fertilizers:** A chemical or natural substance added to soil or land to increase its fertility.
6. **Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs):** Organisms whose genetic material has been altered using genetic engineering techniques.
7. **Crop Rotation:** The practice of growing a series of different types of crops in the same area across a sequence of growing seasons.
8. **Cover Cropping:** The planting of crops to cover the soil rather than for the purpose of being harvested.
9. **Compost:** Decayed organic material used as a plant fertilizer.
10. **Soil Erosion:** The displacement of the upper layer of soil; it is a form of soil degradation.
11. **Pollinators:** Animals that move pollen from the male anther of a flower to the female stigma of a flower.
12. **Antioxidants:** Substances that can prevent or slow damage to cells caused by free radicals.
13. **Omega-3 Fatty Acids:** Polyunsaturated fatty acids that are essential nutrients for health.

14. **Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria:** Bacteria that are not controlled or killed by antibiotics.
15. **Economic Viability:** The ability of a farm to survive and be profitable over the long term.
16. **Organic Premium:** The higher price that consumers are willing to pay for organic products.
17. **Input Costs:** The costs of the resources, such as fertilizer and seed, used to produce a crop.
18. **Pesticide Drift:** The unintentional diffusion of pesticides and the potential negative consequences of their application.
19. **Agroecology:** The study of ecological processes applied to agricultural production systems.
20. **Paradigm Shift:** A fundamental change in approach or underlying assumptions.