**Fill in each blank with one suitable word. Change word forms where necessary. There two words that you do not need.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *natural habit* | *estimated* | *renewable anergy* | *climate change* | *sceptical* | *drawback* |
| *release* | *greenhouse gas* | *effect* | *fossil fuels* | *unspoilt countryside* | *challenge* |

I believe we need to reduce our dependency on (1) ……. Like oil and coal, because they (2) ……..so many (3) …….. into the atmosphere. All the scientific evidence indicates that they’re a major cause of (4) …….. We need to switch to (5) …….. sources, such as solar and wind power. It could be a (6) …….., I agree, but one that would be worth the effort. Of course, some people are (7) …….. about the benefits of this, and argue that there are some serious (8) ……… For example, nobody has (9)………the cost of building wind and solar farms to provide power to the whole country. Furthermore, huge areas of (10) …… would be ruined by the sight of huge wind turbines everywhere. However, I don’t think anyone who is serious about saving the environment would argue a case against energy sources that produce zero emissions.

**Answer sheet**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1fossil fuels | 2release | 3greenhouse gas | 4climate change | 5renewable energy |
| 6challenge | 7sceptical | 8drawback | 9estimated | 10unspoil countryside |

**Reading**

The necktie, normally simply shortened to tie, has been around in one form or another for over 2000 years. During this time it has been used to proclaim status, occupation and even identity, as well as allegiance to a group or cause, often military. It has also had utilitarian purposes – to protect the neck or hide buttons on  
a shirt. Very few men today would consider going to work or attending a formal function without wearing a tie, on the understanding that this simple piece of neckwear is an indication of tidiness, efficiency and respect.

The earliest known version of the necktie was found in the massive mausoleum of China’s first emperor, Shih Huang Ti, who was buried in 210 BC. Desperately afraid of what would happen after he died, the emperor wanted to slaughter an entire army to accompany him into the next world, where they would guard him against evil. His advisers ultimately persuaded him to take life-size replicas of the soldiers instead. The result is one of the marvels of the ancient world. Accidentally unearthed in 1974 by farmers digging a well near the ancient capital city of Xian, the tomb contained an astonishing 7500 life-size terracotta replicas of Shih Huang Ti’s famed fighting force. Legions of officers, soldiers, archers and horsemen, all  
carved in meticulous detail, guard the emperor's sarcophagus.

Visitors to the sarcophagus in Xian are surprised not only at the sheer number of terracotta soldiers, but also by the attention paid to each replica. The armour, uniforms, hair, and facial expressions of the soldiers are reproduced in exquisite detail. Each figure is different – except in one respect: all wear neck cloths. Historians say other records indicate the Chinese did not wear ties, so why the emperor's guards wore carefully wrapped silk cloths remains a mystery. However, since silk was a great luxury, the cloths could be an honour which Shih Huang Ti bestowed on his highly trusted soldiers.

Male citizens in ancient Rome often wore cloths to keep their throats warm, but soldiers in the Roman army avoided covering their necks, probably because writers such as Horace and Seneca said it made them appear too feminine. However, in 113 AD, one of Rome's greatest Emperors, the military genius Trajan, erected a marble column to commemorate a triumphant victory over the Dacians, who lived in what is now Romania. The 2500 realistic figures on the column sport no less than three different styles of neckwear. Trajan's column is the only representation of Roman soldiers with neckwear. Historians believe they wore cloths for reasons similar to those of Shih Huang Ti’s terracotta army: truly great fighters must be visibly honoured, and the soldiers were so skilled in battle that they were immune to perceptions of appearing feminine.

The ‘Sun King’, Louis XIV of France, was intrigued by the colourful silk cloths worn around the necks of Croatian mercenaries who helped him to win an important military victory, and honoured them by wearing a similar neck cloth when they were presented to him at court in 1660. In fact, the French word for tie, cravat, is believed to be a corruption of the word Croat, and French kings maintained an elite regiment, the Cravate Royale, until the French Revolution of 1789. The trend caught on, and the elegant French courtiers and the military immediately began copying their king and the Croatians. Ordinary soldiers began adorning their necks with lace, while officers sported muslin or silk, possibly trimmed with embroidery. Even poor people wore cotton cravats, sometimes of pleated black taffeta. The fashion caught on in England during the reign of King Charles II. For those who could afford it, no price was too costly. The king himself is said to have once spent the equivalent of five times the average annual middle class salary on a single cravat. At first, the trend was purely decorative, but gradually people started wearing them for other reasons. A Cambridge University cricket club is believed to have created the first sporting colours in 1845, when designed a flag of black, bright, orange-red and gold. Jackets, caps, and ties were eventually created in these colours. In 1880, the rowing club at Oxford University’s Exeter College unintentionally invented the first school tie when someone had the idea of removing the ribbon band from his hat and tying it around his neck, and the rest of the club followed suit. School, club, and athletic ties then started to appear in abundance.

Such ties had enormous appeal to the vast Victorian middle class. As industrialization allowed for mass consumption of material goods, men wanted to stand out, to assert their social superiority, or to proclaim their allegiance to a group.

1. What do you learn about ties in the first paragraph?
2. People usually refer them as neckties.
3. They have not only been used as an item of decorative clothing.
4. People who wear them get more respect
5. Their design has remained unchanged.
6. What is the writer’s purpose in the second and third paragraph?
7. To consider the possible origins of the ties as an item of clothing.
8. To explain why most ancient Chinese did not wear ties
9. To express his surprise that people wore ties 200 years ago
10. To explain why silk ties were considered a luxury item in ancient China.
11. According to the writer, Trajan’s soldiers wore ties
12. because they wanted to copy the soldiers of Shih Huang Ti’s army.
13. in order to protect themselves from the cold.
14. because they wanted to show they were part of a group of skilled fighters.
15. although some people believed that soldiers should not wear them.
16. Why did King Louis XIV of France wear a silk cloth around his neck when he met the Croatian mercenaries?
17. In order to demonstrate his respect for them.
18. Because he wanted to start a new fashion trend among his people.
19. To show them he was part of an elite group of men.
20. Because he wanted to show them that he supported them.
21. According to the writer, ties in England
22. only appealed to people from a particular class
23. were originally very expensive
24. were originally only worn by members of sports clubs
25. have changed their function over the years

**Decide if each of the following statement is True, False, or Not Given**

1. Most men wear a tie to an event such as a wedding or business meeting.
2. None of Shih Huang Ti’s terracotta soldiers are identical.
3. There are many visual examples of Roman soldiers wearing cloths around their necks
4. The *Cravate Royale* of the French kings comprised mainly Croatian soldiers.
5. A university rowing club decided that it would be a good idea to create their own school tie.

**Answer sheet**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1b | 2a | 3d | 4a | 5d |
| 6true | 7true | 8false | 9not given | 10true |