

GCSE English Language Unit 2

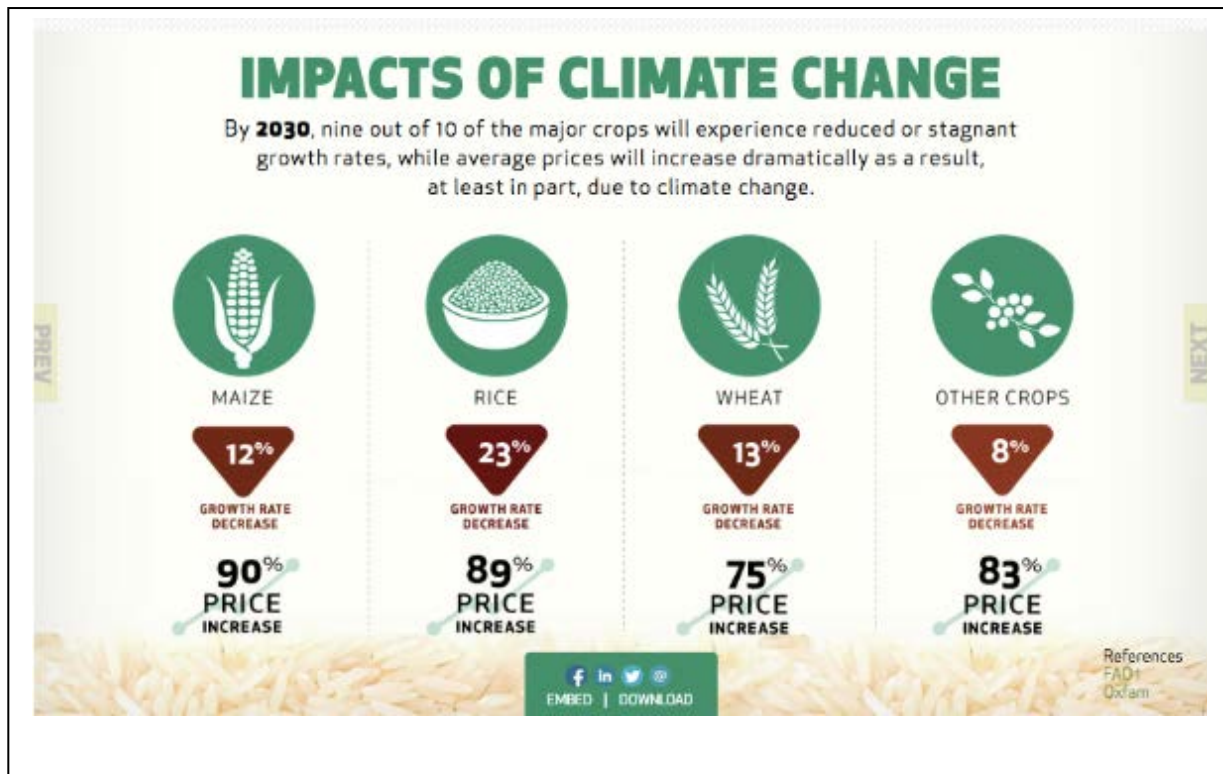
Reading and Writing:

Description, Narration and Exposition

Farming

Resource Material

Text A is an infographic from a website, www.farmingfirst.org, that shows the impact climate change is expected to have on farmed crops by 2030.



Text B is an article from a magazine, *New Scientist*, which explains how the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) programme has worked.

Bill Gates's epic project transforms farming in Africa

04 September 2014 by **Andy Coghlan**

"IT'S like having a new life," says Lucy Banda, a farmer in Mwambaso village in western Malawi. Banda is one of 1.75 million African smallholder farmers, 40 per cent of them women, enrolled in a \$180-million five-year programme run by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). AGRA was set up in 2006 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation.

Africa's farmers have a lot of problems, but one of the biggest is poor soil. Cost and bad infrastructure have long prevented farmers from fertilising their fields, so many African countries have been losing nutrients from their soils (see map above). The AGRA project is the most concerted effort yet to fix the problem. Its soil health programme has set up 9000 dealers within 5 kilometres of farmers to sell them the supplies they need.

The first necessity is fertiliser. Thanks to the dealers, AGRA farmers now use 10 to 50 kilograms of fertiliser per hectare, and though this is just a tenth to a quarter of what farmers use in rich countries, it is still a big improvement. The result is a threefold increase in crops.

The other major problem AGRA is aiming to solve is lack of infrastructure. African smallholders are often isolated, unable to get credit or find buyers for their produce.

So AGRA is putting farmers in touch with financiers who offer credit to agents who buy produce for sale in different areas. "We're connecting [smallholders] to the entire business chain," says Jama.

Groups of 15 to 25 smallholders are also being encouraged to form collectives. AGRA has provided advice and expertise for 155 such groups in Ghana alone. They give farmers more bargaining power and allow them to jointly fund communal assets, such as secure storehouses.

The threat of climate change means smallholders must keep adapting if they are to survive and prosper, says Guei. AGRA's methods are one way to do so.

"The vision is to produce more efficiently, but to be aware that climate change is happening, and that we must use all best practices to allow farmers to adapt," says Guei.

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg22329853.100-bill-gatess-epic-project-transforms-farming-in-africa.html>

Text C is a diagram from a GCSE Geography textbook.

Soil rebirth

Many countries in Africa are losing nutrients from soil. Farmers are now working to restore the soil's fertility, and they have doubled their yields as a result

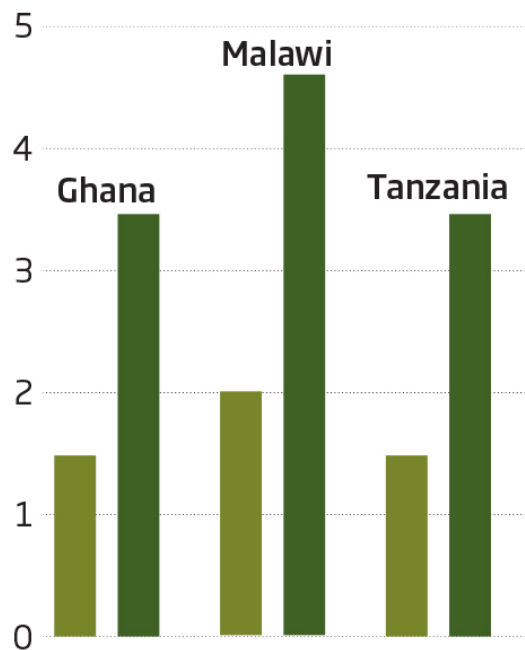
Annual losses of soil nutrients
2002-2004 (kg/hectare)

<30 30-60 >60 No data



Maize yield on AGRA farms (tonnes/ha)

2011 2013



SOURCE: AGRA AFRICAN AGRICULTURE STATUS REPORT 2014

Text D is from an autobiography. In this extract, Jenny, who owns a sheep farm, is starting the job of shearing.

Catching sheep is exhausting, even for a strong man. The animals are quick on their feet; yearlings particularly are lithe and strong. They can turn faster than a human, and they feint this way and that. When they are packed tightly and cannot escape it is merely a backbreaking question of stooping, grabbing and heaving, but as you get through them the remainder have room to duck and space to get up speed. As you tire and your concentration flags your first grab is often in vain; you follow up, but the animal you have missed once is now panicking, hurling itself over its fellows to avoid you. Doing it herself saves Jenny the cost of another helper, and allows her to catch as she prefers to, as gently as possible, with her arms around the animals, rather than digging her fingers into their wool. She hates to see sheep held like that, imagining it must be like being dragged by the hair. She tries to swallow her distress, but sometimes it blurts out. 'Under the chin, arms around her,' she cries. 'Careful – you'll hurt her!' And the men muzzle their frustration, and try to do as she asks. She works all day in the narrow race, talking to the beasts, trying to soothe them, straddling them, guiding them towards the shearers. She sticks at it, and as her strength wanes the shearers take pity, reaching over into the race as she presents each captive, and hauling them up and over the barrier. The first day is tiring but the next is a marathon: 193 ewes caught, lifted and shorn, as well as the rams, Tommy and Ron.

Running for the Hills, Horatio Clare

Text E is an extract from a novel, *The Story of an African Farm*, in which a Nigerian farmer is watching his son herding sheep.

Away, beyond the kopje*, Waldo, his son, herded the ewes and the lambs – a small and dusty herd – powdered all over from head to foot with red sand. He wore a hat that was too large, which had sunk down to his eyes, concealing completely the silky black curls. His flock gave him little trouble. It was too hot for them to move far; they gathered around every little bush as though they hoped to find shade, and stood there motionless in clumps.

*kopje – a small hill

The Story of an African Farm, Olive Schreiner

Question Paper

SECTION A (Reading): 40 marks

*In the **separate Resource Material** there are five texts on the theme of 'Farming' labelled Text A-E. Read each text carefully and answer all the questions below that relate to each of the texts. Additional answer pages are available at the back of this paper should you require them.*

TEXT A

1. Which crop is expected to see the largest decrease in growth rates by 2030? [1]

.....

2. Which crop is expected to see the largest price change by 2030? [1]

.....

3. The text refers to the "stagnant growth rates" that major crops will experience by 2030. Select one definition from the list below that best describes 'stagnant.' [1]

- a) Standing still
- b) Sturdy
- c) Steadily increasing
- d) Rapidly decreasing

TEXT B

4. Explain how the AGRA programme has helped farmers in Africa. [10]

Write about:

- the problems faced by African farmers;
- the effects the programme has had.

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TEXT C

5. Tick the box that best describes the purpose of this text: [1]

- a) Personal use
- b) Public use
- c) Occupational use
- d) Educational use

6. What was the loss of soil nutrients in Malawi between 2002 and 2004? Tick the correct box. [1]

- a) Less than 30kg per hectare.
- b) Between 30kg and 60kg per hectare.
- c) Greater than 60kg per hectare.
- d) There is no data for Malawi.

7. Which of the three countries labelled in this diagram suffered the least amount of loss of soil nutrients? [1]

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8. By how many tonnes did the maize yield increase on AGRA farms in Tanzania between 2011 and 2013? [1]

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9. Thinking about the information in Text B and Text C, explain how some farms in Africa have “doubled their yield”. [2]

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Editing (5 marks)

In this part of the paper you will be assessed for the quality of your understanding and editing skills.

1. Circle the word below that best fits the gap in the sentence below: [1]

I shouldn't made him feel so bad.

- a) try b) of c) to d) have

2. Which of the following sentences is correct? Tick the box of the sentence you think is correct. [1]

- a) He was standing in the field watching the crows circle.
- b) He was stood in the field watching the crows circle.
- c) He was standing in the field watching the crows' circle.
- d) He was stood in the field watching the crows' circle.

3. Circle the word(s) that best fit the meaning of the sentence below: [1]

The blades were blunt she could not mow the grass.

- a) Nevertheless
b) But
c) Despite this
d) Consequently

4. Read the text below which consists of sentences in the wrong order and show your understanding by answering the questions that follow:

- 1) There it was again, a slow scratching on the window.
- 2) A noise had disturbed her sleep.
- 3) Carys almost laughed when she saw a pigeon looking back at her.
- 4) Bravely, she flung open the curtains.
- 5) Carys awoke when the sky was still grey with night.

- (a) Which sentence should come **second** in the text? Write the number of the sentence below. [1]

.....

- (b) Which sentence should come **last** in the text? Write the number of the sentence below. [1]

.....

SECTION B (Writing): 40 marks

B1. *In this task you will be assessed for the quality of your proofreading.*

The Welsh Government is publishing a leaflet for primary school children about safety of farms. Read the section below.

Identify the five errors and correct them.

[5]

There are alot of different animals on farms; they may look tame but stay away from them. They can bite, stamp on you and may give you diseases.

You might see dogs on the farm. Some may be sheep dogs, some may be guard dogs, they might look friendly but they might not like strangers so keep away.

Farms have lots of machinery on them. All the machines make the farmers life a bit easier. You can help the farmer by not touching any machinery or going near vehicles like tractors.

B2. *In this section you will be assessed for the quality of your **writing** skills.*

20 marks are awarded for communication and organisation; 15 marks are awarded for writing accurately.

You should aim to write about 350-500 words.

Choose **one** of the following for your writing:

[35]

Either,

a) Write an account of a time when you had to look after an animal.

Or,

b) "Help the farmer, help the environment." (Bill Gates).

Write an essay explaining why it is important to support farmers and farming.

The space below can be used to plan your work.