

Second English 102 Exam



Language Center English Skills 2 (0130102) First Semester 2017/2018

Student's Name: _____

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The expanding economy and rising population have brought great benefits to Abu Dhabi but with them comes a major issue: traffic jams. Abu Dhabi, like many UAE cities, has a major issue with traffic congestion, and, although it is not as bad as in some cities, the average commuting time of forty-five minutes is quite high.

Abu Dhabi's answer to this is Masdar City, a new city being built near the airport on the outskirts of Abu Dhabi. Masdar, which means 'source', is a city which gets all of its electricity from the environment by using renewable energy sources such as solar power. There is a wall around the city to keep out the hot desert wind and the streets are narrow. There is therefore more shade from the sun, and the breeze passes through the streets better. As a result, the city is about fifteen degrees centigrade cooler than Abu Dhabi.

There is no traffic congestion in the six kilometer- square city of Masdar because cars are not allowed in the city. Instead, people use public transport. There is an underground rail system and a Light Rail Transit System, which run through the center of the town and connect Masdar to Abu Dhabi and the airport. A Personal Rapid Transit System (PRT) was also planned. This is a system of small, personalized, electric machines that run on solar energy. They are controlled wirelessly and move by being pulled along by magnets along their route. The plan was that three thousand 'podcars', which can carry two to six passengers, would drive people to about one hundred stations all around the city, and also take them from outside the city, where they would leave their cars, to their destination in the city.

The problem is that the costs of building Masdar City are substantial: it was projected to cost around US \$24 billion, but the global financial crisis of 2008-9 had a negative effect on the plans. Planners now have to find a way to build the PRT at a much lower cost. The dream of a carbon-neutral, congestion-free city could become reality in the future but there are other issues. There is the risk of vandalism for the PRT and also safety concerns about these pilotless cars. However, if all of the problems are solved, the benefits of Masdar City's green solutions to both traffic and environmental problems will certainly outweigh the financial investment in the longer term.

A. Choose the correct answers. (2 points)

1. The text about Masdar City is NOT an example of:

- a) Urban development
- b) Sustainable development
- c) Economic development
- d) Personal development

2. Which idea is NOT included in the text?

- a) The main problem which Abu Dhabi suffers from is the fact that it is an over-populated city.
- b) A general description of Masdar City.
- c) The resettlement of the United Arab Emirates' residents in Masdar City.
- d) The financial benefits of building Masdar City.

B. Complete the following sentences with the correct answers: (2 points)

1. The Personal Rapid Transit System is:

_____.

2. Masdar's electricity comes from: _____.

3. Traffic jams are not a problem in Masdar because cars are:
_____ in the city.

4. In 2008—09, Masdar suffered the negative effects of: _____.

Vocabulary (5 points)

A. Choose the correct answers. (1 point)

1. Opponents of the projects are _____ in the World Bank's primary plan. (5 point)

- a) picking poles
- b) picking holes
- c) being picked on
- d) being picked by

2. A: What do you think we should do?

B: I disagree with this decision. In fact, _____.

- a) I think it is ridiculous!
- b) that seems fair to me.
- c) it is something amazing.
- d) we can't find a better idea!

B. Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the box: (2 points)

developing communities hydropower criticism

The World Bank stopped financing _____ projects in _____ countries twenty years ago because of _____ that such projects were harming local _____ and the environment.

C. Write sentences using TWO of the following words: (2 points)

relocate, reservoir, demolish, modernize

1. _____.
2. _____.

Structure (4 points)

A. Choose the correct answer: (2 points)

1. There isn't over-population in this village. _____, there aren't many medical and educational institutions.
 - a) However
 - b) Consequently
 - c) Furthermore
 - d) Firstly
2. The project planners have asked _____ an additional loan to complete building the new recreational center.
 - a) the bank to give
 - b) the bank giving
 - c) the bank give
 - d) to give the bank

B. Choose the correct form of the verbs. (2 points)

1. I regret _____ (say) that the environmentalists are completely against the dam project because it would affect the quality of the river's water negatively.
2. I remember _____ (enjoy) my trip to Kerala, where everything was exotic and gorgeous.

Part Four: Writing (2 points)

1. Philadelphia University decides to build a new arts center which includes a theater and teaches music and fine art activities inside the university. Discuss this project and cover the following points:

a. One advantage of the project:

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b. One disadvantage of the project:

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Good Luck!