

There are three parts to this exam: A, B and C. Each part is compulsory.

Part A

Complete these sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets (write your answers directly on this page)

1. We _____ (know) about climate change for 50 years and yet we _____ (not/do) nearly enough to mitigate its negative effects. It's time to get serious.
2. _____ (you /go) to the concert last night as planned?
3. She _____ (not/want) to speak to you. Can you call the manager?
4. If they didn't spend so much time on their phones perhaps they _____ (do) better in their exams.
5. She _____ (break) her leg when she _____ (play) rugby last night. She _____ (take) to hospital immediately by the trainer. She _____ (see) a specialist this morning and she _____ (have) an operation this afternoon if they think it's necessary.
6. They _____ (do) up the old post office. I think it's going to be a community centre. It should be finished by the end of the year.
7. If they _____ (told) us what was going on we might have been able to help them.

8. Your packages _____ (post) to you on Monday so they should arrive today or tomorrow at the latest.
9. We _____ (go) to the country this weekend.
_____ (you/want) to join us?
10. "When and where _____ (you/meet) your wife?" -
"We _____ (be) students at the same university and in the same class. She _____ (be) my boss now as well as my wife. "
11. I _____ (not/see) Jane since we _____ (leave) school in 2001.

I

Choose the best option to complete the sentences. (a, b, c or d.) Only one is correct.

1. My house _____ at the moment so I'm not inviting anyone round. I'll have a party when it's all finished.
a) is renovating b) has renovating c) is being renovated d) has been renovating
2. _____ people really understand what the real impact of AI will be on all aspects of our lives.
a) Less b) Few c) Little d) Much
3. Would you mind _____ a few more minutes please?
a) to wait b) waiting c) wait d) to have waited
4. Why not _____ until everyone gets here? We're in no rush.
a) waiting b) to wait c) waited d) wait

5. I'm really looking forward _____ taking a break. I'm very stressed at the moment.
a) to b) at c) with d) for
6. Our new boss makes us _____ at weekends when orders are large. It's had a big impact in terms of work/life balance for all the staff. Nobody is happy.
a) working b) work c) to work d) worked
7. I wonder _____ for a living.
a) what she does
b) what does she do
c) what is she doing
d) what do
8. Never _____ such a great show. The choreography was great, as was the singing. I'd go to see it again next week if there were tickets available.
a) have I seen b) I have seen c) I saw d) I see
9. You should _____ before 8 in the morning. Otherwise, you might not be allowed in.
a) arriving b) to arrive c) arrive d) arrived
10. He is much older _____ the other candidates, but I feel we could do with having someone with so much experience on the team.
a) than b) like c) that d) as

Part B - Translate the following text into French.

What politicians so often get wrong about science

New Scientist 25th April 2025

Governments love asking what scientific research will bring society, but the most important discoveries come from wondering without direction

What does science get us? That's always the question from those who fund it, but not from those who do it. This tension is in full swing in the US right now, as the Trump administration attacks and defunds the scientific ecosystem. But it isn't new.

In 1969, as Robert Wilson was testifying before the US Congress to get funding for a new particle collider at Fermilab, he spoke on the topic. The senators were grilling him on how this scientific endeavour would contribute to national defence or help compete with Russia during the cold war. He answered: "It has nothing to do with the military... it has to do with: Are we good painters, good sculptors, great poets?... It has nothing to do directly with defending our country except to help make it worth defending."

The utilitarian view always misses that so many of the biggest and most important discoveries come from the unobstructed pursuit of knowledge. And the line from discovery to application to return on investment is rarely a straight one. Without Albert Einstein musing in the early 20th century on the weightlessness felt by a person in freefall inside an elevator, we wouldn't have his theories of relativity and we wouldn't have GPS – a technology that has revolutionised life around the world.

Many of the biggest discoveries come from the unobstructed pursuit of knowledge

It is impossible to predict what purely scientific inquiry will lead to, which is why the destruction being done to science in the US is so short-sighted. But it is much easier to foretell what damage slashed funding will cause. Losing programmes to treat and prevent tuberculosis, malaria and AIDS will lead to preventable disease and death. Cuts at NASA, including vital climate studies on extreme heat and air pollution, will be felt for decades if not longer.

After physicist J. J. Thomson discovered the electron in 1897, he famously said it was useful for nothing. What followed was the electric age, a century of unimaginable global progress built on this humble particle. What revolutionary age to come is being impeded now?

Part C - Translate the following text into English.

La Grande muraille verte, une vraie solution contre la désertification au Sahel ?

- *Publié dans Vert 13/12/2024 Par Mathilde Picard*
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Pourquoi une Grande muraille verte au Sahel ?

Au Sahel, territoire aride et semi-aride au sud du Sahara, 30% des terres cultivables sont actuellement dans un état de dégradation avancée. À l'échelle du continent africain, c'est 45% de la surface qui subit des phénomènes de désertification.

La détérioration des sols correspond à une diminution de leur richesse biologique, il ne s'agit pas d'une avancée du désert sur des terres arables comme on l'entend souvent. Cet appauvrissement provient de plusieurs facteurs parmi lesquels les activités humaines (coupe de bois, activités agricoles, implantation d'habitations). Au Sahel, la population augmente de 3%, ce qui accroît certaines pressions sur l'environnement. Une fois les sols mis à nus, l'érosion par le vent accroît leur dégradation.

Le changement climatique est également en cause. Il provoque une saison sèche plus longue sur le territoire. «Les pluies sont plus courtes et plus intenses, ça ne permet pas de restaurer les sols sur un territoire déjà fragilisé», explique Priscilla Duboz, anthropologue et ingénieure de recherche au CNRS.

«On observe par satellites une sorte de reverdissement du Sahel, mais il se fait par tâches et il y a tout de même une perte de biodiversité car tous les arbres ne repoussent pas», décrypte la chercheuse. Certaines espèces dont le bois sert à construire les cases, ou certaines plantes médicinales utilisées par les populations locales ont par exemple disparu.

En quoi consiste le projet ?

Une bande d'arbres de près de 8 000 kilomètres de long et d'environ quinze kilomètres de profondeur, plantée du Sénégal jusqu'à l'Éthiopie. C'est à l'origine ce à quoi devait ressembler le projet de la Grande muraille verte (GMV) lancé en 2007 à l'initiative de onze pays (Sénégal, la Mauritanie, le Mali, le Burkina Faso, le Niger, le Nigeria, le Tchad, le Soudan, l'Érythrée, l'Éthiopie et Djibouti). Le tracé de la GMV n'a pas toujours été fondé uniquement sur des faits scientifiques, il a aussi été le fruit de décisions plus politiques.

Au début des années 2000, le projet se concentrait sur le reboisement de parcelles fermées par des clôtures. Des pépinières accueillent notamment des espèces locales. Pierre Hiernaux, ancien ingénieur agronome et membre du comité scientifique sur la désertification revient sur les origines de la Grande muraille verte : «très souvent, les

services forestiers organisaient les plantations sur des zones au statut communautaire, donc il y avait une forme d'appropriation des terres». Les éleveurs n'y avaient plus accès.

Les recherches et politiques de reforestation ont longtemps considéré que les populations d'éleveurs participaient activement à la dégradation des sols du fait d'un surpâturage. Or, plusieurs études ont montré que la pratique de l'élevage au Sahel n'était pas un facteur principal de détérioration de l'environnement, au contraire. Priscilla Duboz insiste : «les éleveurs ont une connaissance aigüe de leur environnement, de son renouvellement ou pas, ce sont eux les spécialistes, leur mode de vie n'est absolument pas incompatible avec la restauration écologique.» [...]