

الاسم:
الرقم:

مسابقة في مادة اللغة الإنكليزية
المدّة: ساعتان

Part One: Reading Comprehension

(Score: 12/20)

In the following selection, the writer reports the impact of the latest severe storms that hit the UAE. Read it carefully, and then answer the questions that follow.

Dubai Submerged in Floods

1 Over an unprecedented 48 hours, the skies over the United Arab Emirates (UAE) darkened, and heavy thunderstorms hit many cities. The storms dumped more than a year and a half's rain on the desert city-state of Dubai in just a few hours, flooding major highways and its international airport. The residents of Dubai described the experience of the storms like living through the "apocalypse", referring to the total destruction or end of the world.

2 The residents watched from their apartments, which overlook the city's usually tranquil marina, the pieces of furniture that were thrown from balconies by very strong winds. They could also see very expensive cars abandoned on roads, which were suddenly transformed into rivers. "We live high up and could barely see a thing past the balcony. It felt like midnight in the middle of the afternoon," said a British businessman living in Dubai.

3 Based on the meteorological data collected at Dubai International Airport, a group of four large storms, each towering 15 km into the atmosphere and fuelled by powerful jet streams, rolled into the UAE one after another. Heavy rainfall over the desert landscape of the Gulf is not unheard of, and the residents were warned about the storm via a public alert system. However, Dubai's infrastructure was not prepared for the worst rain since 1949. In many ways, few modern cities would have coped with the size of the flood that hit Dubai in the last storm. The city's top attractive touristic places, most of which were indoors to protect from the extremely hot weather, struggled to handle the sudden influx of water.

4 One resident was with her husband at a shopping center when the storm hit. "The mall was flooded, and ceilings were collapsing," she said. "We were told to leave, but the metro was shut and the taxis were not running. We were stranded, and we had to sleep in the mall lobby overnight," she added. Another resident, a British teacher who has been in Dubai for 10 years, said, "People were aware that a storm was coming, but they did not expect that the force of it will leave neighborhoods under water."

5 When the sky typically turned blue and sunny, with roads and other infrastructure still crippled, Dubai's government started to count the costs. The UAE's ruler issued a public order for authorities to quickly work on studying the condition of infrastructure throughout the UAE and to limit the damage caused. Moreover, during the week of the storm, government employees and private companies were told to work from home, and schools across the country were closed.

6 As for the official death toll in the UAE, the local media said that it was just one elderly man who died when his vehicle was swept away in one of UAE's cities. Some of the worst troubles were at Dubai International Airport, the world's second busiest airport where nearly 90 million people are expected to pass through in 2024. In addition, the airport is an important center for travel to the Gulf and connecting flights heading further afield. However, it descended into a state of complete confusion after the floods.

7 The flooded taxiway made planes unable to reach the runway to take off, and passengers were left stuck in the terminal building. The country's state-owned airline was forced to stop accepting check-in passengers at all. One passenger, a 41-year-old mother was flying back with her daughters to the United Kingdom from Vietnam via Dubai when the storm struck. After two-and-a-half hours circling over the Gulf waiting for a chance to land, they eventually landed at another airport in Dubai, before being told in the middle of the night to get on a bus to head for their original destination.

8 Another passenger described the scenes in the airport as catastrophic, where people were arriving to find that their flights had been cancelled. Dubai International Airport clarified, "As much as possible, we have

been providing necessary assistance and facilities to affected guests. However, due to road blockages, it has taken longer than we would have liked.”

9 The heavy thunderstorms that hit Dubai, which homes to 3.6 million people and attracts an annual influx of 14 million tourists, left the residents seriously thinking about the lack of preparedness for similar floods. **They** know that extreme weather is a long-term issue facing the country and hope not to live another “apocalyptic” experience in the future.

Questions

A. Answer each of the following questions in 1-4 sentences in your own words.

1. What was unusual about the situation described in Paragraph 2? (01)
2. Based on Paragraph 3, what two factors contributed to the flooding of Dubai? Justify your answer. (01)
3. In reference to Paragraphs 5 and 8, explain how the government showed responsibility in addressing the problems caused by the flood. (01)
4. Deduce from Paragraphs 7 and 9 two emotional effects of Dubai’s thunderstorms on people. (01)

B. Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What two purposes does the introduction serve? Justify your answer. (1.5)
2. What adjective best describes the tone of any of the two residents mentioned in Paragraph 4? Justify your answer. (01)
3. Identify two types of evidence used by the writer to achieve credibility. Provide your answer with examples. (01)
4. Identify two types of audience, other than the general reader, that might be interested in reading the selection above. Then state what interest each type finds in it. (01)

C. Refer to Paragraphs 2, 4, and 5 to find words that almost have the following meanings. (02)

1. *calm and free from disturbance*
2. *to leave someone in a place that she/he cannot get away from because of a problem*
3. *not operating or working properly*
4. *to give, supply, or produce something official*

D. What does each of the following pronouns, bold-typed in the selection, refer to? (1.5)

1. **We** (Paragraph 4)
2. **it** (Paragraph 6)
3. **They** (Paragraph 9)

Part Two: Writing (Choose ONE of the following prompts.)

(Score: 08/20)

Prompt A: “Natural disasters like floods, tornadoes, earthquakes, and tsunamis can strike unexpectedly, leaving all kinds of chaos behind. However, by planning ahead, people can help protect their families, homes, and belongings.” **In a well-organized problem-solution essay of 250-300 words, discuss two harmful effects (health, financial, social, emotional, etc.) of any natural disaster, and then propose steps or solutions that can help people recover faster from this disaster.**

Prompt B: “Governments’ response to natural disasters should begin long before the event occurs. During and after an event, they should respond quickly to provide immediate relief and continue to help victims in the days, weeks, and months following the disaster.” **Write a well-organized persuasive essay of 250-300 words in which you convince leaders/stakeholders that they should regularly prepare for natural disasters to improve responsiveness and immediate support for victims.**

Dubai Submerged in Floods

Q	Answer Key	Score
I-A-1	<p>The unusual thing was that Dubai's residents lived a <u>terrible/unexpected experience due to the huge thunderstorm</u>, (or for the first time seeing their calm city in a state of <u>total chaos</u>): thrown furniture, abandoned cars, flooded roads, and midnight during the day.</p> <p>(deduct 0.25 for language errors)</p>	01
I-A-2	<p>The first factor is the <u>size and number of the storms</u> because they carried powerful jet streams and heavy rain that caused huge floods, which cannot be handled even by other modern cities. The second factor is the <u>quality of Dubai's infrastructure</u> because it was not prepared for this kind of huge storms and influx of water.</p> <p>(0.5 for each factor with its justification; deduct 0.25 for language errors)</p>	01
I-A-3	<p>The government <u>took serious and immediate steps</u> to address the problems caused by the flood. First, the moment the rain stopped, the government of Dubai started calculating the costs of damages. Second, an official order was taken by the ruler for studying the damaged infrastructure and limiting its impact. Third, companies and schools were closed and were asked to work remotely. Fourth, essential support and services were provided to affected passengers in Dubai International Airport, as much as it was possible.</p> <p>(0.5 for how and 0.5 for at least two supports in the explanation; deduct 0.25 for language errors)</p>	01
I-A-4	<p>Based on Paragraph 7, passengers were stuck in terminal buildings, unable to-check in, and obliged to land at another airport in Dubai. Thus, the thunderstorms made people <u>feel lost/confused/anxious/afraid</u>. Based on Paragraph 9, people are concerned about similar floods due to the city's unpreparedness, and they wish not to experience another terrible/destructive events. Hence, the storms made them <u>feel insecure/unsafe</u>.</p> <p>(0.5 for explanation and 0.5 for deduction; deduct 0.25 for language errors)</p>	01
I-B-1	<p>First, the introduction presents the selection's main idea about the huge storms that hit UAE and their destructive impact. Second, it provides background information: size of thunderstorms (heavy and dumping huge amounts of rain) and their damaging effects on highways, international airport, and residents. Third, it attracts readers' attention by providing facts about the huge amounts of rain (more than a year and a half's rain in a few hours) and the impact of the storm on residents who lived an experience compared to the "apocalypse".</p> <p>(Two purposes are required; 0.75 for each: 0.25 for the purpose and 0.5 for its justification)</p>	1.5
I-B-2	<p>The tone of the first resident is <u>scared/afraid</u>. The resident describes how she and her husband were trapped in the shopping center and how fearful/terrible the situation was: "ceilings were collapsing", "stranded", and "sleep in the mall lobby overnight". The tone of the second resident is <u>shocked/worried</u>. He/she explains how shocking</p>	01

	<p>the situation was to the people who never expected to witness such powerful thunderstorm: “did not expect”, “force of it”, and “under water”.</p> <p>(One tone with its justification is required; 0.5 for the adjective and 0.5 for its justification; any other accurate adjective with its appropriate justification is accepted)</p>	
I-B-3	<p>First, the writer uses specific names (countries, cities, airports, etc.): “United Arab Emirates (UAE)” and “Dubai” (Paragraph 1), “Dubai International Airport” (Paragraph 6), and “United Kingdom” and “Vietnam” (Paragraph 7). Second, the writer provides testimonies by Dubai’s residents about their experience during the storm: a British businessman describing how it turned midnight during the day due to the thunderstorm (Paragraph 2); a resident describing how she and her husband lived a fearful night in a shopping center and a British teacher describing how the residents were shocked by the amount of water in the neighborhoods (Paragraph 4); a 41-year-old mother flying with her daughters through Dubai’s airport reflecting on their experience of circling over the Gulf waiting for a chance to land (Paragraph 7); and a passenger describing the situation in the airport as catastrophic (Paragraph 8). Third, the writer uses numbers: “48 hours” (Paragraph 1), “15 km” (Paragraph 3), “90 million people” (Paragraph 6), and “3.6 million people... 14 million tourists” (Paragraph 9).</p> <p>(Two types are required, 0.5 for each type with its examples; 0.25 for the type and 0.25 for its example(s); any other accurate type with its appropriate example(s) is accepted)</p>	01
I-B-4	<p>First, meteorologists/ environmentalists (teachers/ students of meteorology/ environment) might be interested in reading the selection because it provides them with details about unexpected severe thunderstorms and their impact on the UAE. Second, crisis managers might be interested in reading the selection because it reflects on a real life experience that tries to deal with the consequences of catastrophic thunderstorms.</p> <p>(0.5 for each type with its interest/explanation; 0.25 for the type and 0.25 for its interest/explanation; any other logical type with its interest is accepted)</p>	01
I-C-1	tranquil (noun)	0.5
I-C-2	strand or stranded (verb)	0.5
I-C-3	crippled (adjective)	0.5
I-C-4	issue or issued (verb)	0.5
I-D-1	“We” refers to the <u>resident and her husband</u> (or to the <u>resident and other people/residents in the shopping center</u>)	0.5
I-D-2	“it” refers to the <u>airport</u>	0.5
I-D-3	“They” refers to <u>residents</u> (or <u>Dubai’s residents</u>)	0.5
II-A	Content and organization	3.5
II-B	Language and style	3.5
II-C	Tidiness and handwriting	01