

IELTS READING – CROP-GROWING SKYCRAPERS S1AT1



IELTS READING CROP – GROWING SKYCRAPERS Reading practice test has 10 questions.

By the year 2050, nearly 80% of the Earth's population will live in urban centres. Applying the most conservative estimates to current demographic trends, the human population will increase by about three billion people by then.

Attempt Free Reading Test..

Download Free PDF

An estimated 109 hectares of new land (about 20% larger than Brazil) will be needed to grow enough food to feed them, if traditional farming methods continue as they are practised today.

q8 Methods for predicting the Earth's population have recently changed. NOT GIVEN.

At present, throughout the world, over 80% of the land that is suitable for raising crop is in use. q9 Historically, some 15% of that has been laid waste by poor management practices. What can be done to ensure enough food for the world's population to live on ?

The concept of indoor farming is not new, since hothouse production of q1 tomatoes and other produce has been in vogue for some time. What is new is the urgent need to scale up this technology to accommodate another three billion people. Many believe an entirely new approach to indoor farming is required, employing cutting-edge technologies. One such proposal is for the 'Vertical Farm'. The concept is of multi-storey buildings in which food crop are grown in environmentally controlled conditions. Situated in the heart of q2 urban centres, they would drastically reduce the amount of transportation required to bring food to consumers. Vertical farms would need to be efficient, cheap to construct and safe to operate. If successfully implemented, proponents claim, vertical farms offer the promise of urban renewal, sustainable production of a safe and varied food supply (through year-round production of all crop, and the eventual repair of ecosystems that have been sacrificed for horizontal farming.

It took humans 10,000 years to learn how to grow most of the crop we now take for granted. Along the way, we despoiled most of the land we worked, often turning verdant, natural ecozones into semi-arid deserts. Within that same time frame, we evolved into an urban species, in which 60% of the human population now lives vertically in cities. This means that, for the majority, we humans have shelter from the elements, yet we subject our food-bearing plants to the rigours of the great outdoors and can do no more than hope for a good weather year. However, more often than not now, due to a rapidly changing climate, that is not what happens. q11 Massive floods, long droughts, hurricanes and severe monsoons take their toll each year, destroying millions of tons of valuable crops.

The supporters of vertical farming claim many potential advantages for the system. For instance, q10 crops would be produced all year round, as they would be kept in artificially controlled, optimum growing conditions. There would be no weather-related crop failures due to droughts, floods or pests. q12 All the food could be grown organically, eliminating the need for herbicides, pesticides and fertilisers. The system would greatly q13 reduce the incidence of many infectious diseases that are acquired at the agricultural interface. Although the system would consume q3 energy, it would return energy to the grid via methane generation from composting nonedible parts of plants. It would also dramatically reduce q4 fossil fuel use, by cutting out the need for tractors, ploughs and shipping.

A major drawback of vertical farming, however, is that the plants would require q5 artificial light. Without it, those plants nearest the windows would be exposed to more sunlight and grow more quickly, reducing the efficiency of the system. Single-storey greenhouses have the benefit of natural overhead light; even so, many still need artificial lighting.

A multi-storey facility with no natural overhead light would require far more. Generating enough light could be prohibitively expensive, unless cheap, renewable energy is available, and this appears to be rather a future aspiration than a likelihood for the near future.

One variation on vertical farming that has been developed is to grow plants in q6 stacked trays that move on rails. Moving the trays allows the plants to get enough sunlight. This system is already in operation, and works well within a single-storey greenhouse with light reaching it from above: it is not certain, however, that it can be made to work without that overhead natural light.

Vertical farming is an attempt to address the undoubted problems that we face in producing enough food for a growing population. At the moment, though, more needs to be done to reduce the detrimental impact it would have on the environment, particularly as regards the use of energy. While it is possible that much of our food will be grown in skyscrapers in future, most experts currently believe it is far more likely that we will simply use the space available on q7 urban rooftops.

Attempt Free Reading Test..

Boost Your Score: Practice IELTS Online with IELTS Simulator.



8439000086

8439000087

7055710003

7055710004

IELTS Simulation 323 GMS Road, Near Ballupur Chowk, Dehradun, India

Chat on WhatsApp

email: info at ieltsband7.com



IELTS READING – NETSCAPE S26GT4
January 25, 2020
In "IELTS Reading Easy Demo for GT"



IELTS READING – Learn With Us courses S6GT2
February 23, 2020
In "IELTS Reading Easy Demo for GT"



IELTS READING – Mistakes when applying for a job S7GT3
February 26, 2020
In "IELTS Reading Easy Demo for GT"

Tagged easy demo, Reading

Leave a Reply

You must be logged in to post a comment.



