

DEVOIR DE FIN DE SEMESTRE N°1

READING PASSAGE

1. Scientists have long known how to convert various kinds of organic material into liquid fuel. Trees, shrubs, grasses, seeds, fungi, seaweed, algae and animal fats have all been turned into biofuels to power cars, ships and even planes. As well as being available to countries without tar sands, shale fields or gushers, biofuels can help reduce greenhouse-gas emissions by providing an alternative to releasing fossil-fuel carbon into the atmosphere.

2. Ethanol, for instance, is an alcoholic biofuel easily distilled from sugary or starchy plants. It has been used to power cars since Ford's Model T and, blended into conventional petrol, constitutes about 10% of the fuel burned by America's vehicles today. Biodiesel made from vegetable fats is similarly mixed (at a lower proportion of 5%) into conventional diesel in Europe. But these "first generation" biofuels have drawbacks. They are made from plants rich in sugar, starch or oil that might otherwise be eaten by people or livestock. Ethanol production already consumes 40% of America's maize (corn) harvest and a single new ethanol plant in Hull is about to become Britain's largest buyer of wheat, using 1.1m tonnes a year. Ethanol and biodiesel also have limitations as vehicle fuels, performing poorly in cold weather and capable of damaging unmodified engines.

3. In an effort to overcome these limitations, dozens of start-up companies emerged over the past decade with the aim of developing second-generation biofuels. They hoped to avoid the "food versus fuel" debate by making fuel from biomass feedstocks with no nutritional value, such as agricultural waste or fast-growing trees and grasses grown on otherwise unproductive land. Other firms planned to make "drop in" biofuels that could replace conventional fossil fuels directly, rather than having to be blended in.

4. But instead of roaring into life, the biofuels industry stalled. Start-ups went bust, surviving companies scaled back their plans and, as prices of first-generation biofuels rose, consumer interest waned. In 2008 Shell, an energy giant, was working on ten advanced biofuels projects. It has now shut most of them down, and none of those that remain is ready for commercialisation. "All the technologies we looked at worked," says Matthew Tipper, Shell's vice-president for alternative energy. "We could get each to produce fuels at a lab scale and a demonstration scale." But bringing biofuels to market proved to be slower and more costly than expected. The optimism of five years ago may have waned, but efforts to develop second-generation biofuels continue.

5. Some observers doubt whether even the most sophisticated biofuels can compete with fossil fuels in the near future. Daniel Klein-Marcusamer, a researcher at the Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, conducted a comprehensive analysis of renewable aviation fuels. He concluded that producing first-generation bio-jet fuel from sugarcane would require oil prices of

at least \$168 a barrel to be competitive, and that some second-generation algae technologies would require crude oil to soar above \$1,000 a barrel (the current price is around \$110) to break even.

6. Billions of tonnes of agricultural waste are produced worldwide each year, but such material is thinly spread, making it expensive to collect and transport. Moreover, farms use such waste to condition the soil, feed animals or burn for power. Diverting existing sources of wood to make biofuels will annoy builders and paper-makers, and planting fuel crops on undeveloped land is hardly without controversy: one man's wasteland is another's pristine ecosystem. Dozens of environmental groups have protested against the American Environmental Protection Agency's recent decision to permit plantations of fast-growing giant reed for biofuels, calling it a noxious and highly invasive weed. Just as the food-versus-fuel argument has proved controversial for today's biofuels, flora-versus-fuel could be an equally tough struggle for tomorrow's.

Adapted from The Economist Magazine

PART ONE: READING COMPREHENSION: (30pts)

I/ Choose the most suitable title:

- 1) What Happened to Biofuels?
- 2) Food versus Fuel Debate is over
- 3) Biofuels in the Dustbin of History

II/ Complete the sentences on the answer sheets with information from the text.

III/ Complete the table on the answer sheets with information from the text.

IV/ Answer the following questions:

- 1) Why are second-generation biofuels made from biomass without nutrients?
- 2) What is the main reason behind the closure of Shell's biofuels projects?

V/ Mention two examples showing that biofuels can not be as cost-effective as oil.

VI/ Indicate whether the following statements are True or False. Justify your answers with information from the text.

- 1) Biofuels can be an adequate option for countries lacking fossil fuels.
- 2) Industrialists have abandoned all the projects of developing second-generation biofuels.

VII/ List the hurdles hampering the proliferation of agricultural waste as a biofuel.

VIII/ Focus on paragraph 6 and find the opponents of the conversion of biomass materials into second-generation biofuels.

IX/ Find in the text words having nearly the same meaning as:

- 1) farm animals (§2)
- 2) surmount (§3)
- 3) carried out (§5)
- 4) difficult (§6)

X/ What do the underlined words and figure in the text refer to?

- 1) 40% (§2)
- 2) They (§3)
- 3) them (§4)
- 4) it (§6)

PART TWO: LANGUAGE: (30pts)

Task One: Put the bracketed words in the correct tense and/or form: (10pts)

Sparked in the Balkans as a result of European nationalism and imperial rivalries, the first world war raged from July 1914 to November 1918. Over four long years, the world (1) **(collapse)** in what was then the largest industrial war ever experienced. The conflict left over 10 million soldiers and 6 million civilians (2) **(die)**. Over 20 million men (3) **(wound)** – both physically and mentally – rendering them unable to resume civilian life. What's more, the war facilitated the spreading of the Spanish flu pandemic, which killed at (4) **(little)** 50 million people in 1918-19. The Allies' "victory" in 1918 did not result in a safer and (5) **(good)** world, and the first world war failed (6) **(become)** the "war to end all wars". Conflict raged on in the Middle East and colonial outposts right through the 1920s. For many, the war (7) **(not / stop)** with the Armistice of November 11, 1918. In fact, given the scale of (8) **(devastate)** across Europe, it is not clear who won what. "Winners" and "losers" alike (9) **(lose)** population, resources and infrastructure. Yes, there were marginal gains here and there for some, but most countries came out of the bloodshed crippled (10) **(finance)**. Some were politically crippled, too. Perhaps one clear winner did emerge from the conflict, however: the United States.

Task Two: Complete with the appropriate word. (The first two letters the word begins with and a synonym of the word are provided to help you): (10pts)

Thirty-four people have died after a ferry ran aground off the coast of Indonesia, according to an updated official toll Wednesday, the latest (1) **fa... (= deadly)** maritime accident in the Southeast Asian archipelago. The KM Lestari was (2) **th... (= believed)** to be carrying (3) **al... (= nearly)** 190 people when damage to its hull (4) **ur... (= forced)** the captain to ground the vessel on Tuesday afternoon about 300 metres off Selayar island. Images from the scene showed (5) **te... (= scared)** passengers clinging to the side of the tipped over ferry, while others floated in the sea awaiting (6) **as... (= help)**. Waves swamped the boat's deck, sweeping trucks and other vehicles on the ferry overboard, as rescuers (7) **fo... (= battled)** high winds and (8) **vi... (= rough)** seas to pluck victims from the water. A fleet of smaller boats, including (9) **re... (= local)** fishing vessels, worked to (10) **sa... (= rescue)** passengers as bad weather prevented larger craft from approaching the stricken ferry.

TASK THREE: Express the following sentences differently beginning as indicated on the answer sheets: (10pts)

- 1) Although both his legs were broken in the crash, he managed to get out of the car.
- 2) I'm sorry I can't help you.
- 3) She cheated in the exam and that was a mistake.
- 4) If you don't tell the police the truth, you'll end up in prison.
- 5) My mother asked: "When will you take the driving test?"
- 6) They have recently discovered oil in the Falkland Islands.
- 7) She seldom takes the tube.
- 8) The plane was delayed, so Alice was late for the conference.
- 9) The earthquake was too weak to be felt.
- 10) Tourists prefer carpets made by hands.

PART THREE: WRITING TASKS: (20pts)

Task One: Each sentence includes 2 mistakes. Find them and correct them: (2pts)

- 1) All the competitors know that they will be disqualified if they are founded taking drugs.
- 2) The accident at the Fukushima plant power has resulted for much discussion about the future of nuclear energy.

Task Two: Put in order to obtain a coherent paragraph: (3pts)

- a) destructive wildfires occurred in October,
- b) dangerous times of the year
- c) many fueled by monster winds.
- d) Fall is historically one of the most
- e) Seven of the state's ten most
- f) for wildfires in California.

Task Three: Essay: (15pts)

"Fossil fuel dependence poses direct existential threat", warns United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

Develop this opinion and say what must be done to tackle the problems of global warming and the resulting climate change. (15 lines)

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(ANSWER SHEETS)

PART ONE: COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS: (30pts)

I/ The Most Suitable Title: (2pts)

II/ Sentence Completion: (4pts)

- 1) Making biofuels is a process consisting in
..... such as
and into.....
- 2) Unlike fossil fuels which have caused a lot of harm to our environment, biofuels.....
.....

III / Table Completion: (2.5pts)

First-Generation Biofuels

	Organic source	Shortcomings
Ethanol	a)
Biodiesel	b) c)

IV/ Answers: (3pts)

- 1).....
.....
- 2).....
.....

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.....

V/ Examples: (2pts)

- 1)
- 2)

VI/ True or False Statements: (4pts)

- 1) (.....)
- 2) (.....)

VII/ Hurdles: (3pts)

- 1)
- 2)

VIII/ Opponents: (1.5pts)

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

IX/ Vocabulary Items: (4pts)

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

X/ References: (4pts)

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

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PART TWO: LANGUAGE (30pts)

TASK ONE: (10pts)

1)	6)
2)	7)
3)	8)
4)	9)
5)	10)

TASK TWO : (10pts)

1)	6)
2)	7)
3)	8)
4)	9)
5)	10)

TASK THREE: (10pts)

- 1) Despite
- 2) I wish.....
- 3) She shouldn't.....
- 4) Providing....
- 5) My mother wanted to know.....
- 6) Oil
- 7) Seldom.....
- 8) Hadn't
- 9) The earthquake was not.....
- 10) Tourists prefer.....carpets.

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