

## UNIT 9 PROGRESS TEST

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Mark: \_\_\_ / 75

### Reading

#### **Read the text. Then do Exercise 1.**

If asked what the driest place on earth is, most people would probably answer the Sahara Desert in Africa or the Gobi Desert in Asia. Although these are much bigger deserts, with the Sahara being the biggest in the world, both of these answers would be wrong. The driest place on earth is neither in Africa nor in Asia, it is in South America. That's right, South America does not only have rainforests, rivers and green mountains, it also has the driest place on earth and it is called the Atacama Desert in the country of Chile.

The Atacama Desert is located along the coast of Chile right next to the Pacific Ocean. It is a bit ironic that the driest place on earth would be located right next to the largest body of water on earth, isn't it? When we think of deserts, we imagine scorching temperatures coming from a sun that beats down on us. Generally, this is true, but not at Atacama. Most of the desert is located on a high altitude, as much of it extends up into the Andes Mountains. The average elevation is at about 4,000 meters above sea level. Not only is Atacama the highest desert in the world, it is also one of the coldest with temperatures ranging from about 0°C to 25°C.

How hot a place is does not determine whether or not it is a desert. What matters is how dry the place is, and Atacama is the driest. Climatologists call

the centre of Atacama “an absolute desert.” Ever since people have been recording the amount of rainfall in different regions, none has ever been measured this area. Areas beyond the centre of Atacama do get some water with an annual average of 0.6 millimetres to 2.1 millimetres. This is an extremely small amount of rain. Compare it, for example, to the annual rainfall that the Sahara receives, which measures between 100 millimetres to 200 millimetres! Atacama used to have more water in the distant past during the Ice Age. When the ice melted, lakes formed in the Andes Mountains. However, because Atacama is so dry, the water in the lakes is evaporating. As it evaporates, mineral salts get left behind making the water very salty.

Although it is a desert, Atacama really is a beautiful place with a lot of variety. High up in the mountains of Atacama you can see patches of snow that never melted because it never got hot enough. Amongst the snow-capped mountains, one can also see five volcanoes. Although conditions are very difficult for most animals to survive, there are some that do. There aren't any forests or lush plains, but there are patches of vegetation where some insects and animals survive. Red algae live in the salt lakes, which is why one can see flocks of flamingos eating them.

People have been living there in Atacama for thousands of years. The Chinchorro mummies found in Atacama are the oldest mummies in the world. The oldest of them are dated between 5,000BC to 3,000BC, making them about 2,000 years older than the Egyptian mummies! Because of the climate there, the buried bodies of the Indians dried perfectly. Today, very few people live in the desert. Yet, there is a town called Calama located in the middle of the desert with a population of about 150,000.

**1 Choose the correct answer. [10 points]**

**1** The largest desert in the world is...

**a** ...the Sahara.

**b** ...the Gobi.

**c** ...Atacama.

**2** Atacama is the...

**a** ...highest and coldest desert in the world.

**b** ...highest and driest desert in the world.

**c** ...coldest and driest desert in the world.

**3** Last year, the “absolute desert” received...

**a** ...no rainfall.

**b** ...less than 2.2 millimetres of rainfall.

**c** ...between 100 to 200 millimetres of rainfall.

**4** The salt lakes in Atacama...

**a** ...are getting bigger as the ice melts.

**b** ...are the same size they have always been.

**c** ...are getting smaller because they are losing water.

**5** In Atacama...

**a** ... animals, insects and plants survive.

**b** ...only insects survive.

**c** ...only insects and animals survive.

## Vocabulary

**2 Circle the correct answer.** [6 points]

**1** Ever since John met Sally, he's been **rain or shine** / **on cloud nine**. I think he's in love.

**2** He didn't expect to get the sack. It really was a **bolt from the blue** / **bolt of thunder**.

**3** Don't make a big deal out of it. It's just a **storm in a teacup** / **storm in a teaspoon**.

**4** I don't think I'll play today. I'm a bit **under the weather** / **under the thunder**.

**5** He had a face **like weather** / **like thunder** when I told him I forgot to bring the tennis racket.

**6** Come **clouds or shine** / **rain or shine** I will finish this project today!

**3 Complete the sentences with the correct word. The first letter has been provided.** [6 points]

**1** This is the worst **b**\_\_\_\_\_ that has hit Alaska in years. I can't even see my car from all the snow.

**2** It is so hot! Meteorologists say that this **h**\_\_\_\_\_ will last for another five days.

**3** The **h**\_\_\_\_\_ was so powerful. There was so much rain and winds were travelling at 150 kilometres per hour!

**4** Farmers are worried that if it doesn't rain, the **d**\_\_\_\_\_ will destroy their crops.

5 The **t**\_\_\_\_\_ destroyed five houses in our town. It actually lifted our car and dropped it 500 metres from where it was parked!

6 The **f**\_\_\_\_\_ really made life difficult for everyone. There was water everywhere!

**4 Complete with these words.** [5 points]

*becoming extinct, wildlife reserve, environmentally friendly, global warming, endangered species*

I had been planning a trip to South Africa for a year and I am so excited that I am finally going! What I am really looking forward to is visiting the Sanbona  
1) \_\_\_\_\_. There are so many amazing animals to see there. It is protected and hunting is not allowed. It is home to many 2) \_\_\_\_\_, like the white lion. Places like Sanbona help prevent these animals from 3) \_\_\_\_\_. It is sad to think that because of our actions a lot of these animals may not be here tomorrow. We should all try to be more 4) \_\_\_\_\_ in order to try and stop 5) \_\_\_\_\_.

**5 Choose the correct answer.** [6 points]

1 I never swim in April. The water is **freezing** / **frozen**!

2 I'd take my sunglasses if I were you. It's really **bright** / **light** out.

3 Nothing to worry about when you're travelling. Just **light** / **soft** showers.

4 I am going to pull the car over. I can't see anything through this **thick** / **heavy** rain.

5 I hope your father doesn't go sailing today. The winds are very **force** / **strong** today.

6 You call this cold? Back home in Moscow it is 25°C **under** / **below** zero.

## Grammar

### 6 Choose the correct answer. [6 points]

1 You **don't have to** / **can't** make dinner tonight. We can always order.

2 If we are not careful, many animals **may** / **are able to** become extinct.

3 You **mustn't** / **can't** go in the jungle without a guide, it's dangerous.

4 I think you **should** / **have to** walk more rather than use your car every time you leave the house.

5 A giraffe **should** / **can** reach a height of 5.5 metres tall.

6 We **might** / **can** leave town if the tornado comes near.

### 7 Use a *modal verb* to complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first. [6 points]

1 It is forbidden to smoke in this restaurant. You'll have to go outside.

You \_\_\_\_\_ in this restaurant. You'll have to go outside.

2 I suggest you run one kilometre the first week then add a kilometre every other week. You \_\_\_\_\_ the first week then add a kilometre every other week.

3 I am positive that I left my wallet on the table at the restaurant.

I \_\_\_\_\_ on the table at the restaurant.

4 They must finish fixing the roof today. It's going to rain tonight.

They \_\_\_\_\_ fixing the roof today. It's going to rain tonight.

5 A cheetah is able to run 114 kilometres per hour!

A \_\_\_\_\_ 114 kilometres per hour!

6 There is a possibility it will snow tonight.

It \_\_\_\_\_ tonight.

**8 Choose the correct answer.** [5 points]

**1** If they \_\_\_\_ polluted the river, there would be more fish in it.

**a** hadn't                      **b** wasn't                      **c** isn't

**2** The farmers' crops \_\_\_\_ have grown if it hadn't rained in spring.

**a** won't                      **b** would                      **c** wouldn't

**3** Their voyage \_\_\_\_ a lot smoother if the weather had been calmer.

**a** would be                      **b** would have been                      **c** wouldn't have been

**4** If they had been careful with their cigarettes, they \_\_\_\_ the forest fire.

**a** can prevented                      **b** could prevented                      **c** could have prevented

**5** If the sun \_\_\_\_ so strong, I wouldn't have had to sit in the shade.

**a** wasn't                      **b** hadn't been                      **c** had been

**9 Make *third conditional* sentences about these situations.** [5 points]

**1** There were so many people smoking and the room was smoky.

If there hadn't been \_\_\_\_\_.

**2** There were no bicycle lanes, so people didn't ride their bikes to work.

If there had been \_\_\_\_\_.

**3** The weather got so bad and I couldn't go sailing.

If the weather hadn't \_\_\_\_\_.

**4** They reacted quickly and were able to save the whale.

If they \_\_\_\_\_.

**5** We didn't prevent hunters from shooting eagles and they became endangered.

If we \_\_\_\_\_.

## **10 Writing** [20 points]

Pollution in your town is becoming a problem. Write a letter to your mayor outlining your ideas and suggestions as to what can be done to produce a cleaner environment. Write 120–150 words.

### **Be sure to:**

- Start by clearly mentioning your reason for writing.
- Decide how to organize the whole letter.
- Use linking words and phrases to connect your ideas logically.
- Finish off with a strong statement of what you believe and a ‘call to action’.