

Natural phenomena

1.1 Use a dictionary to help you decide what part of speech the words in the box are. Then write the words under the correct pictures.

erupt severe strike dense tropical ash lightning rain earthquake volcano
heavy wind fall lava torrential thunder freezing tremor aftershock fog



1 Nouns: _____
Verbs: _____

2 Nouns: _____
Adjectives: _____
Verbs: _____

3 Nouns: _____
Verbs: _____



4 Nouns: _____
Adjectives: _____

5 Nouns: _____
Adjectives: _____

6 Nouns: _____

1.2 Complete the passage with words from 1.1. You may need to change the form.

The storms took the whole island by surprise. There was a night of ¹_____ rain, as well as severe ²_____, which blew down several outbuildings. At one point, the electricity in the atmosphere made it seem inevitable that high-rise buildings would be ³_____ by lightning. Although that didn't happen, there was a twenty-minute period of deafening ⁴_____, which terrified the islanders. Once the storms had passed, they looked towards the volcano and wondered if that might ⁵_____ and cause even more damage.

2.1 Many of the words associated with weather are also used idiomatically or figuratively in English. Match the idioms (1–8) with the meanings (a–h).

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1 every cloud has a silver lining | a feel overwhelmed, have too much work |
| 2 in the cold light of day | b be aware of current opinions |
| 3 weather the storm | c see something for what it really is |
| 4 know which way the wind is blowing | d endure a difficult period |
| 5 the calm before the storm | e be totally unaware of or ignorant of |
| 6 a storm in a teacup | f a small problem that has been exaggerated |
| 7 not have the foggiest idea | g difficult situations can also have positive effects |
| 8 be snowed under | h a period of peace followed by a period of chaos |

2.2 Now complete the sentences with idioms from 2.1. You may need to change the form.

- We need to ignore all of the media hype and examine this problem _____.
- If the government introduces necessary but unpopular measures, they should be prepared to _____ rather than please the public with a softer approach.
- Although the unemployment figures dropped today, experts believe this may be _____, with hundreds of job losses predicted for the coming months.
- Melting ice in Antarctica is leaving behind large numbers of tiny marine animals, proving that _____ really does have _____.
- Climate sceptics believe that scientists are exaggerating the current situation and this is simply _____.
- To be honest, I don't think the present government _____ what to do about either drug problems or obesity.

Agriculture

3 Cross out the word in each of the following lists that does not fit into the category in bold.

- flowers** petal fungus thorn stem leaf
- soil** mud earth pest dirt sediment
- trees** branch twig root trunk pasture
- plants** species native fauna horticulture
- agriculture** cultivate sow breed plough manufacture
- water** flow melt drip drop drain
- man-made water** dam reservoir stream canal
- ocean** current shore coast tide puddle

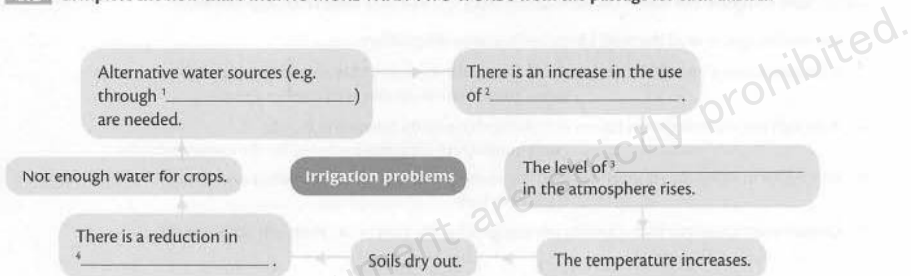
4.1 COLLOCATION Match the words in box A with the words in box B.

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| A | acid soil greenhouse crop carbon
viable vicious fossil climate | B | fuel circle change yields gases
rain solution erosion dioxide |
|---|---|---|--|

4.2 Read the passage as fast as you can, circling the phrases in 4.1 as you find them.

Current research models indicate that climate change associated with increasing levels of greenhouse gases is likely to lead to the soils in the interiors of the major continents drying out. In response to a drying of cropland, people are likely to seek either new sources of irrigation water or new, wetter areas to farm. If we choose desalination of seawater as a possible solution, large amounts of energy will be required. This means we are caught in a vicious circle as more fossil fuels are consumed. This results in an increase in carbon dioxide or greenhouse gas emissions. This in turn contributes to climate change, which warms up the planet. As a result, the earth dries out, causing soil erosion, and our crop yields decline, meaning that new sources of water need to be sought. Clearly, a long-term viable solution that does not produce acid rain and is not damaging to the environment is needed.

4.3 Complete the flow chart with **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.



5.1 ▶ **29** Listen to a talk and complete the table with **no more than ONE WORD** for each answer.

Issue	leads to:	effects:
Climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> higher ¹ _____ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> decrease in yield from ² _____ increase in ³ _____ and ⁴ _____ poor soil quality
Extreme weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> periods of ⁵ _____ increased risk of ⁶ _____ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> loss of crops
Farming practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use of ⁷ _____ using land to feed ⁸ _____ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> soil ⁹ _____
Urban development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ¹⁰ _____ to provide space for homes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> soil degradation
Genetically modified crops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> increased ¹¹ _____ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> crops that are ¹² _____ to diseases or pests reduction in the use of ¹³ _____

5.2 ▶ **29** Now listen again while reading recording script 29 at the back of the book. Highlight or underline all the words and phrases used to show cause and effect.

Listening Section 3

▶ 30

Questions 1–7

What benefits do the speakers mention when talking about each of the following genetically modified crops?

Choose **SEVEN** answers from the box and write the correct letter, **A–I**, next to questions 1–7.

Genetically modified crops

- 1 maize
- 2 soya beans
- 3 wheat
- 4 potatoes
- 5 rice
- 6 tomatoes
- 7 poplar trees

Benefits

- A reduction in the use of weedkiller
- B not harmful to animals
- C healthier food source
- D medical uses
- E less pollution
- F lower water consumption
- G profits for farmers
- H resistant to cold weather
- I cheaper food prices

Questions 8–10

Choose the correct letter **A**, **B** or **C**.

- 8 What do the speakers think about the article on genetically modified crops?
 - A It was poorly researched.
 - B It was quite biased.
 - C It was out of date.
- 9 What advantage of genetically modified crops did the article stress?
 - A reduced use of chemicals
 - B improved soil conditions
 - C increased profits for farmers
- 10 What concern do the speakers have about genetically modified foods?
 - A the impact on our health
 - B the impact on animals
 - C the impact on other crops