

BGE NYVK	B2	Reading Comprehension	
English for Business Communication		140 minutes (with Writing)	40 marks
Sample 3			

**Mark or write your answers on the task sheet first.
Then copy your answers on the Answer Sheet.**

Read the following texts and complete the tasks.

Text 1

How heatwaves, floods and climate change are altering the taste of your favourite wines

With every year that passes, we become more aware that the world is getting warmer and, unfortunately, extreme weather events cause devastation to the landscape and to local communities. Earlier this month, exceptionally heavy rain caused deadly flash floods in Germany and Belgium on a scale that shocked the world. Germany's Ahr Valley, (1) _____.

The region's 38 wineries lost cellars, barrels and bottles; in one case a heavy grape press was carried away by the deluge. Meike and Dörte Näkel, sisters and fifth-generation winemakers, lost their family business, but were grateful to escape with their lives (2) _____.

The disaster is part of a grim pattern. Across the world, winemakers and grape growers have increasingly been coping with the crop damage wreaked by increasingly erratic weather: hail, spring frosts, warm winters, heat spikes in summer, droughts and floods, not to mention the wildfires suffered in California and Australia. Then there's the underlying issue of temperatures. These have risen persistently over the past three decades.

This can be seen G) when you track grape-picking dates back to the Middle Ages. In Beaune, Burgundy, between 1354 and 1987, grapes were, on average, picked from Sept 28, whereas from 1988 to 2018, the harvest began, on average, 13 days earlier. Seasonal fluctuations in weather can create big differences in the flavour of the wine – (3) _____.

Of course, to some extent, it is possible to adapt: that is what Champagne is looking at doing. Right now, almost all champagne is made from one or a combination of three grapes: chardonnay, pinot noir and pinot meunier. However, officially, (4) _____.

On behalf of the entire region, agronomists are also carrying out tests with new grapes, crossing champagne varieties with other grapes to see what other solutions they can find to the global warming question. And yes, (5) _____.

I. 1–5 | Complete the text by choosing from list A)–F). You will not need one of the items.

- A) after clinging to a tree for seven hours until a rescue boat came to their aid
- B) that's why everyone goes on so much about vintages
- C) whose main business is winemaking, was one of the hardest-hit areas
- D) with Spain and Italy expected to lose the majority of their current winegrowing regions
- E) inevitably these grapes will make wines that taste different
- F) seven different grape varieties are permitted

Text 2

Coles rolls out autism-friendly shopping hour to 68 stores

COLES, the Australian grocery store, will roll out an autism-friendly shopping (6)___ at nearly 70 stores across the country from today, following a successful trial earlier this year. The Quiet Hour program, (7)___ reduces noise and distractions to make shopping easier for customers who find heightened sensory environments (8)___, was met with widespread praise from customers during a trial at the Ringwood and Balwyn East stores in Melbourne in August.

During Quiet Hour, store lighting is dimmed by 50 per cent, Coles Radio switched off, register and scanner volumes (9)___ to the lowest level, trolley collection stopped and roll cages removed from the shop floor. PA announcements are also stopped, (10)___ in the case of emergencies and additional team members will be available to support customers.

From today, Quiet Hour (11)___ offered at an additional 66 stores every Tuesday between 10.30am and 11.30am. In a statement, Coles accessibility sponsor Peter Sheean said the supermarket wanted a good geographic spread and worked closely with Autism Spectrum Australia to (12)___ locations.

Linzi Coyle, operations manager at Autism Spectrum Australia, said in a statement the organisation was proud (13)___ with Coles on the program. Since the trial in August, many customers (14)___ for Quiet Hour to be rolled out more broadly. "I don't think it's just people with autism who would prefer less environmental clutter," a customer wrote on Coles' Facebook page. "(15)___ any shoppers really like loudly blaring radios, loud annoying ads on continuous loops and really noisy beeping when they're shopping? So many things in life are unnecessarily stressful, grocery shopping doesn't have to be one of them."

II. **6-15** Choose the best alternative A) B) or C) to fill each gap in the text.

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 6) | A) experiment | B) expertise | C) exploration |
| 7) | A) whose | B) that | C) which |
| 8) | A) challenges | B) challenging | C) challenged |
| 9) | A) rejected | B) reduced | C) refused |
| 10) | A) except | B) accept | C) expect |
| 11) | A) will now | B) is now going to | C) will now be |
| 12) | A) stipulate | B) identify | C) diagnose |
| 13) | A) partner | B) partnering | C) to partner |
| 14) | A) called | B) have called | C) have been called |
| 15) | A) Do | B) Are | C) Ø |

Text 3

Fast fashion

Fashion is the third-largest manufacturing industry in the world and a major contributor to greenhouse gases, water and air pollution, creating problematic levels of waste. But with climate change coming into sharper focus, for many people the environmental credentials of clothes are fast becoming as important as their style and price. The BBC spoke to a designer, a clothes-hire company and a consumer about what sustainable fashion means to them.

Starting a conversation with fish-skin bags

Moray Luke said she had always wanted to be a mermaid – so it's perhaps no surprise the 26-year-old designer chose fish leather to make some of her handbags. The material has been hailed as a more environmentally-friendly alternative to most cow leather due to its durability and use of waste material. Moray's bags use skin left over from an organic Scottish salmon farm.

'Wearing someone else's clothes isn't dirty'

Rhi Thomas and Tegan Turnbull, both 23, run a company which hires out clothes in south Wales, via Instagram. The idea is, if someone wants an outfit for a night out or a special occasion, instead of buying it they borrow it from Hire the Attire. They launched the company in order to change the mindset and attitude to already used clothes. Rhi said they go for timeless garments. Tegan added: "I definitely feel like there is a huge pressure on young people to not have a photo in the same thing more than once. I think it's OK to be wearing something more than once and making sure it's versatile and you can accessorise and make it look different every time."

'I'm willing to play my part'

Megan Rusbridge, 23, of Cardiff, is making an effort to cut down the environmental impact of her wardrobe. She is buying second-hand items, more expensive, hard-wearing clothes that will last longer and choosing garments made from biodegradable materials, such as cotton. Megan said it would be a big step forward if more social media influencers were aware of the importance of backing a more sustainable way of consumption. She added: Information is out there if people want to consume in a more ethical way. "It's a case of less is more. We don't need loads and loads of clothes. We need good-quality clothes that are going to last over time and, if we do decide to dispose of them, they can either be recycled or are biodegradable."

III. | Answer the following questions according to the text in no more than 7 words. 16–20

- 16) In what two aspects does fish leather prove to be a greener alternative to cow leather?
- 17) What would Rhi Thomas and Tegan Turnbull like to achieve with their clothes rental business?
- 18) What is considered to be unacceptable for young people nowadays?
- 19) What types of clothes does Megan Rusbridge favour? List three characteristics.
- 20) How could social media influencers help raise awareness to green issues?

BGE NYVK	B2	Reading Comprehension	
English for Business Communication		140 minutes (with Writing)	40 marks
Sample 3			

KEY

Text 1	
1.	C
2.	A
3.	B
4.	F
5.	E
Text 2	
6.	A
7.	C
8.	B
9.	B
10.	A
11.	C
12.	B
13.	C
14.	B
15.	A
Text 3	
16.	durability, use of waste material
17.	change mindset and attitude to used clothes
18.	wear the same clothes twice in photo / being photographed twice in same clothes / being snapped twice in same clothes
19.	any three of the following: second-hand, more expensive, hard-wearing, (which) last longer, biodegradable, cotton, good quality, recyclable
20.	back more sustainable consumption / learn and post more about sustainable consumption