



Entrance exam 2005-2006

English

Duration: 1 hour

Part one: Comprehension

A: read the text, and then answer the question that follows. (1 pt. Each)

Farming

The influence of technology has been increasing tremendously year after year. Some countries which were mainly agricultural a hundred years ago have now become totally industrial. Quite a number of factories have been built on agricultural land. As there are now fewer farms to serve a much larger popularities, these must be more efficient to produce as much food as possible. There is no place in the modern agricultural world for inefficient farmers. Unfortunately, many picturesque aspects of farming are disappearing in farmers' search for efficiency. The more tractors are used in modern farming, the fewer horses are needed. Everyone agrees that horses are far more pleasant to look at than tractors, but they are less productive. Cows are usually milked by machinery nowadays and even fed automatically. There is not much "art" or "poetry" on the modern farm, and the old traditional idea of a farm as a peaceful and romantic place has been vanishing gradually.

The modern farmer has to be a mechanic, a scientist, an accountant and a "gambler". The more mechanized farming becomes, the more knowledgeable the farmer has to be. He must understand what machinery is necessary for his kind of farm, and he must know how to use it properly. He must also understand the new scientific findings in agriculture, and how to use chemicals and synthetic products to improve his crops. The more workers a farmer employs, the more he must know about the problems of bookkeeping, taxes, and wages. As in any other industry, most modern farmers find it necessary to rely on the services of an office staff to deal with these problems. And although he has more modern equipment and far more technological aids than his grandfather had, the farmer nowadays remains dependent on the weather. As he can never be sure what the weather might be like. He must be always prepared to take risks and face possibility of either loss or profit.

Questions:

- 1- What does each of the following underlined words in the passage refer to?
 - a- these (paragraph 1)
 - b- they (paragraph 1)
 - c- it (paragraph 2)
- 2- What does the passage say about the number of farms nowadays? Why?
- 3- Why should farmers be more productive these days?
- 4- What sort of people do modern farmers need to employ?
- 5- According to the passage, why is it necessary for a farmer to be a "gambler"?

B- Pick out from the passage words which have almost the same meaning as the following. (1/2 pt. each)

- 1- unusually charming and interesting.
- 2- in a self-operating way.
- 3- disappear.
- 4- kinds of products grown by farmers.
- 5- something learned as a result of inquiry.
- 6- needing the support of.



C- Complete each of the following sentences so that it means the same as the sentence given. (1 pt. each)

- 1- There is no place in our world for inefficient farmers.
Farmers-----
- 2- If you hire knowledgeable people, you will reduce the number of problems on the farm.
The more-----,the -----
- 3- There are hardly any horses left on modern farms. (use very)
There are -----
- 4- Farmers prefer using modern machines to relying on horses. (use rather)
Farmers-----

Part two: writing (120-150 words) (8 pts)

Agriculture in Lebanon is in a poor state. What measures should be taken by the government with the help of farmers to improve it?



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Answer Keys:

A-

It is more mechanized than its traditional counterpart.

1- These refers to farms

They refers to horses

It refers to machinery

2- There are fewer farms: they have to be more efficient to produce as much food as possible.

3- They have to employ workers and office staff.

4- As he can never be sure what the weather might be like, the farmer must be always prepared to take risks and face the possibility of either loss or profit.

B-

1- Picturesque

2- Automatically

3- Crops

4- Findings

5- Dependent

C-

1- There is no place in our world for inefficient farmers.

Farmers who are inefficient have no place in our world

2- If you hire knowledgeable people, you will reduce the number of problems on the farm.

The more knowledgeable people you hire the fewer problems you face

3- There are hardly any horses left on modern farms. (use very)

There are very few horses left on modern farms.

4- Farmers prefer using modern machines to relying on horses. (use rather)

Farmers would rather use modern machines than rely on horses.

Part two: writing (120-150 words) (8 pts)