

**SỞ GIÁO DỤC VÀ ĐÀO TẠO  
HÀ NỘI**

**ĐỀ CHÍNH THỨC**

*(Đề thi có 12 trang)*

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**Part 1.**

**Speaker 1.**

TechSpeak is a science blog about the latest developments in information and communications technology, which I guess if it's not your field could potentially leave you cold. But the writer does this thing where he switches between describing the emotional experiences that people have with their tech and presenting facts that will surprise you. It's quite a clever way of engaging readers actually. It helps you overlook the fact that the entries are rather random. You could go for weeks without seeing anything new. Of course, anytime you talk about the future, it's all speculation. I won't hold it against the writer if human beings haven't all been upgraded with microchips in their arms by 2050.

**Speaker 2.**

If you're interested in health and medicine, read the what next blog. I'm part way through a health sciences degree so I appreciate that the writer doesn't just make an unsupported claim. He tells you which academic papers he's sourced for ideas and who the authors are. So if you need to, you can google a great number of them for yourself, time permitting. One of his pet themes is genetics. I think the heading for the last post was something like, one day soon people will live for at least 120 years. He may well be pro this kind of medical advance himself, but where's the counter-argument? How would human longevity help the planet?

**Speaker 3.**

How and why is my favourite science blog? It's a collaborative effort with three different writers making contributions. Don't let the infographics put you off. I mean, there was one recently on population growth that made no sense whatsoever. Focus on the text and you'll find it's really informative. The global population is going to stand at 11.2 billion by 2100 and the media is usually all doom and gloom about statistics like that. But the blog is more optimistic and it's genuinely refreshing to see a focus on innovations, not just from the US and Europe but elsewhere. For example, in India, apparently there's a community solar energy project that's making progress and I don't think we can understate the importance of moving away from fossil fuels.

**Speaker 4.**

The blog's smart science is about artificial intelligence. Like the other day they did an article on augmented learning, using virtual reality headsets for educational purposes. It's going to radically change the way people learn. Maybe in 10 years time our kids will be getting an education without physically being in class. Their articles are pretty lengthy and they do tend to overload you with information. You sometimes end up skimming over bits because it's just the same point being made again. That aside, they'll check their facts and don't exaggerate to make a piece sound exciting. Plus the writers are objective in their attitude, presenting both sides, which is rare in a world nowadays where, in large part, the internet's been overtaken by people desperate to express their opinion.

**Speaker 5.**

I'm obsessed with space exploration, so star study is my go-to blog. There's just a modest subscription fee for the premium content. I'm more interested in spacecraft design than say the retrospective features, the 1969 moon landing for example, but I understand that readers will be interested in different subjects. The bloggers should definitely cut down on the terminology and explain things in simpler terms though. We're not all engineers. What stands out for me are the illustrations and I often download and print them off. They give you a real insight into the challenges designers are facing, how to create comfortable living and working conditions for astronauts. Eventually we're going to

run out of resources on Earth, but hopefully we will have managed to colonize other planets before that happens.

## **Part 2.**

Hi there, my name's Jane Birch and I'm a conservationist with a particular interest in the polar regions. Recently I made a trip to Greenland, a fascinating but little visited landmass that lies well within the Arctic Circle. Up to 80% of Greenland is **covered in ice**, which means that what's happening there is pretty significant in terms of global warming, the melting of the polar ice cap and the rising sea levels at result.

Greenland has an interesting history. Most of today's inhabitants are descendants of people who moved there from what is now Canada in around the 10th century. Scandinavian influences date back to the time of the legendary Viking leader Eric the Red, who coined the name Greenland in an attempt to encourage **more settlers** to go and live there. Although this ploy didn't meet with much success, today the country has strong political links with Denmark and Danish has spoken alongside the local language.

Although I'm interested in all aspects of life in the polar regions, the real purpose of this trip was to study the Sömec Kujalek Glacier, which has recently been granted World Heritage status. Now I don't know whether it's the most impressive to look at or not, or even whether it's the largest glacier in the world, but what is certain is that it's the most **productive**. I can see you all look a bit puzzled by that, but if I tell you that each day the quantity of water which is released from the glacier would be enough to provide the population of New York with drinking water for one year, then you'll see what I mean. So the behaviour of the glacier is closely followed, not just because of its scale, but also because it is regarded as a **key indicator** by those involved in the study of climate change and its effects.

Greenland is a particular interest to scientists for various reasons though, not least because it plays a vital role in global climate regulation. Ice and snow reflect sunlight, and help to keep the earth cool. Studies have shown that levels of snow and ice in the region are diminishing. Ground, which remains frozen or year, known as **permafrost**, contains vast amounts of methane, a potent greenhouse gas. As temperatures increase, so this land thaws, and this gas is released into the atmosphere, increasing the concentration of greenhouse gases, and further exacerbating the problem of global warming. What's more, if the ice on Greenland melted completely, global sea levels would rise by about 7 metres, with dire consequences to low-lying land areas, so the glacier is vital in sustaining levels of sea ice in the Arctic region.

I spent several weeks studying the glacier, and could recount various white knuckle rides by dog-sled, snowmobile or boat, each memorable in its own way, but none quite measures up to my trip in a helicopter to see the glacier itself **at close quarters**. Watching the icebergs break away and jostle for position as they flow down the fjord towards the open sea is awesome. You really appreciate the sheer power of nature when faced with such a sight.

The locals are expert at reading the ice. You have to be. Icebergs can be very unpredictable. Generally speaking, those with the most **veins**, long, bluish lines running through them, are the most likely to crack if their bottom hits the ocean floor. Approximately 85% of an iceberg is actually under the water, so the tallest are also the deepest, and therefore most likely to tip over in shallow water. While I was there, I was amazed to see a number of locals sailing dangerously close to them. My guide explained that **fish** gather there, so this is an accepted hazard of those with a job of catching them.

I had a great time with the Greenlanders. They were so friendly and so sort of **dignified**, in the way that they were adapting their traditional lifestyles to meet the demands of the modern age. It's tempting to look at polar peoples and allow all sorts of romantic notions to colour your view of them. You know, arcing back to a sort of idyllic age when a man living in an igloo would sit over a hole in the ice with his fishing rod, as if that was somehow more genuine or worthwhile. I have no time for that sort of thing.

I mean, in Nuke, the capital, I saw hanging on the same **washing line**, some seal ribs drying ready to be cured as a winter food source alongside a kid's batman suit. That image really sticks in my mind, a much more potent symbol of the lives of polar peoples today.

So, before I go on to talking about a couple about the elm...