

## Summarize written text

This is a short-answer writing item type that integrates writing and reading skills. It requires you to understand, analyze and extract information from a reading passage and summarize the key points in one sentence.

**Read the passage below and summarize it using one sentence. Type your response in the box at the bottom of the screen. You have 10 minutes to finish this task. Your response will be judged on the quality of your writing and on how well your response presents the key points in the passage.**

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has released a new report on anthropogenic climate change. The findings of the report include the following:

- The world's average surface temperature has increased by around 0.74°C over the past 100 years (1906 - 2005). A warming of about 0.2°C is projected for each of the next two decades.
- The best estimates for sea-level rise due to ocean expansion and glacier melt by the end of the century (compared to 1989 - 1999 levels) have narrowed to 28 - 58 cm, versus 9 - 88 cm in the 2001 report, due to improved understanding. However, larger values of up to 1 m by 2100 cannot be ruled out if ice sheets continue to melt as temperature rises.
- Sea ice is projected to shrink in both the Arctic and Antarctic regions. Large areas of the Arctic Ocean could lose year-round ice cover by the end of the 21st century if human emissions reach the higher end of current estimates. The extent of Arctic sea ice has already shrunk by about 2.7 per cent per decade since 1978, with the summer minimum declining by about 7.1 per cent per decade.
- Snow cover has decreased in most regions, especially in spring. The maximum extent of frozen ground in the winter/spring season decreased by about 7 per cent in the Northern Hemisphere over the latter half of the 20th century. The average freezing date for rivers and lakes in the Northern Hemisphere over the past 150 years has arrived later by some 5.8 days per century, while the average break-up date has arrived earlier by 6.5 days per century.
- It is "very likely" that precipitation will increase at high latitudes and "likely" it will decrease over most subtropical land regions. The pattern of these changes is similar to what has been observed during the 20th century.

Cut

Copy

Paste

Total Word Count: 0

### Item Type Strategies

**Strategy 1**

Remember to skim and scan. Quickly skim the text first for the main idea, and then scan it for details and note keywords.

**Strategy 2**

Once you have noted the keywords, use them to write short notes to sum up the main argument of the text without looking back at the passage. Use your own words to make your notes into a clear, precise summarizing sentence.

**Strategy 3**

When you have finished writing, check for the following: 1) you have written one sentence only which is within the required word count (between 5 and 75 words); 2) you have kept the main meaning of the text; 3) your grammar and spelling are correct. Remember that if your sentence is shorter or longer than the required word count, your response will automatically be scored zero.

### Explanation and Practice of Each Strategy

**Strategy 1**

You will have ten minutes for this item type. Although this may seem like a long time to write one sentence, summarizing the central idea in your own words may take longer than you think. It is therefore important that you remain focused and skim and scan the text as quickly and thoroughly as possible to identify the main idea, the keywords and the main arguments.

To practice this strategy, do the following activities:

- Look at Item 1.
- In 30 seconds, quickly skim the text and identify the gist (e.g., climate change: increasing surface temperature causing rising sea levels, shrinking sea ice and snow cover, and changes in precipitation).
- In one minute, scan the text and write down keywords and important points (e.g., *UN report, climate change, surface temperature increase, sea level rise, ocean expansion, glacier melt*, etc).

### Strategy 2

Once you have noted the keywords, construct your summary as quickly as possible. One way to do this is to use the keywords to write short notes or phrases that sum up the main argument(s) of the text. Try to do this without looking back at the passage. Try to use your own words to make these notes into a clear, precise summarizing sentence.

To practice this strategy, do the following activities:

- Quickly read the passage for Item 1 again.
- Then read through the following phrases:

*UN report, climate change, surface temperature increase, sea level rise, ocean expansion, glacier melt*

- Arrange these keywords into brief notes that sum up the main argument of the text. Do not look back at the passage, and paraphrase the keywords where possible (e.g., *UN report on climate change states that ...; increases in surface temperatures are causing sea levels to rise, oceans to expand, and glaciers to melt ...*)
- Create a clear and precise summarizing sentence. Again, do not look back at the passage, and paraphrase where possible (e.g., *A UN report on climate change states that increasing temperatures are causing glacier melt, rising sea levels and loss of coastal land.*)

### Strategy 3

Once you have written your sentence, it is important to take a moment to check that you have written one sentence only, that it is within the required word count (5 to 75 words), that you have kept the main meaning of the text, and that your grammar and spelling are correct. Note that your response will not be scored if it does not meet the word count requirements.

To practice this strategy, do the following activities:

- Spend five minutes going through the notes you made in the first activity and write a sentence that accurately summarizes the passage. Note that the time you have is for planning and writing. You will have extra time for checking afterwards.
- After five minutes, give yourself one more minute to check your work. Remind yourself of what you need to check for, i.e., that you have written one sentence only, it is within the required word count (5 to 75 words), you have kept the main point of the text, and your grammar and spelling are correct.
- Look at the sample sentences for Item 1. Check the sentences for length, content, grammar and spelling, etc. Rate them from the weakest to the strongest.
- After you have done this, read the explanations for Item 1.

## Respond to a Summarize Written Text Item

You will now respond to a test item simulating the test conditions. You will have ten minutes to read the passage and write your response. Remind yourself of the three strategies for this item type and apply them.

Now respond to Item 2.

## Assess your Response

Were you able to use the strategies? Which one was the most difficult to apply? Which one do you think was the most useful?

Look at the key points for Item 2 and check to see if you have included them in your response. Then compare your response to the three sample responses for Item 2 and read the explanations.

## Item 1

**Read the passage below and summarize it using one sentence. Write your response in the box at the bottom of the page. You have 10 minutes to finish this task. Your response will be judged on the quality of your writing and on how well your response presents the key points in the passage.**

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has released a new report on anthropogenic climate change. The findings of the report include the following:

- The world's average surface temperature has increased by around 0.74°C over the past 100 years (1906 - 2005). A warming of about 0.2°C is projected for each of the next two decades.
- The best estimates for sea-level rise due to ocean expansion and glacier melt by the end of the century (compared to 1989 - 1999 levels) have narrowed to 28 - 58 cm, versus 9 - 88 cm in the 2001 report, due to improved understanding. However, larger values of up to 1 m by 2100 cannot be ruled out if ice sheets continue to melt as temperature rises.
- Sea ice is projected to shrink in both the Arctic and Antarctic regions. Large areas of the Arctic Ocean could lose year-round ice cover by the end of the 21st century if human emissions reach the higher end of current estimates. The extent of Arctic sea ice has already shrunk by about 2.7 per cent per decade since 1978, with the summer minimum declining by about 7.1 per cent per decade.
- Snow cover has decreased in most regions, especially in spring. The maximum extent of frozen ground in the winter/spring season decreased by about 7 per cent in the Northern Hemisphere over the latter half of the 20th century. The average freezing date for rivers and lakes in the Northern Hemisphere over the past 150 years has arrived later by some 5.8 days per century, while the average break-up date has arrived earlier by 6.5 days per century.
- It is "very likely" that precipitation will increase at high latitudes and "likely" it will decrease over most subtropical land regions. The pattern of these changes is similar to what has been observed during the 20th century.

## Item 1: Sample Responses

### Key Points

A new UN report finds that increasing surface temperature around the world is causing rising sea levels, shrinking sea ice and snow cover, and changes in precipitation.

### B1 Response

United intergovernmental panel on climate change report that climatic changes in northern hemisphere will cause drastic change in sea current and will raise the sea level.

### B2 Response

Due to the latest report of IPCC about the worldwide climate, Green House Effect has affected the earth severely on various aspects.

### C1 Response

A new UN report finds that increasing surface temperatures around the world are causing rising sea levels, shrinking sea ice and snow cover, and changes in precipitation.

## Item 1: Sample Responses and Explanations

### B1 Response

United intergovernmental panel on climate change report that climatic changes in northern hemisphere will cause drastick change in sea current and will raise the sea level.

**Explanation:** While the response includes one key detail, other information from the passage is left out or misunderstood. Missing or incorrect use of prepositions and verbs prevents the response from receiving full credit for grammar. The vocabulary used is appropriate. There are three spelling errors. Although poorly put together, the response is one complete sentence.

### B2 Response

Due to the latest report of IPCC about the wordwide climate, Green House Effect has affected the earth severely on various aspects.

**Explanation:** The summary does not include any supporting points or key details. A small grammatical mistake prevents this response from receiving full credit for grammar, although the meaning of the sentence is clear. The use of "due to" instead of "according to" makes it seem that the IPCC report caused the greenhouse effect. There is one spelling error. The response is one complete sentence.

### C1 Response

A new UN report finds that increasing surface temperatures around the world are causing rising sea levels, shrinking sea ice and snow cover, and changes in precipitation.

**Explanation:** The topic has been accurately discussed and the supporting points are included. The vocabulary used is precise. All words are spelled correctly. The response is one complete sentence.

## Item 2

**Read the passage below and summarize it using one sentence. Write your response in the box at the bottom of the page. You have 10 minutes to finish this task. Your response will be judged on the quality of your writing and on how well your response presents the key points in the passage.**

For millions of years, Mediterranean sea turtles have been coming to the shore of southern Lebanon to lay their eggs. Every summer, their babies hatch and literally run for their lives on the strip of sand that separates their nests from the sea. An endangered species, they had been largely ignored in this part of Lebanon until two women set out to protect them.

Mona Khalil was inspired by a walk on the beach during a visit to her homeland, when she first saw the turtles. Upon learning that they were close to disappearing from her country, Khalil decided to "come back and do something about them."

The next year, 2000, she returned and teamed up with Habiba Fayed, who shares her passion for the environment. They opened a bed-and-breakfast in the Khalil family home to finance their efforts. Guests could simply vacation or, in the spirit of ecotourism, they could help the owners protect the turtles' nests and keep the beach clean.

Female turtles travel to the exact spot where they were born to dig their nests in the sand, laying an average of 70 to 100 eggs. This is the moment when the women intervene. They protect the nests from predators by burying an iron grid in the sand above the eggs. The spaces on the grid are large enough to allow the baby turtles to emerge after a month and find their way to the sea...and to a chance at life.

## Item 2: Sample Responses

### Key Points

Thanks to Moan Khalil and Habiba Fayed, the sea turtles in Lebanon have a chance for survival.

### B1 Response

For the millions of years the turtles were coming laying their eggs in summer and the babies run seperates their nests, ignoring in war torn until two women set out to protect them and mona khalil saw the turtles and decided to do something so in the end the baby turtle to emerge after a month.

### B2 Response

Mediterranean sea turtles which is an endangered species lay their 70 to 100 eggs at the shore of southern Lebanon but now Mona Khalil with her team protecting turtle's egg from dameging or from pradators by burying iron grid in the sand above the nests.

### C1 Response

After millions of years of being endangered in war-torn coast of southern Lebanon, Mediterranean sea turtles were finally protected by two women, Mona Khalil and Habiba Fayed, who opened a bed-and-breakfast and with the help of the guests, protected turtles' eggs by burying an iron grid in the sand above the eggs.



## Item 2: Sample Responses and Explanations

### B1 Response

For the millions of years the turtles were coming laying their eggs in summer and the babies run seperates their nests, ignoring in war torn until two women set out to protect them and mona khalil saw the turtles and decided to do something so in the end the baby turtle to emerge after a month.

**Explanation:** While the response includes some main points, other key information from the passage is left out and information not in the passage is included. This response shows limited control over simple grammatical structures. The vocabulary is basic. There is one spelling mistake. The response is one sentence.

### B2 Response

Mediterranean sea turtles which is an endangered species lay their 70 to 100 eggs at the shore of southern Lebanon but now Mona Khalil with her team protecting turtle's egg from dameging or from pradators by burying iron grid in the sand above the nests.

**Explanation:** The topic has been accurately discussed and the supporting points are included. Missing or incorrect use of prepositions and verbs prevents the response from receiving full credit for grammar. The vocabulary used is appropriate. There are three spelling errors. The response is one sentence.

### C1 Response

After millions of years of being endangered in war-torn coast of southern Lebanon, Mediterranean sea turtles were finally protected by two women, Mona Khalil and Habiba Fayed, who opened a bed-and-breakfast and with the help of the guests, protected turtles' eggs by burying an iron grid in the sand above the eggs.

**Explanation:** The topic has been accurately discussed and the supporting points are included. This response shows good control of standard English grammar with very few grammatical errors. The vocabulary used is appropriate. All words are spelled correctly. The response is one sentence.