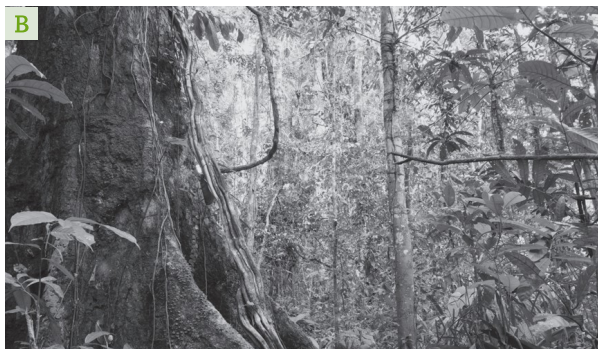
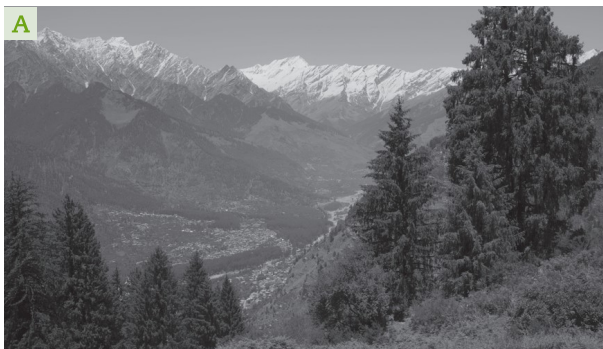


25

Earth, sea and sky

Geography, climate and weather



1.1 Look at photos A and B. Where do you think the places are? Choose from the list below.

Brazil France India Kenya Morocco Thailand

1.2 Match the description below with one of the photos. Then complete it with the words in the box.

bank orchards peaks pine slopes springs streams tracks valleys vegetation

Manali is surrounded by towering snow-capped mountain (1) peaks and dense forests of (2) _____ trees. Shallow (3) _____ of clear mountain water flow into the Beas River. Around the town the landscape is breathtaking. The (4) _____ which covers the gentle wooded (5) _____ of the hillsides is mainly wild flowers and fertile apple (6) _____. Above Manali, travellers can walk along the winding (7) _____ through the narrow (8) _____ and high mountain passes to the Himalayas or take part in the adventure sports on offer. They can also relax in the village of Vashisht, on the left (9) _____ of the Beas River just a few kilometres from Manali, where hot (10) _____ emerge from the rock at about 50 degrees centigrade.

1.3 **30** Listen to this description of the other photo and complete it with the words you hear.

This is a tropical rainforest. It's also sometimes called a (1) jungle. The trees are probably very old as they have very thick (2) _____. It's usually quite dark in the forest as not much (3) _____ gets through the trees. The (4) _____ that grow under the trees tend to have large (5) _____ in an effort to get as much light as possible. The (6) _____ in the rainforest is often very poor so the trees have shallow (7) _____, but some of them still manage to grow very tall with few (8) _____ near the bottom. They put all their energy into reaching the light! Rainforests are full of wildlife, from (9) _____ and snakes on the forest floor to monkeys and (10) _____ higher up.

1.4 Match the adjectives with their opposites.

cultivated deep mountainous muddy steep straight wide

- 1 shallow deep 2 narrow _____ 3 winding _____ 4 clear _____
 5 wild _____ 6 flat _____ 7 gentle _____

1.5 Write two or three sentences in your notebook about the place in this photo.



V Vocabulary note

Some words can have more than one meaning, and the second meaning may be idiomatic:

*I've got a **mountain** of work to do.* (= a huge amount of work)

*There was a **flood** of applications for the job.* (= suddenly a large number of applications)

2.1 Read these sentences about two different climates. Decide which are about photo A and which are about photo B in 1.1.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 It is always hot and humid. <u> B </u> | 7 The heavy snowfall in winter attracts skiers and tourists. <u> </u> |
| 2 Summers are mild and wet. <u> </u> | 8 By mid-afternoon every day it pours with rain and thunderstorms are also common. <u> </u> |
| 3 As it is near the Equator, there is little difference in temperature between the warmest and coolest months. <u> </u> | 9 The area is often cut off because of snow. <u> </u> |
| 4 Rain falls nearly every day and there is no dry season. <u> </u> | 10 Floods sometimes occur in July and August during the wet season. <u> </u> |
| 5 In winter it becomes cold and frosty and the temperature falls to below 0°C. <u> </u> | 11 The temperature at night is 20–25°C but during the day it rises to above 30°C. <u> </u> |
| 6 In the rainforest, as dawn breaks and the sun comes up, there is a clear blue sky. <u> </u> | 12 Skies are often cloudy in the mountains, whether it is summer or winter. <u> </u> |

2.2 The sentences make two separate descriptions. Which sentences can you join with *and* or *but*?

A Summers are mild and wet, but in winter ...

2.3 **31** Listen to a description of the climate in another country. Which part of the world do you think it is?

2.4 Using 2.1–2.3 to help you, write a list of vocabulary you can use about your country's climate.

3.1 **WORD BUILDING** Complete the sentences with new words made from the words in the box.

freeze globe mist stormy tropic warm

- Yesterday the weather was so stormy that the waves were crashing against the houses by the beach.
- They were able to skate on the lake because it was .
- We climbed to the top of the mountain but it was so we couldn't see much.
- Everybody is staying inside as the forecast says a storm is on its way.
- We always appreciate the of the sun after a long cold winter.
- It is thought that some unusual weather is caused by warming.

Exam practice

Reading and Use of English Part 6

You are going to read a newspaper article about a trip to South America. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences **A–G** the one which fits each gap (1–6). There is one extra sentence which you do not need.



A trip to Patagonia

Laura Holt goes in search of pumas, the large wild cats of South America

Taking in a large area of Chile and Argentina, running along the Andes and down to where South America flicks its tail towards Antarctica, is a region called Patagonia and I was there on holiday. It was only my first day in the Torres del Paine National Park, a wild portion of Chilean Patagonia that's lavished with towering glaciers, snow-clad valleys and dramatic peaks.

Some other intrepid travellers come here to tackle the formidable 'W' circuit – an extended trek that links five key points in the national park over several days of scrambling up and down mountains. I therefore planned to take a more leisurely pace, in the back of a chauffeur-driven van.

We gathered around a fire on the first night at camp. A mother and her cubs had been spotted in the valley days before and a lone male had been seen casually strolling across the camp's wooden walkways. But by far the most startling tale was of a young puma cub which had found its way through an unlocked door into a hotel.

The next morning, we drove into the Patagonian plains. Overhead, majestic birds of prey carved black shadows against a brilliant blue sky. At Lake Sarmiento, oystercatchers squawked as we approached and elegant ostrich-like rheas pranced past like ballerinas. It was too large to be a grey fox and too small to be a guanaco, the curious llama-like creature that roams these lands.

'Did you see that?', my guide, Felipe, pointed. 'Puma?' I replied. 'I think so,' said Felipe. A sighting of this size was so lucky. Even if it was over in a flash. But I suddenly felt vulnerable, out there in the wilderness, with nothing but a stick to defend myself if it came near. Even so, I hoped I wouldn't have to put the theory to the test.

After a hearty barbecue beside the Blue Lagoon, it was time to set off again. We hurtled down unmade mountain roads at breakneck speed, past the milky green glacial flow of the Paine River. But I was soon back at the camp, exhilarated and utterly exhausted.

Over the next few days, the pace picked up steadily. There was a walk up to the Mirador Cuernos, through silent valleys of grazing animals, to a startling lookout point. On the way down, we watched herds of horses gallop past isolated farms with red corrugated roofs.

On the final day I said goodbye and drove out of the park. The closest I had come to seeing a puma may have been a fleeting glimpse but I realised it mattered little. For my search had made me study every crag and cave, bush and boulder in this vast, ultimately unknowable land all the more intensely.



- A** At that point, I was more focused on staying upright than spotting pumas.
- B** Suddenly, a fleeting shadow sent a bolt of excitement through us.
- C** My goal, on the other hand, was to spot Patagonia's rare big cats and other wildlife.
- D** The thunderclap of a distant avalanche was the only disturbance of the peace.
- E** But with only 50 of these large cats in a huge area, there were still no guarantees.
- F** Apparently, the best thing to do is stand completely still and all should be well.
- G** Rumours of recent puma sightings were plentiful.



Exam tip

Read the whole paragraph and then all the options. Make sure the one you choose fits before and after the gap.

Writing Part 2: email

You have received this email from your English friend Joe.

From: Joe
Subject: your climate

Hi, can you help me with something? We're doing a project at college about the climate in different countries. Please could you write and tell me about the climate in your country? Is the weather very different at different times of year? What do you like and dislike about it?

Thanks a lot.
Joe

Write your **email** (140–190 words).



Exam tip

You have several questions to answer here. Make sure you answer them all, and close your email in a friendly way. Plan your answer before you start, and make sure you write 140–190 words.