

IELTs Style Listening Questions

Questions 1-3

Choose the correct letter **A-C**

1. The cause of the smog in Malaysia is:
 - A. Malaysian cars
 - B. Burning Malaysian forests
 - C. Burning Indonesian forests

2. According to the text the people responsible are likely to be:
 - A. Indonesian farmers
 - B. The Indonesian Government
 - C. Large corporations

3. The reason for the burning is:
 - A. To make more money
 - B. So that farmers can plant crops
 - C. To build new houses.

Questions 4-6

Complete the table below

Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer

Land Clearing Procedure

Procedure No.	Procedure
1	Cut down trees
2	Take trees to 4.
3	Wait until 5.
4	Plant 6.

Discussion Questions

1. Do you think that International governments are doing enough to stop deforestation?
2. Do you think that the corporations care about their public image?
3. Do you think that the local people benefit from this deforestation?
4. What do you think can be done to improve the air-quality in Malaysia?

Writing Question

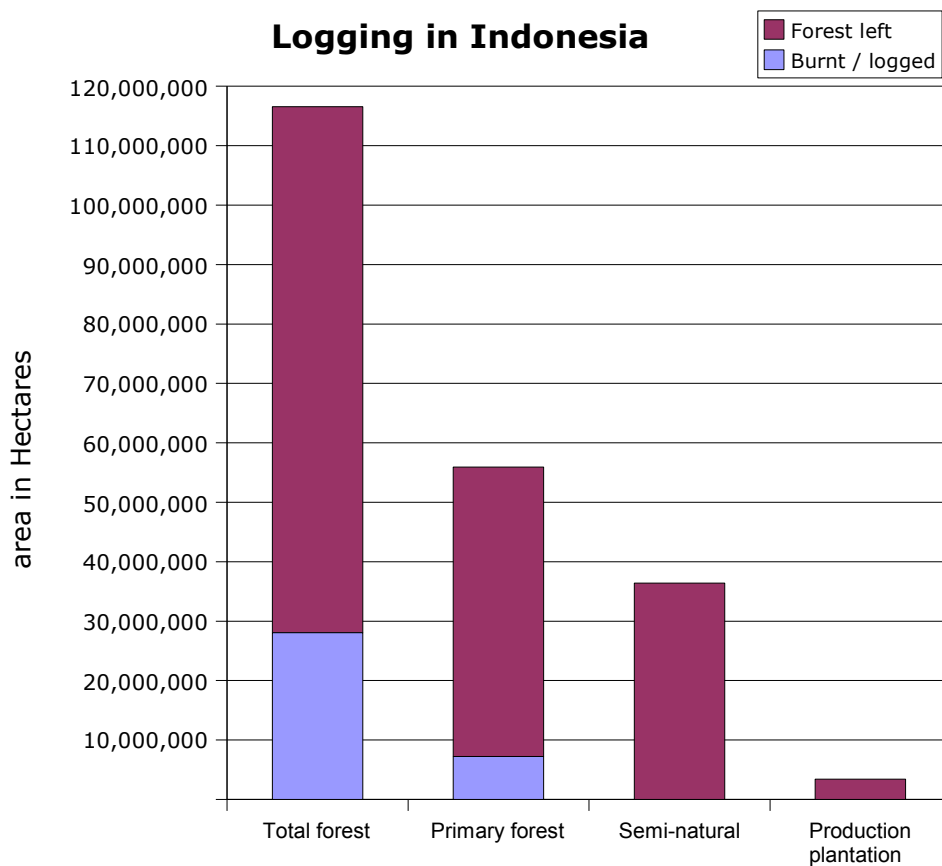
WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The chart below shows the amount of rainforest in Indonesia, the amount that has been burnt or logged and the amount now used for plantations and semi-natural that is being used partly for agriculture.

Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information shown below.

You should write at least 150 words.



Source: <http://rainforests.mongabay.com/20indonesia.htm>

A blue-tinted banner featuring a group of people in a classroom or office setting. The text 'James Abela ELT' is overlaid in large, white, sans-serif font.

James Abela ELT

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Present a written argument or case to an educated reader with no specialist knowledge of the following topic.

The forests in Indonesia are of great value, but if they cut them down rather than create wealth for the country in the long term they will be destroying their livelihoods.

Logging should be strongly discouraged and international laws introduced to ensure that corporations do not profit from this activity.

What are your views?

You should use your own ideas, knowledge and experience and support your arguments with examples and relevant evidence.

You should write at least 250 words.

Answers

Questions 1-3

Choose the correct letter **A-C**

4. The cause of the smog in Malaysia is:
C. Burning Indonesian forests
5. According to the text the people responsible are likely to be:
C. Large corporations
6. The reason for the burning is:
A. To make more money

Questions 4-6

Complete the table below

Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer

Land Clearing Procedure

Procedure No.	Procedure
1	Cut down trees
2	Take trees to 4. wood-mill
3	Wait until 5. (the) dry season
4	Plant 6. cash crops / Oil Palm plantations / Rubber trees

Writing Task 1 Sample Answer

The graph shows the status of the rainforest in Indonesia in hectares. There are three types of forest in Indonesia, Primary forest, semi-natural and production plantation. It shows how much is still in tact and how much has been destroyed.

Approximately 30,000,000 hectares have been logged or burnt of which just under 10,000,000 was primary forest, which is about 30% of the forest. This leaves about 45,000,000 acres of primary forest and 36,000,000 of semi-natural forest and about 3,000,000 hectares of production plantation. Interestingly none of the semi-natural forest or plantations appear to have been logged or burnt.

Overall this graph shows that Indonesians have only about 70% of their rainforest left.

(160 words done in 17 minutes)

Writing Task 2 sample Answer

The rainforests in Indonesia are a great asset to the people that have provided them with a living for many generations. It looks like this generation of Indonesians maybe the last to have the benefits of the forest that has helped them for so long.

The people of Indonesia must learn to realise that they are losing their strongest asset, that if it is kept it maybe used for research into new drugs, a place for eco-tourism and a place for sustainable agriculture. Furthermore in the process of slashing and burning their trees they are creating pollution that is directly affecting the health of their nation and their neighbours.

Unfortunately the Indonesian people are not strong enough by themselves to solve this problem and it is only with the cooperation of wealthier nations that they can ensure corporations do not destroy their livelihoods and their children's prosperity. To do this the amount of carbon released into the atmosphere needs to be measured and the corporation or owners of land should be watched via Satellite and fines should be set at a level that ensures that it is more cost effective to log and turnover the soil rather than slash and burn. If the land has been protected then the landowners or loggers should be fined 10 times the value that the wood is worth and enforced by UN peacekeepers with 1st world technology.

Punishments are not enough on their own and the Indonesian government should be rewarded for keeping its forests using a carbon trading scheme, because not only are the rainforests a useful asset they are also the world's lungs and as such need to be protected for all of us!

(283 Words done in 34 minutes)

The Malaysian Smog Script!

When we're in the heart of the dry season in Malaysia the dreaded smog returns and what really annoys most Malaysians is that it isn't caused by their cars, which generally have much smaller Engines than American equivalents or even burning their own forests, but from their neighbour Indonesia. Each year Indonesia burns forests equivalent to the size of Paris and if the wind is going in the wrong direction it comes straight to Kuala Lumpur.

When I dug a little deeper, it wasn't long before people from the industry anonymously told me that I'd be a complete idiot to believe that a few local farmers could ever create the amount of CO2 required to blanket an entire country with a thick layer of smog.

Everybody in the industry knows these are huge commercial operations and its a simple profitability decision. The fact is that these companies are not made to pay for the pollution they create. So let's look at the process of creating short-term profit from virgin rainforest. Firstly you cut down all that valuable rainforest timber and send it to the wood-mill for processing, after all no point in wasting all that very valuable wood.

Once you've done that you have to wait for the dry season, after all you can hardly burn down a rainforest when there's torrential rain. Once the foliage has dried out you can then set fire to it. There is of course a more environmentally friendly method of doing this, you could turn over the soil as they have to do in Europe, but that would cost you at least 3 times the amount of burning it.

After the forest has been burnt down you can then plant Oil Palm Plantations, rubber trees or whatever other cash crop you want to sow. The end result are trees of your choice planted in clear straight lines... And now all you have to do is hire a few locals who've got no other chance of employment, pay them dirt cheap wages and watch the money come in...

Of course everybody pokes the finger of blame at the Indonesian government, but if you've ever been to Indonesia you'd realise this is a very poor country and the government has far less monetary power than these corporations, especially at a local level where it is easy to bribe poorly paid local officials...

I just hope that before too long the UN gets its act together and starts a realistic carbon trading scheme that will encourage the Indonesian Government to think about the returns it could get for NOT burning down its forests.