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Simplified reading and comprehension			Unit 3
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You have found a letter to the editor in a newspaper. Read the letter to the editor.

Text 3 Letter to the editor

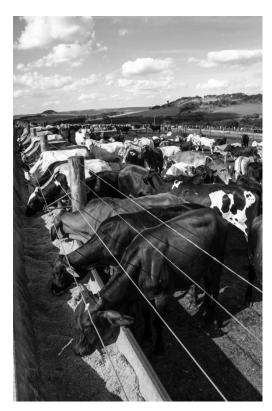


I am writing to respond to the article 'Meat consumption at all-time high', which appeared in *The Hong Kong Times* yesterday. To promote sustainability, I believe we must stop consuming
 meat in such excessive amounts and start adopting

a vegetarian diet.

The environment is suffering from our insatiable appetite for meat, and beef in particular.I found myself in shock that millions of acres of

- 10 forests have already been cleared for livestock rearing. The Amazon Rainforest produces an estimated 20% of the world's oxygen, and yet much of this forest has been levelled for cattle ranching. The Brazilian government estimates that
- 15 more than 60% of deforested land is used for rearing cows, and these cows produce large amounts of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. The trees, which absorb these harmful gases, release the
- 20 carbon that they have stored back into the atmosphere once they are cut down. To cut a long story short, the livestock industry and global warming are closely connected.



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3 Likewise, we ourselves are also suffering from a meatbased diet as research has confirmed that high consumption of red meat is linked to a greater risk of heart disease, which is the number one cause of death in many countries around the world. Another unsettling health concern is that these animals are often treated with steroid

30 hormones to increase their growth rates. Antibiotics are also given regularly to protect them from insanitary living conditions or to prevent the adverse effects of hormone treatments. Humans, in turn, ingest these chemicals, which scientists believe may lead to other serious illnesses such
 35 as cancer and dementia in the long term.

 The United Nations warns that 'livestock's contribution to environmental problems is on a massive scale', and that the issue 'needs to be addressed with urgency'. And according to the Union of Concerned Scientists, meat-

40 eating is the second-most pressing environmental problem, after fossil fuel vehicles. As far as cost, health and morals are concerned, there is no benefit—besides possibly taste—to eating meat. Our environment is on the brink of disaster, and there is no longer time to delay. In recent year



Date:



disaster, and there is no longer time to delay. In recent years, natural disasters such as
superstorms, floods and droughts have become more frequent and severe because of climate change. If having a little less meat can help save the planet and improve our health at the same time, it is undeniably worth our effort.

Trevor Henderson, Sai Kung



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Sir	nplified reading and comp	orehen	sion	Unit 3
Nai	me:() C	Class:	Date:	
cor	mprehension 3 Your mum wants sumption. Answer her questions using Itiple-choice questions, choose the bes	g informat	tion from the letter	r to the editor. For
1	The writer of the letter writes 'I am writing to respond to the article "Meat consumption at all-time high"' (lines 1	6	Which of the following health concerns is NOT linked to eating too much meat? O A cancer O C heart disease	
	& 2) to O A agree with the newspaper		O B dementia	
	O B indicate which article he is responding toO C ask readers to read the article	7	Find a word in paragraph 3 that m 'worrying'.	
	O D inform the editor			
2	Which word in paragraph 1 suggests that Trevor thinks people eat too much meat?	8	given to animals. i)	nents that are often
3	What type of meat does the writer think has the greatest impact on the environment?	9	What does 'it' (line 47) refer to?	
4	Why is the Amazon Rainforest important for people?	10	.0 Decide whether the following statements are True (T), False (F) or information is Not Given (NG) in paragraph 4. Write the letter(s) in th boxes.	
			Statements	
_			i) Fossil fuels pro- pollution than a	
י י (Which of the following is NOT the reason why deforestation for cattle ranching leads to climate change?		ii) There are more disasters happe Kong.	
	O A Cows produce methane.O B Trees release carbon dioxide when they are cut down		iii) Eating meat co poverty.	uld lead to
when they are cut down. O C Cows only eat plants. O D There are fewer trees to absorb			iv) The writer will meat.	start eating less
	greenhouse gases.			

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11 Which of the following are mentioned as reasons not to eat meat in paragraph 4? Tick (\checkmark) all that apply.

it costs a lot of money
it is not moral
it leads to poverty
it is not healthy
it is bad for the environment

12 Match the missing subheadings to the correct paragraph of the letter to the editor. Write the number corresponding to each paragraph (2-4) on the lines next to the subheadings. One is NOT used and should be marked with an X'.

Subheading	<u>Paragraph</u>
Damaging our health	
A small sacrifice for the environment	
An important lesson	
Destruction of the environment	

13 Complete the summary of the letter to the editor. Use ONE word to complete each blank. Make sure the words are grammatically correct.

The writer wants pe	because				
meat-eating is damaging the (ii) _		To slow dov	To slow down climate change, we		
should leave (iii)	a	s they are, rather than cut	ting down t	trees to raise	
(iv)	_ for human cor	sumption. Also, eating me	at is bad fo	or people's	
(v)	and there are o	other sources of (vi)		that do not	
lead to diseases. Climate change is resulting in more natural (vii), so					
it is important for people to put in more (viii) to solve this problem.					

- 14 Complete the sentences below with words from Text 2. Use ONE word to complete each blank. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.
 - i) Most doctors recommend (*eating*) more fruit and vegetables, and less red meat for a healthy diet.—paragraph 1
 - ii) There is a/an ______ (*limitless*) demand for powerful smartphones. -paragraph 2
 - iii) This drug can control the illness, but it also has ______ (negative and *unpleasant*) side effects.—paragraph 3
 - iv) Many believe that there is a/an ______ (*urgent*) need to improve the current waste management facilities.—paragraph 4