This is a Class 2 exam

Lebanon Evangelical School
for Boys and Girls
Loueizeh - Baabda

SE02 Exam

15DEC2025

Do NOT write in this box. Your MARK will be placed here.

Subject :	English	
Class :	12M and 12E	
Teacher :	Mr. Oliver Shartoony	
Duration :	1 hour	
You are to answer the questions to this exam on : Lined paper		
Your name :		*Time taken to complete exam*
Your Class :		
Exam Room :		
How many sheets, including cover sheet :		

- Do not open this paper until the teacher in charge instructs you to do so.
- The most important thing to remember in taking an exam is NEVER PANIC.
- If you are caught cheating in this exam, you will be awarded zero for ALL exams that are taken on this day.

Read the following selection in which the writer reports the best- and worst-case scenarios of corona virus, and then answer the questions that follow.

Corona virus Outbreak: What's Next?

1 Scientists and health authorities around the world are racing to stop the spread of the deadly virus that emerged in the Chinese city of Wuhan. Millions of people have already contracted the new corona virus, which causes respiratory illness. The death toll is rising daily, and the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the outbreak a "public-health emergency of international concern" — an alarm **it** reserves for events that pose a risk to many countries, the fact that requires a coordinated international response. Crucial details about the virus and how it spreads are still under investigation, but experts are considering best- and worst-case scenarios on the basis of previous epidemics and what scientists already know.

2 Many countries have locked down cities at the center of the epidemic, and researchers are sharing data on the virus with WHO on daily basis. However, the case numbers have increased significantly, which leads to one prediction that the virus could infect millions of people around the world. "It seem like the virus has got out of hand and spread too far, too quickly to be controlled," said Ian McKay, a virologist at the University of Queensland in Australia. As for Ben Cowling, an epidemiologist at the University of Hong Kong, it is too early to tell whether all efforts and measures taken are working. "The incubation period for the virus is up to 14 days, which is longer than most control measures have been in place," he explained.

3 When a virus circulates continuously in a community, it is said to be endemic. The viruses that cause chicken pox and influenza are endemic in many countries, but outbreaks can be controlled through vaccination and by keeping people at home when they are ill. One big question is whether corona virus is also here to stay. If efforts to control its spread fail, the situation will be worse. As with influenza, this could mean that deaths occur every year as the virus circulates, until a vaccine is developed. The virus that spreads by people who are infected but do not have symptoms is more difficult to be controlled.

4 Some researchers are worried that as corona virus spreads, the virus could mutate so that it can spread more efficiently, or become more likely to cause disease in young people. Currently, the virus has caused severe illness and death, mainly in older people with pre-existing conditions such as diabetes and heart diseases. However, Kristian Andersen, an infectious-disease researcher, is not worried about the virus becoming more virulent. According to him, viruses constantly mutate as part of their life cycle, but those mutations do not typically make the virus more virulent or cause more serious diseases.

5 "In situations where a virus jumps from one animal host to another species — which is probably how the new corona virus began to infect humans — there might be a pressure to improve survival in the new host. But such pressure does not have a significant effect on human disease or the virus's transmissibility," Andersen explained. Most mutations are detrimental to the virus or have no effect. In 2018, a study of SARS in primate cells was conducted and found that a mutation the virus sustained during the 2003 outbreak probably reduced its virulence. Researchers have shared dozens of genetic sequences from strains of the new corona virus, and a steady supply of those sequences will reveal genetic changes as the outbreak progresses.

6 It is difficult to calculate the fatality rate for a virus in the middle of an outbreak because records on new cases and deaths are constantly being updated. In contrast to SARS, which killed around 10% of the people it infected, corona virus has a significantly lower death rate of 3%. "The known death rate for the new corona virus is likely to decrease as mild cases are identified," virologist Mark Harris at the University of Leeds, UK, told the Science Media Centre in London.

7 The number of deaths will also depend on how the health system of a country copes with the high number of cases. Putting people on drips and ventilators can ensure that they get enough fluids and oxygen while their body's immune system fights the virus. "However, if the virus spreads to parts of the world with fewer resources, such as poor regions of Africa, their health systems could struggle," said Sanjaya Senanayake, an infectious-disease specialist.

8 So far, the virus has spread throughout the world, and the number of deaths has increased significantly. "The current death rate of 3% is still quite high for an infectious disease," said Adam Kamradt-Scott, a global health-security specialist. The 1918 influenza outbreak, known as the Spanish flu, infected around half a billion people, at the time. In addition, **it** killed more than 2.5% of those infected, estimated as 50 million people. However, Kamradt-Scott clarified that the China corona virus probably will not trigger such a catastrophic scenario because it is not typically infecting or killing young, healthy people.

Questions

A. Answer each of the following questions in 1-4 sentences in your own words.

1. Based on Paragraph 1, identify two negative things about corona virus. **(02)**
2. Based on Paragraph 3, why would corona virus become endemic? **(02)**
3. Based on Paragraph 4, what is contradictory about the mutation of corona virus? **(02)**
4. Refer to Paragraph 7 to deduce one measure/step that should be taken to help poor countries face the threatening virus. **(02)**

B. Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What two purposes does the introduction serve? Justify your answer. **(02)**
2. What adjective best describes the writer's tone in Paragraph 2? Justify your answer. **(02)**
3. Identify two types of evidence the writer uses to achieve credibility. Provide examples. **(02)**
4. Identify two types of audience, other than the general reader, that might be interested in reading the selection. Then state what interest each type finds in it. **(02)**

C. Refer to Paragraphs 2, 4 and 5 to find words that almost have the following meanings. (02)

1. the process in which harmful bacteria or viruses increase in number in a person's or animal's body
2. dangerous and spreading quickly
3. a plant or animal that another plant or animal lives on as a parasite
4. causing harm or damage

D. What does each of the following pronouns, bold-typed in the selection above, refer to? (02)

1. it (Paragraph 1)
2. it (Paragraph 8)

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Answer Key

A.
1. First, its death rates increase every day. Second, it is still new to most doctors all over the world (or: scientists are still investigating its nature and how it spreads). Third, it spreads very quickly and threatens many countries around the world. Fourth, it causes respiratory illness (serious illnesses). **(02)**
2. Corona virus would become endemic because it is spreading quickly without any control among people of many countries.
Or: Corona virus would become endemic because it might stay among people in case efforts fail to control it. **(02)**
3. According to some researchers, mutations of coronavirus could increase its spread and its detrimental effects. On the other hand, Kristian Andersen believes that when viruses mutate, this doesn't necessarily mean that they will be more dangerous or more infectious because mutation is just a natural part of the virus's life cycle. **(02)**
4. Facing coronavirus virus is not easy because it needs strong health systems with specific medical equipment (drips and ventilators), so countries with weak/poor health systems will definitely fail to fight this disease. Thus, poor countries should be financially supported so that they can improve their health systems (or so that they can build hospitals to accommodate infected people).
Or: Thus, poor countries should be provided with medical equipment needed for supporting infected people with fluids and oxygen. **(02)**

B.
1. First, the introduction presents the main idea of the selection about coronavirus and the risks it imposes on many countries. Second, it provides background information about the new coronavirus (its origin: Wuhan, China; its effects: millions of infected people, respiratory illnesses, and increased death toll; and its nature: still under investigation). Third, it attracts the readers' attention through the facts mentioned about coronavirus. Fourth, it presents the thesis statement which is the last sentence in the introduction. **(02)**
2. The tone is threatening/alarming/warning and uncertain. The first tone is shown through the ideas of the lock down, the increased number of cases, the possibility of affecting millions of people, and the uncontrolled spread of the virus. The second tone is revealed by Ben Cowling regarding the uncertainty about the effectiveness of the efforts and measures taken to control the spread of the virus. **(02)**
3. First, the writer uses specific names (organizations, universities, countries, etc.): "Chinese city of Wuhan" and "World Health Organization" (Paragraph 1); "the University of Queensland in Australia" (Paragraph 2), and "University of Leeds, UK" and "Science Media Centre in London" (Paragraph 6). Second, the writer uses results/findings of studies: the results of the 2018 study of SARS in primate cells (Paragraph 5). Third, the writer uses experts' opinions: the opinion of Kristian Andersen (an infectious-disease researcher) about mutations of the virus and whether it will be more virulent or not (Paragraphs 4 and 5) and the opinion of Sanjaya Senanayake (an infectious-disease specialist) about the risky conditions in poor countries (Paragraph 7). **(02)**
4. First, doctors/medical experts/virologist/students of medicine might be interested in reading the selection because it provides them with the latest findings about the new coronavirus, its spread, and its worst- and best-case scenarios. Second, patients of coronavirus (or people with respiratory illness, diabetes, or heart diseases) might be interested because the selection discusses the effects of a virus threatening the life of millions of people, mainly those with respiratory problems, diabetes, or heart diseases. **(02)**

C. (02)
1. incubation
2. virulent
3. host
4. detrimental

D. (02)
1. "it" refers to World Health Organization; or WHO
2. "it" refers to "influenza outbreak"; or "influenza"; or "the Spanish flu"