A. Read the text below and respond to tasks A1 and A2.

2019 was particularly bright for Europeans; the continent hadn't seen so many hours of sunshine since the early '80s. It was also particularly bright for the solar energy industry, as solar generation capacity more than doubled compared to 2018, its biggest jump in a decade. Renewables continue to get stronger: in 2019, their share of EU electricity provision reached a record-high 34.6 percent. And although the COVID-19 pandemic has put the brakes on green energy's new facilities' developments, renewables are becoming Europe's key for restarting its economy and delivering its recently revised ambitions to slash its emissions by 50-55 percent by 2030. So the industry is on a double mission: taking quickly the lion's share of the energy system, while becoming more reliable and efficient, also in a changing climate, which in itself alters the risks.

"The green transition is one of the main pillars of the recovery package proposed by the European Commission" says EU Commissioner for Energy Kadri Simson. "The European Green Deal is our strategy for reaching climate neutrality by 2050 while making our economy more competitive, adds the Commissioner. The EU can significantly boost its share of renewables in its energy mix and make a profit. Falling technology costs have been pointing in that direction, and while 2020 record-breaking predictions for renewables have been toned down, the low-carbon energy industry is expected to bounce back, reinforced by the falling demand for oil and gas, predicted to continue post-pandemic.

But while renewables may prove resilient against economic shocks, they need to keep proving their resilience to changing climate patterns and some types of extreme weather becoming more frequent. Changes in temperatures, rainfall, radiation, sea level, air particles, and extremes such as heatwaves, floods, or droughts can affect renewable energy outputs and infrastructure, as well as shape demand for power.

Europe's hydro energy continues to experience falling outputs, as less precipitation and warmer weather led to a 6% drop in total production last year, as heatwaves associated with recurring lack of rain hitting France, Spain, Italy, and Portugal lowered water levels during spring and summer. Some scientists estimate that shifting rainfall and temperature patterns might boost Northern Europe's hydropower potential and decrease outputs in the south.

Predictions on wind speeds remain uncertain, but small changes can greatly affect electricity outputs. In 2018, low summer winds reduced production by as much as 20 percent less than usual. Extreme weather events and sea-level rise can affect wind farm infrastructure both on and offshore. Solar energy also faces uncertain climate variables, with some studies predicting higher solar radiation in Europe (up to 10%) leading to bigger outputs; however, a warmer future might counter that effect as photovoltaic (PV) panels lose efficiency as temperatures rise.

"Climate research tells us that weather extremes will become more frequent – but how much so? These are vital questions in providing reliable renewable energy sources," says Colin McKinnon, CEO of the Institute of Environmental Analytics (IEA). "Climate data is essential for assessing our energy needs and production capabilities, especially in the renewables sector," says Commissioner Simson.

As renewable energy producers must manage climate uncertainty throughout the lifespan of their projects, having climate data is becoming central to increasing the share of renewables in the energy mix. Grid operators also need to be able to foresee the weather extremes affecting transmission lines – e.g. floods, windstorms, heatwaves, snow – and to balance supply and demand according to climate conditions that influence energy production and consumption.

Past climate observations are one of the most common sources of data used to model power systems; looking at past events such as cold or heatwaves and their impact on wind and solar energy, for example, can hint to what might happen in a similar future situation. "This approach is good for looking at the next few years, but with increasing evidence of climate change, using past data for future projections is clearly excluding important information," says RTE's Dr. Bareux. "For instance, the 2003 heatwave, which had never been seen in the past, may become the new norm by 2050. This is critical to take into account for simulations of the future energy system," adds Dr. Bareux.

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A1. Answer questions 1-3 with information from the article (up to 20 words each) (3 x 4= 12 points)

1. Give an appropriate title to the article.

_____
_____

2. What is one of the challenges faced by scientists concerning climate data?

_____
_____

3. Describe in your own words the effect of COVID19 on the development of green energy.

_____
_____

A2. Choose the best answer (A,B, or C) for items 4-9 with information from the article. (6x3=18 points)

4. 2019 was a unique year because of

A. COVID-19 **B.** the highest use of renewables **C.** a century high record of sunshine

5. In the first paragraph the phrase 'lion's share' is closer in meaning to

A. a big part **B.** a small part **C.** the majority

6. Renewable energy outputs are vulnerable to

A. extreme weather **B.** economic conditions **C.** technology costs

7. According to the text hydropower

A. is predicted to decline throughout Europe **B.** had a stable output despite heatwaves in the South **C.** and rainfall are interdependent

8. Wind energy production can be affected by

A. precipitation **B.** low winds **C.** hurricanes

9. Why isn't past climate data reliable for future predictions?

A. because it failed to predict the 2003 heatwave **B.** because, due to climate change, weather patterns are extremely unpredictable **C.** because there is lack of adequate data from the past century

B1. Use the following words (A-H), in the correct form, to complete sentences 10-14, as in the example. There are two extra words you do not need to use.

(5x2=10 points)

A.	anonymous	**B.**	apply	**C.**	argue	**D.**	qualify
E.	Clarify	**F.**	~~centre~~	**G.**	register	**H.**	persuade

Example: This piece of evidence is central to our case.

10.	All _____ for the post of head chef must be over 25 years of age.
11.	Yoga classes are free but there is a 30 Euro _____ fee.
12.	He has been unemployed for six months, despite his impressive _____ .
13.	Please complete this questionnaire. Rest assured that your personal information together with your _____ will be protected.
14.	This sushi restaurant is _____ the best one in San Francisco.

B2. Fill in the gaps with two words in the statements of Column B, so that they have a similar meaning with the statements of Column A, as in the example (5x2= 10 points)

	COLUMN A	COLUMN B
Ex.	It's not just that the law says I should wear my seat belt; I feel safer with it	A basic safety feature of an automobile is the seat belt, and it is **required by** law.
15.	You can borrow my car but please return it by midnight.	You _____ _____ to borrow my car but I wish to have it returned by midnight.
16.	If she works this hard she'll get a promotion.	She will be promoted on _____ _____ she maintains the same level of work.
17.	Peter told me how happy he was about my engagement.	Peter _____ _____ on my engagement.
18.	After I had realized I was wrong, I went to her and told her I was sorry.	_____ _____ I was wrong, I went to her and apologized.
19.	I am sorry to tell you that there has been an accident.	I _____ _____ inform you that there has been an accident.

B3. Find the paragraph in column B (options A-F), which best follows each of the paragraphs in column A (items 20-24). There is ONE option you do not need. (5x2=10 points)

	COLUMN 1		COLUMN 2
20.	As of August 2017, anyone in Kenya who's found using, producing, or selling a plastic bag faces up to four years in jail, or a $38,000 fine.	**A.**	The tiny plastics are found in products like body scrubs, face washes, toothpaste, and cleaning products. But they're so tiny they end up in the oceans, where they're eaten by sea creatures and often end up back in the food chain.
21.	In January 2018, the UK announced its strategy to eliminate plastic waste. The first "landmark step" was to eliminate plastic microbeads, which can no longer be used in "rinse-off" cosmetic and personal care products.	**B.**	The city previously used roughly 2 billion plastic bags every year, and just 14% of those were recycled.
22.	The UK has also brought in a tax on plastic bags, as of 2015, which has resulted in 9 billion fewer plastic bags in circulation.	**C.**	It's the world's harshest plastic bag ban, and it's prompting some seriously creative solutions.
23.	The Canadian city of Montreal kicked off 2018 by banning single-use plastic bags. Merchants have until June 5 to adapt to the policy and after that, first-time offenders could face fines of up to $1,000 for individuals and $2,000 for corporations.	**D.**	It is one of the largest waste producers in the world, second only to the US, with Australians using an estimated 5 billion plastic bags every year before the ban.
24.	Meanwhile, major Australian supermarkets Coles and Woolworths have announced they will phase out single-use plastic bags by mid-2018 — to impact customers in Victoria, New South Wales, and Western Australia.	**E.**	The city, which was found to have the worst air quality out of 1,600 cities and the dirtiest in Asia, took the step after complaints were made of illegal burning of plastic at garbage dumps.
		F.	Even the Queen of England has joined the war on plastics, by banning plastic straws and bottles from the Royal Estate in February.

C. Produce a written text of 180-200 words. (40 points)

TASK: You have read a blog about books in electronic form. The writer suggests that digital books will completely replace hard copies in the near future. Write a text (200 words) with your views and predictions to be posted using the name 'genXYZ'.