

The article below was published in the magazine, TIME FOR KIDS (TFK). Read the article and answer the questions

POLAR BEARS IN PERIL

1 Arctic sea ice is melting, making it harder for polar bears to survive in the wild. Zoos are working to save them. You can help too.

2 The top of the world is a wintry wonderland. Icebergs float in the cold Arctic Ocean. In winter, the temperature often falls to -30°F and the sun never rises. The ocean is surrounded by frozen ground. There are few trees, but to polar bears, the Arctic is home.

3 Polar bears have thick fur, huge paws and other features that make them well prepared for life in their harsh environment. In fact, they need the Arctic ice for survival. But climate change is causing larger and larger areas of summer sea ice to melt. Experts say that if warming patterns continue, the Arctic could be free of ice by 2050. That may cause two-thirds of the world's 20,000 polar bears to be gone by then too.

4 "Global climate change may not be affecting you, but it is really affecting polar bears in the Arctic." Jeffery Bonner, president of the St. Louis Zoo, in Missouri, told TFK. Bonner is working with zoo and aquarium officials across the country to prevent the bears from dying out.

5 Polar bears can't survive for long on land. Seals are their main source of food. The bears need the ice to get to their prey. In summer, the polar bears that live on land eat very little and wait for the sea ice to return.

6 With the sea ice forming later in the year and melting earlier, polar bears do not have enough opportunity to hunt and eat. Less sea ice makes it harder for the bears to catch the seals. The bears must swim longer distances between ice packs, and they can't always make it. The ice is also getting thinner. These conditions can cause polar-bear cubs to become separated from their mothers, who provide them with food.

7 Less ice and snow in the far north is also making the entire planet warmer. Steven Amstrup is the chief scientist of Polar Bears International. The group is dedicated to saving the bears and their habitat. "The more people who see polar bears and understand their plight, the better the chance we'll alter our warming path in time to save them," he says.

8 Few people have the chance to see polar bears in the wild. That's where zoos come in. The St. Louis Zoo, Missouri, is planning a \$20 million polar-bear exhibit, scheduled to open in 2017. The North Carolina Zoo, in Asheboro, plans to open its new polar-bear exhibit late next year. "If you save the polar bears, you are doing something dramatic to help the environment," says Bonner.

9 While there are obstacles to bringing polar bears into the country, Bonner and others are working to show how rescuing orphaned cubs could help the species survive. Zoos would provide the cubs with a safe home. Experts would work to breed the bears and keep polar-bear populations healthy.

10 You can do your part, too, by protecting the environment and helping save the bears' habitat. Turn off lights and appliances, and save energy in other ways. "If everybody does small things, that adds up," says Bonner.

Examinee Name: _____

Examinee number: _____

Question 1: What does the phrase "You can do your part" mean? (Paragraph 10) [2]
Use the text to justify your answer.

Question 2: How will no summer sea ice affect the population of polar bears? [2]
Use the text to justify your answer.

Question 3: In your own words, explain why sea ice is important to polar bears. [2]

Question 4: What are the main activities of Polar Bears International? [2]

Question 5: What kind of "obstacles" is the author talking about? (paragraph 9) [2]

Question 6: Between which paragraphs do the following subheadings belong?

(a) **The Importance of the Ice** _____ ~ _____ [2]

(b) **What Zoos-and You-Can Do** _____ ~ _____ [2]

Examinee Name: _____

Examinee number: _____

Question 7: People have strong feelings about keeping animals in zoos. What are the arguments, for and against, keeping animals in zoos? [6]

For	Against

Question 8: Imagine the following situation. After reading this article, you decide to give a short speech to the students and teachers at your school about climate change. Talk about the issues involved and suggest some changes that students in Japan need to make in order to protect the environment. [10]

Use the space below to plan your speech. Write your speech on the next page.