

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Al-Ma'aly High School

### An Initiation Test

For the students who are upgrading for the 9<sup>th</sup> Grades

Please fill in the blanks

**Last/surname:** \_\_\_\_\_

**First name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_ %

**Time allotted:** 90 minutes

**Instructions:**

- 🚦 You can use a dictionary.
- 🚦 Please use a blue or a black pen to answer your exam.

Good luck,

Al-Ma'ali – English staff

## **Part 1: Reading Comprehension (50 points)**

**Read the article and answer Israel:**

**International Business Times July 29, 2015**

The Dead Sea is disappearing and hundreds of sinkholes are opening up on its shores. The Dead Sea is shrinking and as its levels of salt water are dropping by one metre every year, hundreds of sinkholes are appearing – some the size of a basketball court and two floors deep. Some of them join up with nearby holes to form giant ones. The sinkholes may be dangerous for tourists attracted by the world-famous mineral waters. Tourist resorts have been shut, trees swallowed, roads closed.

First observed in the 1970s, there are almost 4,000 sinkholes along the shores of the salty sea today. A couple of hundred new sinkholes are now appearing each year, and this number is only expected to increase.

The main reason the sea is shrinking is because its natural water sources, which flow south through the Jordan River Valley from Syria and Lebanon, have been diverted for farming and drinking water along the way. Mining\* operations account for the remaining 30% of the destruction, according to Israel's Knesset research group. As a matter of fact, the Dead Sea's water level has dropped 131ft (40 metres) since the 1950s.

The Dead Sea, known as the Sea of Salt, separates Israel and Jordan. It is so called, because its high salt content, which is almost 10 times as salty as the ocean, prevents fish and plants from living in it. The sea's area is 1,407ft (429 metres) below sea level, making it the Earth's lowest place on the planet.

The Dead Sea is a favourite place for tourists, who enjoy floating in its salty water and treating their skin with the mineral-rich mud that lines its shores. The sea also supports huge mining factories. Israel Chemicals and Jordan's Arab Potash Company extract minerals for export around the world.

Deep under the newly uncovered land is a 30m layer of salt formed over thousands of years. Without the Dead Sea waters to protect it, fresh water from rain flows underground and dissolves \*\* the salt layer, creating a hole that eventually collapses, sucking in the ground.

Guy Dunefeld, head engineer for the Tamar regional council, points out sinkholes are not appearing in Jordan where the coast is steeper. The Israeli shore is flat, he explained, and waters evaporate\*\*\* much faster t. Dunendeld fears the worst is still to come. "We are seeing more and more sinkholes appearing," he said.

Answer the questions:

1. How big can a sinkhole be? Use information from the first paragraph. (7 points)

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2. Complete (7 points)

When we say that the Dead Sea is shrinking, it means that

.....

3. Why are the sinkholes in the Dead Sea a problem for the tourism business? (8 points)

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4. Name TWO reasons why the Dead Sea is shrinking. (8 points)

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5. Circle (8 points)

What is the main cause why there aren't any living creatures in the Dead Sea?

a) chemicals

b) the salt

c) evaporation.

d) too much fishing

6. Name TWO main attractions of the Dead Sea for tourists.

(8 x 2 = 16 points)

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7. Complete (8 points)

There are no sinkholes on the .....side of the Dead Sea.

8. Do you like / would you like to be on vacation at the Dead Sea? Why ?

( 8 points)

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