**FACULTAD DE INGENIERIA**

**NAME: 1**

**DATE:**

**A Reading Comprehension Exam Practice**

**A New Dawn: Argentina Taps into its Renewable Energy Potential**

Circle the best option to complete each exercise in sections 1 – 5

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. **Predicting (5)**

According to the cues provided, what is the text about? 1. The Argentinean government is launching a program to increase food production.
2. The Argentinean government is launching a program to encourage consumption.
3. The Argentinean government is launching a program to expand renewables.
4. The Argentinean government is launching a program to improve education.
 | Resultado de imagen para 2017 año de las energias renovablesApril, 2017 |

Argentina has some of Latin America’s most abundant renewable energy resources—steady winds in southern Patagonia, year-round sunshine in the remote northwest, and hydropower and biomass fed by rivers and expansive farmland. Yet, despite its potential, the country has fallen behind many of its smaller neighbors in turning these resources into a reliable power source. Argentina’s grid operates at near capacity, leaving Buenos Aires and other cities vulnerable to blackouts. Less than 2 percent of the country’s electricity comes from renewable energy. Sixty percent of electricity is generated from fossil fuels.

Argentina’s government is moving swiftly to change that. It declared 2017 the year of renewable energy, setting its sights on diversifying the country’s energy matrix, easing dependence on imported fossil fuels, and reducing carbon emissions. To make this happen, Argentina launched an innovative program called RenovAr. Its target: to produce 20 percent of Argentina’s electricity from renewable sources by 2025.

Boosting renewable energy makes good environmental and fiscal sense. “For every 1,000 megawatts in renewable energy, the country saves $300 million annually in liquid fuel,” said Sebastian Kind, Argentina’s undersecretary for renewable energy. “It reduces carbon emissions by 2 million tons.” That’s roughly equivalent to taking 1 million cars off the road, he added.

Argentina’s goal is to attract about $35 billion in investments in energy in the coming years, about half of that for renewable power. But with limited public resources, the government reached out to IFC and other development institutions for support in creating a new market for private investment in renewable energy. A team from IFC and other institutions helped organize a renewable-energy auction, including setting up the process to attract international bidders.

IFC’s involvement helped the projects become bankable and meet international standards. The World Bank, meanwhile, provided $480 million in guarantees to reduce financial risks for investors. This systemic approach opened up a space for private sector investment and innovation. It is helping Argentina meet its renewable-energy goals while leveraging private capital and avoiding public debt.

The program has exceeded expectations so far. The first renewable-energy auction, which aimed to attract 1,000 megawatts worth of new projects, ended up with bids for more than six times that amount—a signal of confidence from local and international developers. Ultimately, after two rounds of bidding, more than 2,400 megawatts were awarded, primarily to wind and solar projects. The auctions are expected to usher in $3.5 billion in financing over the next two years. A third round is planned by the end of this year. IFC is now working toward providing financing for some of the successful bidders.

From: http://www.ifc.org/

1. **Skimming (30)**

Choose from the list A-G the main idea for paragraphs 1-6. There is one extra letter that you do not need to use.

1. The target of Argentina’s program called RenovAr is to produce 20% of electricity from renewables by 2025.
2. Encouraging renewable energy generation has positive effects on the country’s environment and economy.
3. The country has failed to turn its abundant renewable energy resources into a reliable power source.
4. The government is working towards setting up a market in renewable energy for the private sector.
5. RenovAr has resulted in a success because the expected investment has been widely surpassed.
6. IFC and the World Bank are supporting Argentina to meet its renewable-energy goals.
7. The government will support the program called RenovAr with public resources.

Paragraph 1

Paragraph 2

Paragraph 3

Paragraph 4

Paragraph 5

Paragraph 6

1. **Scanning (10)**
2. ***What country is the article referring to?***
3. Chile
4. Brazil
5. Argentina
6. Uruguay
7. ***What instances of renewable energy sources are provided in paragraph 1?***
8. Sunshine
9. Hydropower & Biomass
10. Winds
11. All of the above
12. ***What are Buenos Aires and other cities left vulnerable to because of insufficient energy generation?***
13. Diseases
14. Blackouts
15. Flooding
16. Droughts
17. ***When was the year of renewable energy declared in Argentina?***
18. 2025
19. 2020
20. 2017
21. 2016
22. ***What is the target of the program called RenovAr?***
23. To produce 20 % of Argentina’s electricity from renewables by 2025
24. To produce 20 % of Argentina’s electricity from renewables by 2020
25. To produce 25 % of Argentina’s electricity from renewables by 2025
26. To produce 25 % of Argentina’s electricity from renewables by 2020
27. ***How much does Argentina save annually for every 1,000 MW in renewable energy*?**
28. $35 billion
29. $480 million
30. $300 million
31. None of the above
32. ***What is the government trying to create with the help of IFC and other development institutions?***
33. A new education system based on Finland education model
34. A new market for private investment in renewable energy
35. A new public health organization to prevent diseases
36. A new agency to collect more taxes
37. ***What organization is helping Argentina meet its renewable energy goals?***
38. The International Energy Agency
39. [The School for Renewable Energy Science](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RES_-_The_School_for_Renewable_Energy_Science)
40. IFC (International Finance Corporation)
41. All of the above
42. ***What means did the government use to attract investors to RenovAr?***
43. Auctions
44. Advertising
45. Increase in energy prices
46. Tax incentives
47. ***The text does NOT mention:***
48. The renewable energy resources available in Argentina
49. What the country is doing to switch to renewable energy
50. What ministry is in charge of implementing RenovAr
51. The target of the program called RenovAr
52. **Inferencing (25)**
53. ***What does renewable energy refer to?***
54. Energy that is naturally replenished
55. Energy that comes from fossil fuels
56. Energy that is consumed at home
57. Energy that is lost in transmission and distribution
58. ***What is renewable energy used for?***
59. Heat water
60. Generate electricity
61. Run motor vehicles
62. All of the above
63. ***Why does the use of renewable energy reduce carbon emissions?***
64. Renewable energy absorbs greenhouse gases
65. Renewable energy releases greenhouse gases
66. Renewable energy does not produce greenhouse gases
67. Renewable energy pollutes the environment
68. ***Why did Argentina, despite its energy potential, fail to turn its resources into a reliable power source?***
69. Developers were unwilling to invest in renewables due to the country’s political and economic uncertainty
70. Many citizens were against the development of renewable energy in the country
71. The government was not interested in boosting renewable energy generation
72. None of the above
73. ***What does “diversifying the country energy matrix” in line 9 mean?***
74. To use only one source of energy to generate electricity
75. To harness different sources for energy generation
76. To generate electricity directly from sunlight
77. To ban the use of fossil fuels in the country
78. ***What does the word RenovAr imply in Spanish?***
79. Renovar
80. Renovación
81. Renovables Argentina
82. Renov arte
83. ***Why were more wind and solar generation projects awarded by RenovAr?***
84. Wind and solar energy are more technologically developed
85. Wind and solar energy are cheaper to generate
86. Wind and sunlight are fully available in nature
87. Wind and sunlight are easier to tap
88. ***What are the renewable energy resources Misiones has to offer?***
89. Biomass
90. Sunlight
91. Hydropower
92. All of the above
93. ***What is the purpose of “diversifying the country’s energy matrix”?***
94. Use idle resources
95. Fight against energy crisis in Argentina
96. Develop cutting edge technology
97. Sell energy to neighboring countries
98. ***What is the message of the text?***
99. Argentina has abundant renewable energy resources
100. Less than 2% of the country’s electricity comes from renewable energy
101. Argentina promotes the development of renewable energy generation in the country
102. IFC helped organize an auction to establish a market for private investment in renewable energy
103. **Vocabulary (10)**
104. ***The noun “Dawn” in the title can be understood as:***
105. Beginning
106. Daybreak
107. Problem
108. Drawback
109. ***The noun “energy” in line 1 can be replaced by:***
110. electricity
111. petrol
112. coal
113. power
114. ***The prepositional phrase “at near capacity” in line 5 can be interpreted as:***
115. continuously
116. to its limits
117. reliably
118. at the leading edge
119. ***The adverb “swiftly” in line 8 can be replaced by:***
120. slowly
121. reluctantly
122. quickly
123. gradually
124. ***The noun “target” in line 11 can be understood as:***
125. responsibility
126. debt
127. wish
128. goal
129. ***The verb “boosting” in line 13 can be explained as:***
130. using
131. saving
132. expanding
133. selling
134. ***The noun phrase “in the coming years” in line 17 can be replaced by:***
135. in the past
136. currently
137. in the long term
138. in the near future
139. ***The noun “auction” in line 21 can be described as:***
140. sale
141. festival
142. activity
143. party

1. ***The adjective “bankable” in line 22 can be understood as:***
2. controlled by the bank
3. financed by the bank
4. carried out by the bank
5. rejected by the bank
6. ***The noun “bids” in line 27 can be explained as:***
7. problems
8. premiums
9. offers
10. failures
11. **Reference (20)**

*Write the referent word(s) at the end of each sentence.*

1. What does the possessive adjective “its” in the title point to?
2. What does the noun phrase “these resources” in line 4 refer to?
3. What instance of Argentinean cities is given in line 5?
4. What does the possessive adjective “its” in line 11 refer to?
5. What does the subject pronoun “It” in line 15 indicate?
6. What does the subject pronoun “he” in line 16 point to?
7. What does the demonstrative pronoun “that” in line 18 refer to?
8. What does the noun phrase “the projects” in line 22 refer to?
9. What does the relative pronoun “which” in line 26 stand for?
10. What year is referred to by the noun phrase “this year” in line 31?