

2013-2014 SPRING SEMESTER

MOCK EXAM: RESPONSE PARAGRAPH

April 28, 2014



Name & Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Duration: 40 minutes

### ALTERNATIVE ENERGY IN TURKEY

Since the 1980s Turkey has been developing fast. This development has increased demands for energy by both industry and households in Turkey. Turkey is quite rich in renewable energy sources (solar, wind, and water), so by 2023, it aims to meet 30% of its energy needs from these energy sources. Not only will Turkey produce more renewable energy, but also it will decrease its energy use by 20%. The Turkish government has started 4,000 projects that will produce “clean” energy.

The main purpose of these projects is to increase energy production without using fossil fuels. Today, Turkey buys more than 60% of its energy from its neighbors –much of it in the form of fossil fuels. If these projects are completed successfully, Turkey will be less dependent on other countries for its energy needs. With enough government support, renewable energy will be cheaper. As a result, Turkey’s industry and economy will become stronger. Also, energy from fossil fuels increases the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) levels in the atmosphere and causes air pollution in industrial areas. Renewable and clean energy will decrease the CO<sub>2</sub> levels. The Turkish government says its energy projects will give future generations a cleaner and better country to live in.



**Birecik Dam**

However, there are several criticisms of and protests against these energy projects. These projects aim to protect the environment, but critics say they do more harm than good. Hydroelectric energy projects are too many and they are done carelessly. Water levels in rivers become dangerously low because of the dams on them, which will harm the ecological balance seriously. Also, many villages will be covered by water with these hydroelectric dams. This will

force 2 million people to leave their villages. Villagers are angry with the government. They say that the government is ignoring their human rights in order to produce the energy they do not need. “We don’t have factories in our village. We don’t want to leave our villages so that city people can use more electricity,” says an 80-year-old woman from Artvin. In addition to causing environmental and social problems, some hydroelectric energy projects harm cultural and historical places. The new hydroelectric plant near Gaziantep (*Birecik Dam*) covers the ancient city of *Zeugma*, and *Ilisu Dam* covers the ancient city of *Hasankeyf*. Both hydroelectric plants have been heavily criticized nationally and internationally.

**Read the text and write a response paragraph answering the question below.**

**QUESTION: Do you think the new energy projects are good for Turkey? Why / Why not?**

**REMEMBER!** While writing your paragraph, you should **summarize the main points from the reading text, provide relevant background information, and make a clear connection between the text and your personal answer.**