

Integrated Skills in English II

Time allowed: 2 hours

This examination paper contains two tasks. You must complete both tasks.

Task 1 – Reading into writing task

Read the text below and then, in your own words, write an article (approximately 250 words) for an environmental publication:

- i) summarising the arguments for and against transporting food over long distances and
- ii) giving your personal opinion on this issue, saying whether or not you make an effort to eat food which is grown locally.

How far does food travel to get to your plate?

To find out how far food travels, calculations are based on the distance food travels from the farm where it is produced to the processor and on to the retailer, who then sells it to the consumer. If the shopper has travelled by car to the store, then that distance is also added. The further the distance, the greater the emissions into the atmosphere that many scientists say is leading to climate change. If we buy food closer to home, we can help to cut the use of transport, thereby cutting CO₂ emissions.

There are also nutritional concerns about the distances travelled by some foods. The longer the time from when food is produced to it reaching our plates, the greater the loss of nutritional value and vitamins. Another concern is the cold storage necessary for keeping the food fresh, as energy is needed to maintain the low temperatures and this also adds to greenhouse gases.

Buying food in season helps to cut down on the distance food travels and this may also have an effect on the price of the food in the shops. If food travels a shorter distance, the transport costs are lower, the food will be fresher and buying it will help local traders.

There are, however, some arguments against buying local food. One report in 2009 suggested that it takes more energy to grow tomatoes in a heated UK greenhouse than to import them from another European country where they are grown without artificial heat.

There is also an economic argument for buying food from developing countries, which rely on exports to the Western world to help their economies grow.

(Source: Adapted from Go Green, the *Sidmouth Herald*)

Use your own words as far as possible. No marks for answers copied from the reading texts.

