Unit 7 Extension

1 Read the letter. Decide if the sentences are true (T) or false (F).

1 The writer wants to give his opinion on an article.  
   ______

2 Rising oil prices mean that oil is being conserved.  
   ______

3 The government must develop alternatives to oil.  
   ______

4 The consequences would be serious if changes are not made.  
   ______

Dear Sir,

Your newspaper recently featured an article about the government’s plans for energy use in this country. I would like to make a few comments about the issues raised in the article.

Firstly, oil reserves continue to fall and the price is rising all the time. If we want to maintain our current living standards, then we must find ways to combat this problem. This means we should make more of an effort to conserve the reserves we have and to develop more oil fields for future use.

Also, we need to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels as a source of energy, because they are exhaustible resources. One solution to this problem is to invest more money in clean, renewable energy sources. The government must develop wind and solar energy parks for our future energy needs.

At the moment, scarce resources are being wasted, while abundant renewable ones are not being developed for use. If something is not done soon to change this, it could be disastrous for our society in the very near future.

I look forward to reading the views of other readers on this issue.

Yours,

James Roth

2 Read the letter again. Then complete this plan of the main points.

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Read part of a newspaper article on water. Write a letter to the editor, giving your opinion on the points raised in the article.

Although the human race has access to less than 1% of the world’s water supply, we still waste a shocking amount of it. In developed countries we leave taps running and water our golf courses, while people in other parts of the world have no access to clean water and millions die each year from water-related diseases.

1 Which is the right way to begin a letter to the editor?
   a Dear Sir/Madam,  b Dear Sir,

2 Which style should you use for a letter like this?
   a formal  b neutral  c informal

3 Which of these might you use in your main body paragraphs? Tick three boxes.
   ☐ problems related to wasting water
   ☐ how to enjoy water sports
   ☐ ways to conserve water
   ☐ ideas on how to ensure clean water worldwide
   ☐ why underdeveloped countries don’t need as much water

4 Which of these might you use for the concluding paragraph? Tick two boxes.
   ☐ an overview of why you like water
   ☐ a summary of the ideas in the main body paragraphs
   ☐ a final opinion on the subject

4Write the task presented in Exercise 3.