

# Organic food

## Let's Think

1. Have you ever tried organic food?
2. What are the benefits of eating organic food?

You are Jimmy. You are reading an article about organic food in a food magazine.

## Learning More about Organic Food



It's far easier to buy organic vegetables nowadays.

### A growing trend

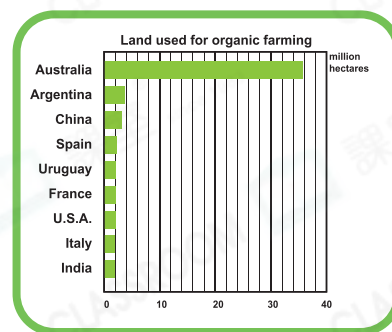
As consumers worldwide are becoming increasingly health-conscious, more of them are buying organic food—food that is produced naturally without the use of toxic chemicals or artificial fertilisers and pesticides, or that comes from animals raised without the use of hormones or antibiotics. Once, they could only get organic food from a specialised health food store or a farmers' market. Today, it is available at major supermarket chains. According to *The World of Organic Agriculture 2020*, organic farmland and organic food retail sales have reached an all-time high. Such an uptrend in sales owes much

- 10 to consumers' heightened awareness of the health benefits of eating organic food, hence a greater demand for organic food products than ever across generations.

### Who are the leaders?

In 2018, the global sales for organic food passed US \$100 billion for the first time. Australia, with over 35.7 million hectares of organic farmland, boasts over 50% of the total area used for organic farming in the world, which is about 71.5 million hectares. The area of land used for organic agriculture is increasing globally. China and India, meanwhile, are the two leading countries in Asia that are steadily developing organic farming, who have 3.1 million hectares and 1.9 million hectares of land used for organic farming respectively.

- 15
- 20



Is 'organic' just a marketing label?

### What's the problem?

The ever-growing sales of organic food over the past two decades deserve our rethinking: Is 'organic food' a business fad that guarantees big profits? Or does it reflect a considerable change in our consumption habits? As most customers are drawn to the claimed yet unproven benefits of organic food, such as higher nutritional values, better taste and environmental sustainability, the practice of faking non-organic products with the label 'organic' prevails in the organic food industry for one simple reason—this can bring in profits twice as high as the non-organic food.

(315 words)

## Part A

Answer the following questions using the information from the article. Choose the **BEST** answer and blacken **ONE** circle only.

- The consumption of organic food has \_\_\_\_\_ due to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. risen...the potential profits that can be made
  - B. slightly dropped...the high pricing of organic products
  - C. sharply decreased...the unproven benefits advertised
  - D. rocketed...the public's increased awareness of organic food
- According to the chart, \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. India has the fastest growth in organic farming
  - B. China has the largest organic agricultural area in Asia
  - C. the land used for organic farming in Argentina is nearly ten times larger than that in Australia
  - D. Australia hinders the development of organic farming in other countries
- Which of the following is **TRUE**?
  - A. The demand for organic food is likely to keep surging.
  - B. The benefits of consuming organic food are backed by science.
  - C. Organic food is popular only among younger generations.
  - D. The organic food industry has shrunk due to the frequent misuse of the label 'organic'.
- In line 24, the word 'considerable' means '\_\_\_\_\_'.
  - A. sudden and unexpected
  - B. environmentally-friendly
  - C. large or of noticeable importance
  - D. trivial and subtle
- What is the writer's attitude towards the commercial practice of organic food?
  - A. positive
  - B. negative
  - C. neutral
  - D. uncertain

## Grammar Corner

We use the **simple present tense** to talk about a state of now.

**e.g.** *Today, it is available at major supermarket chains.*  
(Line 7)

We use the **present continuous tense** to describe a trend.

**e.g.** *The area of land used for organic agriculture is increasing globally.*  
(Lines 16-17)

We use the **present perfect tense** to show something started in the past with an effect on the present.

**e.g.** *Organic farmland and organic food retail sales have reached an all-time high.*  
(Lines 8-9)

## Part B

Answer the following questions using the information from the article. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

1. What is organic food?

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2. What was the global sale of organic food in 2018?

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3. List three perceived benefits of organic food.

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4. Do you agree that the word 'organic' might only be a marketing label? Why or why not?

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5. Look for words in the article that match the definitions below.

- (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (*adj.*) of a level that has ever been up to
- (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (*v.*) has or owns something to be proud of
- (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (*adv.*) gradually and continually
- (d) \_\_\_\_\_ (*n.*) a style, an activity, or an interest that is very popular for a short period of time
- (e) \_\_\_\_\_ (*v.*) is common among a group of people or in an area at a particular time

# Vocabulary Bank

The following are tools associated with farming. Match them with the correct pictures. One of the words is not used.

mower      scarecrow      tractor      sprinkler      shears  
 watering can      insecticide      fertiliser      shovel



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



## Let's Discuss

1. Do you support organic farming? Why or why not?
2. Why is organic food twice as expensive as non-organic food?