

ANGLAIS

Some people become accustomed to frequent news of danger to the environment, perhaps even thinking, 'That is not of great concern as it does not affect me.' However, whether we realize it or not, the wholesale destruction of the earth's environment affects the vast majority of people. Since contamination of our planet is now so pervasive, it likely already affects more than one aspect of our lives. Thus, all should be concerned about the health and preservation of our home. After all, where else would we live ?

Let us just take a look at just a few factors that help us to understand why our earth is not just mildly indisposed, but instead, seriously ill.

Large sections of ocean are overfished. A report by the United Nations Environment Programme says that "70 percent of marine fisheries are so exploited that reproduction cannot or can just barely keep up." If this continues, what will it mean for millions who depend on the sea as a major source of their food ? Additionally, each year an estimated 20 million to 40 million tons of sea life are caught and thrown back into the ocean- usually wounded or dead. Why ? They are caught along with target fish but are not wanted.

Deforestation has many negative sides to it. Loss of trees results in a reduction in the earth's capacity to absorb carbon dioxide, and this is said to be a cause of global warming. Certain species of plants, the potential source of lifesaving medicines, will disappear. Nevertheless, forest destruction has increased in recent years. Some authorities feel that if this persists, tropical forests could disappear in about 20 years.

Dumping harmful materials both on land and in the sea is a serious problem that has the potential for bringing great harm to millions. Radioactive waste, heavy metals, and byproducts of plastics are among elements that can cause abnormalities, sickness, or death in humans and animals.

During the past 100 years, close to 100,000 new chemicals find their way into our air, soil, water, and food. Relatively few of them have been tested for their health effects on humans. However, of the ones that have, a significant number have been found to be carcinogenic or to cause disease in other ways.

There are many more threats to our environment : air pollution, untreated sewage, acid rain, lack of clean water. The few already mentioned suffice to show that the earth is really sick.

Various organizations have also been sounding the alarm about threats to the environment. These include the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, and Greenpeace. Some merely report on environmental problems as they happen to relate to their work. Others are dedicated to the cause of keeping environmental issues to the fore. Greenpeace is well-known for sending activists to environmental hot spots and attracting public attention to such matters as global warming, endangered species, and dangers of genetically modified animals and plants.

Since destruction of the environment is such a huge problem, a successful solution would require the cooperation of the world's governments. In some cases governmental representatives have commendably displayed the courage necessary to recommend positive changes that would help the environment. However, real victories have been few and far between. An example of this is the international summit that took place in Japan in 1997. Nations haggled and disputed over terms of a treaty to reduce emissions that are said to cause global warming. Eventually to the surprise of many, an agreement was reached. This agreement came to be called the Kyoto Protocol. Developed regions, such as the European Union, Japan, and the United States, would cut emissions by an average of 5.2 percent by 2012. It sounded good. However, in early 2001, the U.S. government indicated that it was abandoning the Kyoto Protocol. This has raised many eyebrows, since the United States, with less than 5 percent of the world's population, produces about one fourth of the emissions. Additionally, other governments have been slow to ratify the treaty. The foregoing example shows how difficult it is for governments to come up with meaningful solutions.

I. COMPREHENSION (9 marks)

A. Choose the right answer (0.5 mark)

- 1) In this text the author intends mainly to :
- a) launch a polemic against governments' policies ;
 - b) bring remedy for our ill earth ;
 - c) raise environmental awareness ;
 - d) castigate some organizations.
- 2) A good title for this text would be :
- a) global warming ;
 - b) diagnosing our sick planet ;
 - c) an appeal to governments ;
 - d) how will the earth be saved ?

B. Reorder the following ideas chronologically as they appear in the text. Put a, b, c or d in the space provided in the third column. (2 marks)

	IDEAS	POSITION
3)	Man's destructive actions
4)	Environmental awareness
5)	Can governments be trusted ?
6)	A global threat

C. Who or what do the following words refer to ? (1 mark)

- 7) **me** (l.2)
- 8) **home** (l.5)
- 9) **the ones** (l. 26)

D. Refer to the text to complete the table below. (1.5 mark)

Environmental Problems with	Impact on Human life or natural resources
10)Sea resources
11)Wildlife
12)Industrial waste disposal

E. Problem-solving (2.5 marks)

Refer to the text and find 3 environmental problems related to the consequences and propose your own solution to each problem.

Problems in the text	Consequences	Your suggested solutions
13).....	Respiratory diseases	14).....
15).....	Greenhouse effect	16).....
17).....	Cholera epidemics	18).....

F. Answer the following questions. (1.5 mark)

- 19) Why don't people feel concerned about environmental degradation ?
.....
.....
- 20) Why do you think the U.S. decided to drop the Kyoto Protocol ?
.....
.....
- 21) How do activists raise public awareness about environmental problems ?
.....
.....

II. LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE (4 marks)

G. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the words in parentheses. (2.5 marks)

When he was three, Sidy (22-find) to have neuroblastoma, a form of cancer. If this were a singular case, that (23-may/not) be so unusual. However, it was later found out that about 10 other children from the same small area also (24-have) cancer. This alarmed many parents, as it was the first time they (25-hear) of cancer on so young patients. Some thought that it was linked to the chemical company in the area. An investigation found out that an independent waste hauler (26-previously/discharge) drums of toxic liquid from another company on a derelict chicken farm. Six months later, researchers (27-discover) traces of a contaminant in local water wells. Parents (28-can't help/ wonder) if this could have been a factor in their children's developing cancer.

H. Dr. Chuan is a pollution expert. Report his views in a conversation between Jenny and another journalist. Use 3 of the reporting verbs in the box. (1.5 mark)

Jenny, a journalist of Newsweek magazine is writing an article on Pollution in Asian cities. A week ago she got on the phone Taiwan's leading expert on the effect of pollution, Dr. Chuan : "Diesel fumes are a cause of cancer. And funnily enough, I saw yesterday on TV some people in our cities wearing surgical masks to protect themselves. Can they wear masks every time as if they were in an operating theatre? And do these masks help ? These masks are ineffective because they're not airtight. I think we should combat vehicle exhaust, as Diesel engines are the biggest polluters."

To recommend – to doubt – to believe – to wonder

- 29) **Colleague:** So, what did Dr. Chuan say about diesel fumes?
Jenny:
- 30) **Colleague:** What does he think of surgical masks?
Jenny: Actually, he
- 31) **Colleague:** Did he suggest any alternatives?
Jenny: Yes, he

CLASSES DE PREMIERE

III. **WRITING** : Topics 1, 2 and 3 are **not** optional. You must deal with each of them.
(7 marks)

Topic 1: (3 marks)

Some people do not care about environmental issues, thinking “That is not of great concern as it does not affect me.”

How do you account for this statement ? (Your text should be about 200 to 250 words).

Topic 2: (1 mark)

Jenny put several questions to D. Chuan. Complete the interview.

Jenny: So Doctor, Industrial progress was meant to make our lives easier. Nevertheless modern transportation has contributed to a host of problems.
What

Dr. Chuan: One of them is global warming. Humans have been altering the chemical composition of the atmosphere by using inventions that spew out millions of tons of gases into it.

Jenny:

Dr. Chuan: Warmer temperatures are expected to cause the decrease of snow cover in the Northern Hemisphere.

Jenny:

Dr. Chuan: among others, sea level could rise significantly in this century. Since a third of world’s population lives near the sea, this could eventually result in

Topic 3: Case – Study (3 marks)

Situation: You live next to a cement factory.

Task 1: Identify 3 major environmental problems caused by the factory.

Problem 1:

Problem 2:

Problem 3:

Task 2: Write a letter to this company to suggest a Social Responsibility Program recommending solutions to these problems in order to reconcile the company management and the neighboring community. Your letter should be about 100 words

To:

From:

Subject:

Dear:

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