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Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1)

English Language B
PAPER 1

Thursday 23 May 2024 – Morning

Time: 3 hours

Source Booklet

**DO NOT RETURN THIS BOOKLET WITH
THE QUESTION PAPER.**

Text One

7 Ways In Which Youth Can Protect The Environment

adapted from a blog by Isha Reddy

In this passage, the American writer suggests possible actions that young people can take to protect the environment.

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Text One continued.



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Text One continued.

Glossary

¹ecosystems and environmental biodiversity – the balance of plants and animals in the natural environment

²carbon footprint – a measure of the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere as a result of human activities

Our planet is our home, the place that sustains us; but are we living in harmony with nature? It seems like we humans have chosen a path of self-destruction, destroying the very home that shelters us. From rising carbon emissions, to deforestation and land destruction, human activities are having detrimental effects on our ecosystems and environmental biodiversity¹.

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As teenagers, sometimes we feel helpless and powerless, unable to take action, or do things that really matter to us, since governments and large businesses are the ones taking vital decisions. While major changes are only possible if countries and corporations alter their policies and actions, we as individuals also have the potential to make a difference, whether through small actions or larger initiatives.

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Text One continued.

Here are some ways in which you can take control of your future, and protect our environment and ecosystems:

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1. Start Your Own Initiative or Volunteer With Environmental Organizations

Whether it's something small like starting a community clean-up group, or building a large social organization with significant reach and impact, taking initiatives for environmental conservation can go a long way. You can also make an impact by assisting environmental community groups. There are several ways in which you can get involved, from running online awareness campaigns to offering practical help like beach clean-ups and fundraising events.

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Text One continued.

2. Reduce/Recycle Paper

What do you do with your old textbooks and novels that are not in use? Why not donate them to juniors, or kids in your neighborhood, or send them across to countries where children have little to no access to educational resources? While books aren't doing any harm sitting on a bookshelf, why not save resources by putting them to re-use? **35**
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Similarly, recycling unwanted paper will reduce the raw material demand for paper production, thus conserving trees and forest ecosystems. From online assignments, to writing e-exams, thanks to the development of technology, paper isn't something that is necessary any more. By making use of smart technologies that are available today, we can effortlessly shift away from paper-based activities, at all levels. **45**

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Text One continued.

3. Recycle More Often

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Recycling is a simple, yet effective, way of conserving resources and reducing your individual carbon footprint². Rather than throwing everything in the trash, separate your plastic, paper and metal waste, and deposit it in a recycling bin. Recycling helps reduce landfill pollution and reduces the consumption of raw materials and fossil fuels.

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4. Save Resources

Did you know that only 0.03% of the 70% of water available to us is fresh water? That's why saving water is so important for fresh water ecosystems. By doing simple things like taking shorter showers, avoiding small clothes washes, and turning your taps off while brushing your teeth, you can save gallons of water! Similarly, it's important to be mindful of your electricity consumption, and make adaptations so that, by doing our bit at home and work, we can reduce fossil fuel dependency.

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Text One continued.

5. Buy Sustainable Products

Plastic is one of the most significant contributors to soil and marine pollution, endangering both the land and marine life. Plastic isn't biodegradable, and is often consumed by animals who mistake it as food. When buying a product, be aware of its environmental impact and disposal after use.	70
Companies are now being questioned on their environmental impact, and changing consumer habits are compelling them to become more sustainable. When you're stocking up on school or office supplies like folders and pens, or buying toys and home accessories, try to look for more eco-friendly alternatives that can replace plastic. For example, some of us use so much plastic from buying bottled water every day, but buying your own reusable water bottle is not only cheaper,	75
but also much better for the environment. Also, buying local products and produce is a great way to minimize carbon footprint, as goods don't have to travel longer distances and consume more fuel for transportation.	80
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Text One continued.

6. Decrease Meat & Dairy Consumption

Methane is one of the most potent greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming. Livestock release large amounts of methane into the atmosphere, so excessive meat and dairy consumption has detrimental effects on our climate. Additionally, unsustainable dairy and cattle farming leads to the destruction of ecologically important areas such as wetlands and forests. Deforestation is damaging habitats and natural ecosystems, which hundreds of species depend on for survival. Thus, the only way we can prevent more damage is by being responsible and eating less meat and dairy products.

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Text One continued.

7. Only Buy What You Need

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Lastly, think about your purchasing habits. Do you buy too many products? Can you do without some of the things that you often buy? Are you being a responsible consumer? Simply buying more because of tempting offers or discounts will actually cost us and the environment more. Whether it's groceries, clothes, accessories or home products, by purchasing only what you need you reduce the amount of waste generated and thus pollution.

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Text Two

The Climate Book

adapted from a book by Greta Thunberg

In this passage, the writer suggests that climate change is already happening and not enough is being done by people and governments to prevent it.

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Text Two continued.



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Text Two continued.

Glossary

¹**high-emitting nations** – countries that use a lot of fossil fuels (such as coal and oil) to provide energy

²**doomsday glaciers** – glaciers which could raise sea levels massively if they melt

³**on steroids** – super-charged

⁴**greenwashed** – believing in false or misleading statements about the environment

Maybe it is the name that is the problem. Climate change. It doesn't sound that bad. The word 'change' resonates quite pleasantly in our restless world. No matter how fortunate we are, there is always room for the appealing possibility of improvement. Then there is the 'climate' part. Again, it does not sound so bad. If you live in many of the high-emitting nations¹ of the global north, the idea of a 'changing climate' could well be interpreted as the very opposite of scary and dangerous. A changing world. A warming planet. What's not to like? Perhaps that is partly why so many people still think of climate change as a slow, linear and even rather harmless process.

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Text Two continued.

But the climate is not just changing. It is 15
destabilising. It is breaking down. The delicately
balanced natural patterns and cycles that are a vital
part of the systems that sustain life on Earth are
being disrupted, and the consequences could be
catastrophic. Because there are negative tipping 20
points, points of no return. And we do not know
exactly when we might cross them. What we do
know, however, is that they are getting awfully close,
even the really big ones. Transformation often starts
slowly, but then it begins to accelerate. 25

The Greenland ice sheet is melting, as are the
‘doomsday glaciers’² of west Antarctica. Recent
reports have stated that the tipping points for these
two events have already been passed. Other reports
say they are imminent. That means we might already 30
have inflicted so much built-in warming that the
melting process can no longer be stopped, or that we
are very close to that point. Either way, we must do
everything in our power to stop the process because,
once that invisible line has been crossed, there 35
might be no going back. We can slow it down, but
once the snowball has been set in motion it will just
keep going.

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Text Two continued.

‘This is the new normal’ is a phrase we often hear
 when the rapid changes in our daily weather patterns 40
 – wildfires, hurricanes, heatwaves, floods, storms,
 droughts and so on – are being discussed. These
 weather events aren’t just increasing in frequency,
 they are becoming more and more extreme. The
 weather seems to be on steroids³, and natural 45
 disasters increasingly appear less and less natural.
 But this is not the ‘new normal’. What we are seeing
 now is only the very beginning of a changing
 climate, caused by human emissions of greenhouse
 gases. Until now, Earth’s natural systems have 50
 been acting as a shock absorber, smoothing out the
 dramatic transformations that are taking place. But the
 planetary resilience that has been so vital to us will
 not last forever, and the evidence seems to suggest
 more and more clearly that we are entering a new era 55
 of more dramatic change.

Climate change has become a crisis sooner than
 expected. So many of the researchers I’ve spoken
 to have said that they were shocked to witness how
 quickly it is escalating. It seems like the vast majority 60
 of people were preparing for a different, less urgent
 scenario. A crisis that would take place many decades
 into the future. And yet here we are. The climate and
 ecological crisis is not happening in some faraway
 future. It’s happening right here and right now. 65

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Text Two continued.

It will take many things for us to start facing this emergency – but, above all, it will take honesty, integrity and courage. The longer we wait to start taking the action needed to stay in line with our international targets, the harder and more costly it will get to reach them. The inaction of today and yesterday must be compensated for in the time that lies ahead. 70

For us to have even a small chance of avoiding setting off irreversible chain reactions far beyond human control, we need drastic, immediate, far-reaching emission cuts at the source. When your bathtub is about to overflow, you don't go looking for buckets or start covering the floor with towels – you start by turning off the tap, as soon as you possibly can. Leaving the water running means ignoring or denying the problem, delaying doing anything to resolve it and downplaying its consequences. 75 80

We are approaching a precipice. And I would strongly suggest that those of us who have not yet been greenwashed⁴ out of our senses stand our ground. Do not let them drag us another inch closer to the edge. Not one inch. Right here, right now, is where we draw the line. 85

Sources taken / adapted from:

Text One: <https://www.voicesofyouth.org/blog/7-ways-which-youth-can-protect-environment>

Photograph 1: © Stefano Guidi / Contributor / Getty Images

Text Two: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/oct/08/greta-thunberg-climate-delusion-greenwashed-out-of-our-senses>

Photograph 2: © Tim Whitby / Contributor / Getty Images