

## Task 2 Articles

### 1 Answer questions a–d.

- a What are the most serious threats that the natural world is facing in the twenty-first century?
- b What is the most serious threat to the environment in your country?
- c What action is being taken?
- d What further steps do you think could be taken?

### 2 The paragraph below has been taken from an essay on measures to reduce river pollution throughout the world. Complete the gaps with the nouns in the box. The first one has been done for you.

factories pollutants action fish wildlife  
problem leisure incentives pressure

By far the best way to solve the  
<sup>1</sup> problem of water pollution is to  
locate all <sup>2</sup> ..... away from rivers  
and lakes and to install waste treatment  
centers. All the <sup>3</sup> ..... in the water  
would then be destroyed, as has been  
done in many old industrial areas in  
Poland and Germany. This would mean  
that <sup>4</sup> ..... and <sup>5</sup> ..... would  
be able to return to rivers and people

would be able to use them for  
<sup>6</sup> ..... like swimming and fishing.  
There is considerable <sup>7</sup> ..... on  
many poor countries to develop their  
economies and so it would be difficult to  
persuade many of them to change their  
policies. However, I think that  
<sup>8</sup> ..... needs to be taken and  
perhaps financial <sup>9</sup> ..... from  
richer countries would help.

### 3 Are the words in the list below countable or uncountable?

animal information nature climate accommodation  
knowledge research weather tree idea situation fact

### 4 Look again at the paragraph in 2. Are the answers countable or uncountable?

### 5 Add *a/an, the*, or no article to sentences a–h.

#### Examples

..... *The* plastic bottles that I threw out yesterday have been taken away for recycling.

Plastic bottles are now being made of ..... biodegradable materials. (no article)

- a ..... knowledge about the environment can be found in ..... books and on the Internet.
- b ..... energy can be generated from bio-fuels.
- c Trees help to protect ..... soil by conserving water.
- d Newspapers now use ..... high percentage of ..... recycled paper.
- e Looking after ..... nature is important for all of us.
- f It is better to see animals in ..... wild than in captivity.
- g ..... solution to the problem is to fine people for dropping ..... rubbish.
- h ..... new plastic containers which I bought last week are not harmful for the environment as they are biodegradable.



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- 6 In each text a–f, there is one mistake relating to articles. Correct the mistakes by adding or deleting a word.

*Example*

Animals like chimpanzees and apes should not be used for ~~the~~ experiments.

- a Wave power technology is the best answer to the problem of pollution. However, the introduction of such technology also creates the problem.
- b Governments worldwide should tax the cars more. A measure like this would make people think more about nature.
- c In near future, houses will be more energy-efficient than they are now.
- d Food industry could pay for recycled bottles as was done in the past. The bottles would then not be thrown away.
- e Insects like the bees, for example, play a vital role in most ecosystems. The bee pollinates plants and flowers.
- f The facilities like dams and forests are also used for leisure.

### Writing conclusions

- 7 Read the two Task 2 questions. Then decide which question each sentence a–g relates to. Write 1 or 2 next to each sentence.

1 *Pollution from aircraft is one of the main factors responsible for global warming. What measures could be taken to reduce this source of climate change?*

2 *When a country becomes richer, the natural environment will suffer. It is not possible for a country to both develop its economy and protect the environment. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

- a This means that in the short term we will just have to accept paying higher prices for flights and travelling less.
- b In conclusion, I do not agree that developing a country's economy has to involve destroying the natural world.
- c If this type of eco-friendly business is encouraged, then there is no reason why a healthy economy and a healthy environment cannot exist together.
- d All in all, I feel that imposing higher taxes on airlines is unavoidable.
- e It is true that some businesses move into new areas with no regard for their effect on the environment.
- f We can certainly investigate ways of making aircraft technology cleaner, but we do not know how long they will take to develop.
- g However, there are many examples of local businesses which depend on and support the local environment.



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- 8 A conclusion needs to state your opinion or your most important idea, and remind the reader of how you argued in favour of it. The sentences in 7 on page 67 form concluding paragraphs to the exam question. Write out the two paragraphs with the sentences in the best order, following the frameworks below.

**Question 1**

Statement of most important measure:

.....

Another possible measure and why it is less effective:

.....

Restatement of most important measure and its consequences:

.....

**Question 2**

Statement of opinion:

.....

Reference to the opposite view:

.....

Reason against the opposite view:

.....

Restatement of opinion:

.....

**Technique**

Always write a conclusion to your answer. Avoid repeating words in your conclusion.

- 9 Look at the underlined phrases in the sentences in 7. For each one, choose two alternatives with a similar meaning from the box below.

to sum up   I believe   of course   I would argue that   in general

- 10 Your conclusion must be clear but you need to avoid making claims that sound too strong. One way to avoid this is to talk about possibilities using the phrase *There is no reason why* + negative. Read the example. Then change sentences a–d in a similar way.

**Example**

A healthy economy and a healthy environment can exist together.  
*There is no reason why* a healthy economy and a healthy environment *cannot* exist together.

- a Local eco-friendly businesses can be successful.  
.....
- b People could take more holidays at home instead of always flying abroad.  
.....
- c People could travel by fast train instead of taking short flights.  
.....
- d Governments should give special financial support to eco-friendly business people.  
.....



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