



Cambridge O Level

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1123/22

Paper 2 Reading

May/June 2022

INSERT

1 hour 45 minutes

INFORMATION

- This insert contains the reading passages.
- You may annotate this insert and use the blank spaces for planning. **Do not write your answers** on the insert.



This document has **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Passage 1

Climate change: one person's view on problems and solutions

- 1 It has long been my view that as the temperature of our planet rises this, accompanied by other complicated alterations in the patterns of our weather, is causing many global problems. These problems will become worse if we do not act now.

- 2 Storms and hurricanes are naturally occurring phenomena but, as global temperatures increase, the result is more energy-intensive storms, which cause unprecedented destruction. Another problem is the growing number of wildfires. Although wildfires have always been common in some parts of the world, recent years have seen a rise in their occurrence probably due to climate change, as seen in 2020 in Australia, where millions of acres of forest and millions of animals were lost. Flooding is also an issue. As ice at the North and South Poles melts into our oceans, sea levels rise, causing flooding in coastal areas. When the oceans heat up, more water evaporates into clouds which falls as rain, causing further flooding. Furthermore, as ocean temperatures rise, there is a loss of breeding grounds for some marine creatures which threatens many ocean species with extinction.

- 3 Our climate emergency demonstrates itself in the increased number of devastating droughts faced by many countries; these halt food production and create landscapes of withered trees. The incidence of droughts has almost doubled since the early 1990s; one area of northern Kenya used to experience drought every fifteen years or so, but that has now expanded to every five years. As the earth warms up, the periods increase when some diseases, for example malaria and dengue fever, can be transmitted. Record temperatures in Europe and Australia in 2019 were symptoms of increased heatwaves resulting from climate change. Everyone needs to take great care in high temperatures because heat stress can make working conditions unbearable and heighten the risk of cardiovascular and respiratory illness.

- 4 As if this were not bad enough, the damage brought about by extreme weather events caused by climate change has huge financial implications for governments and local communities as people struggle to rebuild homes and sometimes entire villages; these tasks can take years to complete and often rely on monetary help from outside agencies.

- 5 One solution to the problem of climate change is that governments recognise that there is an issue here. For too long there was a feeling, even among some world leaders, that concerns over climate change were somehow exaggerated. But over the years, many summit meetings of world leaders have taken place, which translate discussion into action, with governments making various pledges and setting targets to bring them about. Ordinary people should make their voices heard on this crucial topic.

- 6 In addressing the problems caused by climate change, people can opt for electric or hybrid cars, which do not pollute the environment, and some countries offer financial incentives to buy these rather than vehicles which run on polluting fuels such as diesel. The provision of more buses and trams in some cities encourages passengers to leave their cars at home, although this will work only if the service is efficient and cheap, as it is in some cities such as Amsterdam and Edinburgh. Although air travel is often essential, people are being invited to think of the damage flying can do to the environment – what is called our carbon footprint – and to reduce the number of flights they take by using trains for example. Frequent flyers should, wherever possible, make use of alternative means of travel. Still, governments cannot advise against air travel if the country's trains are overcrowded and don't run on time!

- 7 Another solution is to switch from fossil fuels, like coal, oil or natural gas, to other forms of energy, such as wind, water and solar power, all of which are called renewables. Increasing numbers of wind farms can be seen nowadays, more people opt for solar panels in their homes and hydro-electric schemes make use of water to generate electricity. Some companies and global corporations have promised zero carbon emissions – to be carbon neutral – and have set targets for this to happen. Even better is the ambitious plan by one global giant to be, by 2030, not just carbon neutral but carbon negative, which means it will devise ways of removing carbon from the earth's atmosphere.

Passage 2*A First Tooth*

When I got home from work that evening, Mrs Jennings, the babysitter, reported that the baby had been a little cross and shoving her fist into her mouth intermittently throughout the day.

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Still, I was content now that I was in the pharmacy that the baby would not suffer and that in the morning she would smile charmingly at me with a perfect, white tooth gleaming just above the surface of her little pink gum.

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