

### Prelims 2017 P2 Suggested Answers

1. In paragraph 1, how does the author illustrate the catastrophic events of today as “harbingers of doom” (lines 4-5)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

Text	Lift	Answer
... for the catastrophic events of today seem to be harbingers of doom that befell our ancestors. Humanity seems helpless to overcome the problems created in the face of rampantly expanding populations, rapidly declining biodiversity, leading to worsening environmental conditions.	Rampantly Expanding Populations Rapidly Declining Biodiversity Worsening Conditions 'leading to'	The author shows how the 1. Uncontrolled/ unchecked increase in the number of human beings  2. Quickly decreasing wildlife/ flora and fauna  bring about 3. the deterioration in the state of nature.  1-2 points = 1m 3 points = 2m

2. According to the author, why do the initiatives to save the environment ‘flounder’ (line 8)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [1]

Text	Lift	Answer
Well-meaning initiatives to save the environment multiply with each passing day, <b>but</b> these initiatives typically flounder against the <b>unthinkable prospect that we might actually change our fundamental behaviour.</b>	Unthinkable prospect Change Fundamental Behaviour	People find it impossible/ are reluctant incapable  to alter/modify  their way of living/ lifestyles

3. Explain the author’s use of the word ‘safely’ in line 12. [1]

Text	Lift	Question
It could be safely assumed that nobody understands the connection all living creatures have with Mother Earth better than the people who depend on nature for survival.		The author uses the word to establish that the assumption [about the closer connection people who depend on Mother Earth have with Nature] is <u>most likely to be true</u> .  <b>OR</b>  The author is <u>confident</u> that the assumption is true.

4. In paragraph 2, what contrasts does the author make between the Aboriginal peoples and modern people in their views towards nature? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3]

Text	Lift	Answer
Since ancient times, natives of the land such as the First Nations and <u>Aboriginal peoples</u> have seen themselves not as <b>masters</b> of nature, but as <b>stewards</b> : to practise <b>reverence, humility and reciprocity</b> towards nature. Everything taken from the environment – securing food through hunting, gathering and fishing – is used with the understanding that <b>only what is</b>	Masters Stewards Reverence Humility Reciprocity  'only what is <b>needed is taken</b> '  great care ensure	1) Relationship Aboriginal peoples saw themselves as caretakers of nature whereas people of today seek to dominate nature / Aboriginal peoples were servant of nature whereas people today want to control nature  2) Usage Aboriginal peoples acquired from the land only what was necessary for survival whereas people of today take unreservedly from the land.

<b>needed is taken</b> and <b>great care</b> is taken to <b>ensure</b> that <b>future generations</b> will not be <b>put in peril</b> . Sadly, today, <u>modern people</u> seek to <b>subdue</b> the environment – rich pickings for the strong – <b>to be used at will without any thought of generations to come</b> .	future generations 'put in peril'  'to be used at will without any thought'  Generations to come	3) Future Aboriginal peoples were mindful of the needs of their descendants whereas modern people do not care if their descendants will have resources to use.
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5. Explain what the author means by 'unsustainable confidence' (line 31). **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

Text	Lift	Answer
At the time no thought was given to what effects these colossal changes would have on the environment. Nature was <b>thought</b> of as robust and bountiful enough to be managed, tamed, and exploited as humans wished. There was a strong and as would ultimately be realised <b>unsustainable confidence</b> in the regenerating capacity of nature.	Unsustainable  Confidence  Thought	<b>Answer:</b> The author means that  (Confidence): <u>the certainty/belief/faith/optimism</u> people had in  (Context): the <u>ability of our environment to heal itself</u> would  (Unsustainable): eventually <u>cease to continue</u> .  0-1 point = 0m 2 points = 1m 3 points = 2m

6. What is the author implying about the authorities by writing "oblivious" in inverted commas (line 41)? [2]

Text	Answer
... Governments pushed for the consumption ... that surreptitiously gave rise to unprecedented air pollution that in turn brought about respiratory diseases on a scale.... Governments stood by as outbreaks of diseases such as cholera and typhoid spread... People, especially the poor and working class, were suffering, but for a time the authorities were " <b>oblivious</b> " to <u>these consequences of industrialisation</u> and took no action to address them.	<u>Knowing:</u> Not only did governments know/ recognised the consequences of industrialisation/the suffering of the people <u>due to industrialisation</u> . [1]  <u>Contribution:</u> and they <b>(further) contributed</b> to these consequences / they ignored / they chose not to do anything / pretended to be unaware / [1]

7. "...lurking, ready to take hold in the future" (Lines 45-46). What does this suggest about environmental threats? [2]

Text	Lift	Answer
This laid the foundation for environmental threats <u>lurking, ready to take hold in the future</u> .	The words in the quotation including 'future'	(Lurking) Hidden (secretly): 1. Environmental threats were hidden/ not obvious/ people were unaware of them. [1]  (Ready to Take Hold) Damage: 2. In time, they would come to be very damaging/ cause harm to people [1]

8. In what ways have individuals shown “new resolve” (line 82) in making environmental concern their priority? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

Text	Lift	Answer
...Since recent environmental conferences, governments, private corporations and even individuals have shown a <u>new resolve</u> :... Amongst all these positive changes, ... lies in the fact that there has been a discernible shift in people's opinion towards an increased <b>acceptance of the gravity of climate change</b> . Citizens are <b>changing their lifestyles</b> and are increasingly <b>taking the initiative to protect their planet</b> .	Opinion Acceptance Gravity  Changing Lifestyles  Taking initiative Protect	1. people are acknowledging the <b>severity</b> of our environmental problems/global warming  2. Altering/ modifying their way of living/ daily routines  3. Taking the <b>first step</b> / are <b>proactive</b> in looking after nature/ taking care of nature/ ecosystems  1-2 points = 1m 3 points = 2m

9. What is the author implying by “for better or worse” in line 96? [2]

Text	Question
After all, for better or worse, we can be sure of one thing: we get the nature we deserve.	The author is implying that <u>If we look after the environment</u> , we will benefit from a healthy environment. [1] <u>If we neglect the environment</u> , we will suffer the consequences of a dying nature. [1]  <b>OR</b>  We will either benefit from a healthy environment or suffer the consequences of a dying nature [1] depending on our actions [1]

10. Using material from paragraphs 5-6 only, summarize what the author has to say about the reasons for an increase in environmental awareness, and the challenges to environmental awareness. [8]

Write your summary in no more than 120 words, not counting the opening words which are printed below. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

*There has been an increase in environmental awareness because...*

Paragraph 5 (Causes)			
Pt	From Passage	Lift	Suggested Answers
1	people witnessing environmental degradation first-hand	Witnessing Degradation First-hand	People / individuals [personally] experience environmental destruction/ saw environmental destruction for themselves.
2	These problems were published on various news platforms	Published	Issued/printed on many news platforms
3	Research established by prominent conservationists ... widespread use of pestilent chemicals used in agriculture	Research Established	Scientific examination / studies proved/ indicated the danger in how food is.
4	Fear of what people were consuming	Fear Consuming	People dreaded what they were eating
5	celebrities (used their public prominence to) promote the message of environmental care	Celebrities Public Prominence	Famous personalities promoted environmental awareness
6	Activists resorted to radical actions to warn	Activists Radical	Proponents/ campaigners/ people employed, used extreme behaviour

7	Diseases linked to environmental hazards	Diseases Linked to hazards	Illnesses / Pandemics connected to environmental dangers
8	introduction of environmental education to the classroom	Introduction Education classroom	People/students learn about the environment in schools
9	greater variety of communication channels empowered individuals	Variety Communication channels Empowered	Larger range/array/assortment of media
<b>Paragraph 6 (Challenges)</b>			
10	Some denied that the environment was headed to a crisis	Denied Headed Crisis	Some challenged / disagreed with the fact that the environment was in danger of collapse.
11	some resisted change because of the inconvenience	Inconvenience	Some felt it was troublesome
12	some people were blind to their waste of resources	Blind Waste	Unaware/ ignorant that resources are consumed in an irresponsible way
13	illusion of sufficiency	Illusion Sufficiency	The false idea that there will always be adequate resources; idea that they think that there is [always] enough resources
14	addicted to a consumerist culture	Addicted Consumerist Culture	Dependent on a lifestyle where they were always buying indiscriminately
15	new innovations would be the panacea.	Innovations Panacea	Up to date technological advancements/ developments/ inventions was seen as the cure
16	corporations continued to retain the most environmentally damaging methods of production	Corporations Retain Damaging Methods	Companies [to cut cost] persist in employing production practices that destroy the environment
17	the media often presented the position of environmental advocates as illogical.	Presented Position Illogical	The media portrayed environmentalists as irrational/ unsound/ unreasonable
18	Governments pursuing goals of economic expansion ignored the signs of the damage ..	Goals Expansion	Countries/ Governments sacrifice the environment for economic growth / government prioritised economic growth over environmental concerns
19	having divisive attitudes as to how the environment should be improved.	Divisive Attitudes Improved	No united / coherent viewpoint / position as to how the environment should be ameliorated

Points	Marks
15	8
13-14	7
11-12	6
9-10	5
8	4
6-7	3
4-5	2
1-3	1

- 11 In this article, Phil Todd highlights some concerns about the environment and suggests why we might be optimistic about the future of the environment. How far would you agree with her observations, relating your arguments to you and your own society? [10]