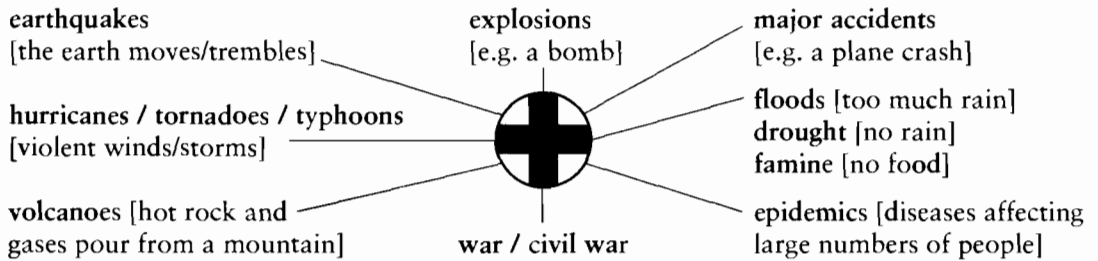


38 Global problems

Disasters/tragedies



Verbs connected with these words

A volcano has **erupted** in Indonesia. Hundreds are feared dead.
 The flu epidemic spread rapidly throughout the country.
 Millions are **starving** as a result of the famine.
 A big earthquake **shook** the city at noon today.
 The area is **suffering** its worst drought for many years.
 Civil war has **broken out** in the north of the country.
 A tornado **swept** through the islands yesterday.
Remember: injure [people], damage [things]:
 200 people were **injured** and dozens of buildings were **damaged** in the hurricane.

Words for people involved in disasters/tragedies

The explosion resulted in 300 casualties. [dead and injured people]
 The real victims of the civil war are the children left without parents. [those who suffer the results of the disaster]
 There were only three survivors. All the other passengers died instantly. [people who live through a disaster]
 Thousands of refugees have crossed the border looking for food and shelter.
 During the battle, the dead and wounded were flown out in helicopters. [wounded: injured in a battle/by a weapon]

Headlines

Here are some headlines from newspapers all connected with diseases and epidemics. Explanations are given.

disease can be caused by bite from a dog, fox, etc.; very serious → **Rabies out of control in many parts of Asia**

tropical disease; skin goes yellow → **yellow fever figures drop**

usually caught because of mosquito bites → **New malaria drug tested**

terrible skin disease; leaves the skin deformed → **Minister says fight against leprosy goes on**

diseases causing sickness, diarrhoea etc.; caused often by infected food and water → **Cholera and typhoid injections not needed says Tourism Minister**

Exercises

38.1 What type of disaster from the list at A opposite are these sentences about? Why?

Example: The lava flow destroyed three villages. *volcano; lava is the hot rocks and metal*

- 1 The earth is cracked and vegetation has withered.
- 2 The tremor struck at 3.35 p.m. local time.
- 3 People had boarded up shops and houses during the day before, and stayed indoors.
- 4 Shelling and mortar fire could be heard all over the town.
- 5 Witnesses said they saw a fire-ball fall out of the sky.
- 6 People were stranded in the upper floors and sometimes on the roofs of their homes, unable to move about.

38.2 Complete the missing items in this word-class table, using a dictionary if necessary. Where there is a dash (-), you do not need to write anything.

<i>verb</i>	<i>noun: thing or idea</i>	<i>noun: person</i>
.....	explosion	-
.....	survivor
injure
starve
erupt	-

38.3 In these headlines, say whether the situation seems to be getting *worse* or *better*, or whether a disaster has *happened* or has been *avoided/prevented*.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>1 Poison gas cloud spreads</p> | <p>3 POLICE DEFUSE TERRORIST BOMB</p> | <p>5 Oil slick recedes</p> |
| <p>2 AIDS time-bomb ticking away</p> | <p>4 All survive jumbo crash-landing</p> | <p>6 Flood warnings not heeded in time</p> |

38.4 Fill the gaps with a suitable word from B opposite. Try to work from memory.

- 1 Another 50 people died today, yet more of this terrible famine.
- 2 The government has agreed to allow 3,000 trying to escape the civil war to enter the country.
- 3 It was the worst road accident the country has ever seen, with over 120
- 4 A: Were there any when the ship sank? B: I'm afraid not.
- 5 The and were simply left lying on the battlefield; it was a disgrace.

38.5 Which diseases are we talking about? Try to do this from memory.


- 1 One that can be caused by a mosquito bite.
- 2 One that leaves the skin badly deformed.
- 3 One you can get by drinking infected water.
- 4 One you can get from an animal bite.
- 5 One that makes the skin go yellow.

A The problem

Many **greenhouse gases**, e.g. carbon dioxide, methane and ozone, **exist**¹ naturally and are needed to **create**² the **greenhouse effect** that keeps the Earth warm enough to **support**³ human life. However, the use of **fossil fuels**, e.g. **oil**, natural gas and coal, has produced **excessive**⁴ amounts of greenhouse gases, and the **result**⁵ is **global warming**: an increase in the average temperature on Earth. Of the 20 warmest years **on record**⁶, 19 have **occurred**⁷ since 1980.

The **effects**⁸ of **climate change** can already be seen in our everyday lives. Summers are getting hotter and winters are getting wetter, so **drought**⁹ and **floods**¹⁰ are becoming more common. With it, animal and plant life is **suffering**¹¹ – some species will disappear altogether – and certain illnesses, e.g. hay fever, asthma and skin cancer, are becoming more common.

To stop global warming from **destroying**¹² our **environment**¹³, we need to act now.



¹ are real or present

² make something happen or exist

³ help (human life) to continue

⁴ more than you want or need

⁵ something that happens because of something else that has happened

⁶ If information is *on record*, it has been written down or kept on a computer.

⁷ happened; *fm*

⁸ a change or result that is caused by something

⁹ a long time without rain when people do not have enough water

¹⁰ when water covers an area that is usually dry, often from too much rain

¹¹ experiencing something which is unpleasant

¹² damaging something so badly that it does not exist or cannot be used

¹³ the air, land and water around us

B The solution* – or part of it

To **reduce** global warming [make it less], the nations of the world will have to **act** together [do something to solve a problem; *syn* take action]. In the meantime, individuals can also help.

Six ways to reduce global warming:

➔ Don't **throw** things **away** – **recycle** paper, glass, plastic, etc. so that it can be used again.

➔ Don't **waste**³ water, e.g. turn off the **tap** when you are brushing your teeth.

➔ **Save**¹ **energy**² e.g. **switch off** lights when you leave a room.

💡 Change **light bulbs** for more **energy-efficient**⁴ ones

➔ Drive less and walk more.

➔ **Plant trees**⁵ because trees reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and so reduce greenhouse gases.

*the answer to a problem

¹ don't waste

² gas and electricity

³ use it badly

⁴ working well and not wasting energy

⁵ put a new tree in the ground

Exercises

57.1 How do you pronounce the underlined letters? Use the index to help you.

- | | | | |
|----------|--|-----------|--|
| 1 global | Is it like <u>g</u> o or g <u>o</u> t? go | 4 drought | Is it like n <u>o</u> or n <u>ow</u> ? |
| 2 flood | Is it like <u>f</u> oo <u>t</u> or <u>f</u> oo <u>u</u> n? | 5 suffer | Is it like s <u>o</u> n or s <u>oo</u> n? |
| 3 fuel | Is it like <u>f</u> oo <u>d</u> or <u>f</u> ew? | 6 climate | Is it like educ <u>a</u> te or com <u>fo</u> rtable? |

57.2 Match the words on the left with the words on the right.

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 the greenhouse | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | a warming |
| 2 global | <input type="checkbox"/> | b change |
| 3 fossil | <input type="checkbox"/> | c effect |
| 4 greenhouse | <input type="checkbox"/> | d fuels |
| 5 climate | <input type="checkbox"/> | e gases |

57.3 How can we help with global warming? Cover the opposite page and complete the text.

- Don't ¹ throw away..... paper, glass and plastic; ²..... it.
- Don't ³..... water: turn off the ⁴..... when you brush your teeth.
- ⁵..... energy by ⁶..... off lights when you leave a room.
- ⁷..... trees in order to ⁸..... the amount of carbon dioxide.
- ⁹..... action now, before it's too late.

57.4 Complete the explanations.

- 1 We don't have to create greenhouse gases; they exist..... naturally.
- 2 Greenhouse gases in the atmosphere the greenhouse effect.
- 3 Global warming is the of an increase in the amount of greenhouse gases.
- 4 Two of climate change have been hotter summers and wetter winters.
- 5 A is often the result of too much rain when the rivers are full.
- 6 A is a long period without rain, and they are more frequently now.
- 7 The is the air, land and water around us.
- 8 If you something, it is so badly damaged, it cannot be used again.
- 9 If something is, it works well and doesn't waste energy.
- 10 is the power that comes from gas, electricity, etc.

57.5 Complete the tables. Use a dictionary to help you.

verb	noun	verb	noun
recycle	recycling		solution
waste		reduce	
destroy		support	
exist		suffer	

57.6

Over to you

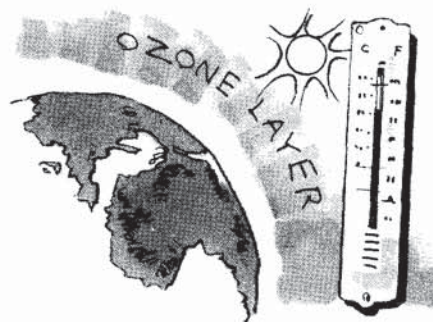
Answer the questions. If possible, talk to someone else about the problems.

- 1 Can you see the effects of global warming and climate change in your country? What do you see?
- 2 What things do people recycle every week?
- 3 Do you think you often waste water and energy? How?
- 4 What more could you do to solve the problem? Does it worry you?

85 Pollution and the environment

A Important definitions

People are more worried about the **environment** (= the air, water, and land around us) as a result of the **harmful** (= dangerous/damaging) effects of human activity. Some of these activities cause **pollution** (= dirty air, land and water) and some are **destroying** the environment (= damaging it so badly that soon parts will not exist). Here are some of the problems:



the ozone layer: a layer of gases which stop harmful radiation from the sun reaching the earth; recent research shows that there is now a hole in parts of the ozone layer.
global warming: an increase in world temperature caused by an increase in carbon dioxide.
acid rain: rain that contains dangerous chemicals; this is caused by smoke from factories.

B The 'greens'

Because of these problems, there are many groups of people whose aim is **conservation** (= the protection of natural things, e.g. plants and animals). They are often referred to as **greens**, e.g. 'Greenpeace' and 'Friends of the Earth'.

C Common causes of damage

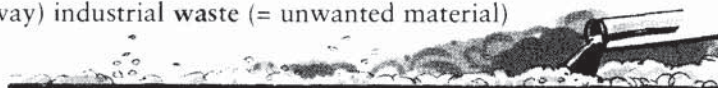
smoke from factories



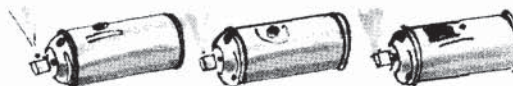
car exhaust fumes



dumping (= throwing away) industrial waste (= unwanted material) in seas and rivers



aerosol cans (usually called **sprays**). Some of these contain **CFCs** (= a chemical) which can damage the ozone layer.



cutting down tropical rainforests (e.g. The Amazon). This increases carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.



D How can we help?

- Don't **throw away** bottles, newspapers, etc. Take them to a **bottle bank** or **newspaper bank**, and then they can be **recycled** (= used again).
- **Plant** more trees.
- Don't **waste** (= use badly) **resources**, e.g. water, gas. Try to **save** (≠ waste) them.

Note: a **resource** is a valuable possession. There are **natural resources**, e.g. water or gold; and **human resources**, e.g. knowledge and skills. The word is usually plural.

Exercises

85.1 Fill the gaps to form a compound noun or phrase from the opposite page.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 the layer | 5 warming |
| 2 rain | 6 fumes |
| 3 waste | 7 rainforests |
| 4 a bottle | 8 natural or human |

85.2 Complete these word-building tables. If necessary, use a dictionary to help you.

<i>Noun</i>	<i>Verb</i>	<i>Noun</i>	<i>Adjective</i>
waste	.....	damage	.....
.....	protect	environment	.....
.....	destroy	harm	.....
pollution	.....	danger	.....
damage	.....	.....	safe

85.3 Complete the definitions.

- 1 Conservation is the protection of natural things, e.g. and
- 2 Acid rain is rain that contains dangerous chemicals. It is caused by
- 3 The ozone layer is a layer of gases that stop dangerous radiation from the sun from reaching
- 4 Global warming is an increase in world temperature caused by an increase in
- 5 CFC (chlorofluorocarbon) is a chemical which

85.4 If we want to look after the environment, there are certain things we should and shouldn't do. Complete these two lists in suitable ways.

We should:

- paper, bottles and clothes.
- tropical rainforests.
- more trees.
- water and energy.

We shouldn't:

- paper, bottles and clothes.
- the ozone layer.
- water and energy.
- tropical rainforests.

85.5 Test your knowledge of words from the opposite page and 'green' issues. Are these statements *true* or *false*?

- 1 CFCs protect the ozone layer.
- 2 'Greens' believe in conservation.
- 3 A hole in the ozone layer could increase skin cancer.
- 4 Cutting down tropical rainforests increases the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
- 5 Plastic cannot be recycled.

TEST

38 Environment and conservation

38.1 Complete these sentences.

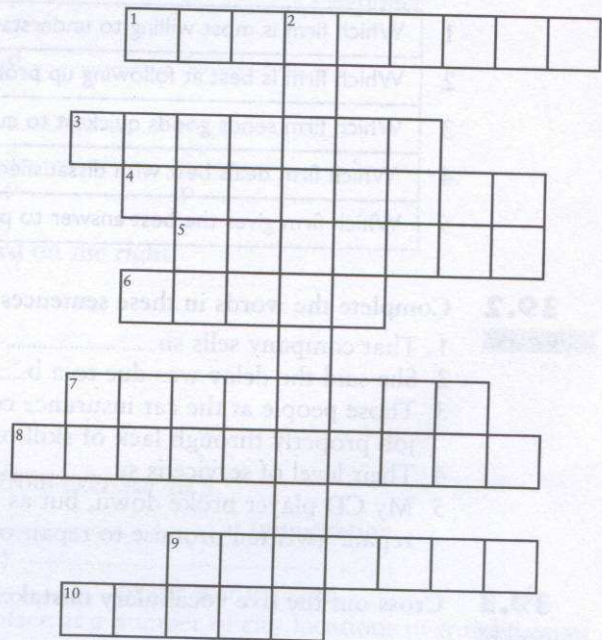
10 marks

- 1 In the worst scenario, the species will survive only in captivity.
- 2 Many argue that it's mainly the car which is to blame for the greenhouse
- 3 Laurence is very miserable company – he's such a prophet of and gloom.
- 4 warming has caused glaciers to melt and sea to rise.
- 5 There are laws which aim to protect endangered
- 6 Coal and oil are examples of fossil
- 7 If forests are cut down, this affects the amount of carbon in the atmosphere.
- 8 Large urban populations exert severe on limited resources.
- 9 Development that can be maintained without seriously depleting natural resources or having negative effects on society is called development.

38.2 Complete the word puzzle.

10 marks

- 1 A solution dealing with only part of the problem is a solution.
- 2 The World Wildlife Fund is an international organisation concerned with the of plant and animal species.
- 3 We should try to maintain the ecological
- 4 pure, unspoilt
- 5 Experts that the average income will rise by 5% next year.
- 6 You pressure on something.
- 7 Another expression for 'the worst possibilities for the future' is 'the worst case'.
- 8 another word for endangered (species)
- 9 a person who predicts the future
- 10 the colour that suggests being eco-friendly



38.3 Correct the ten spelling mistakes in these phrases.

20 marks

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 a pristine enviroment | 6 finite ressources |
| 2 exhaust emitions | 7 project sustenability |
| 3 profits of doom | 8 shrinking habbitats |
| 4 uncontrolled defforestation | 9 in a peacemeal fashion |
| 5 climattic changes | 10 demographic projections |

Your score

/40