

QET Sample Paper

SECTION A – TEXT EDITING (15 MARKS)

This section tests you on your grammar and language usage. In the text below, each numbered sentence contains **one** error. There are **fifteen errors** altogether. **Circle or underline** each error and **write your correction** in the numbered blank space on the right side of the text. Each correctly identified error will be awarded 0.5 mark and the corresponding correct answer will be awarded 0.5 mark.

You should spend about 30 minutes on this section.

Read the whole text completely before you begin.

Example:

(0) One hundred and twenty thousand years ago, our species Homo Sapiens made his appearance in Earth. By 1990, a few ... (0) on

The Earth Has a Fever

One hundred and twenty thousand years ago, our species Homo Sapiens made his appearance on Earth. (1) By 1900, a few decades after the beginning of the industrial era, the condition of the world's flora and fauna was, for the most part, unchange from the previous 14,000 years. (2) During this period of time, the atmosphere had not suffered great climatic changes, nor had the surface temperature of the planet undergone the significant variations. (3) Furthermore, since then, it has taken a little more than a century to upset the equilibrium.

(4) As early as 1827, the French scientist Jean-Baptiste Joseph Fournier suggested that the atmosphere was heating the Earth surface. In addition, towards the end of the nineteenth century,

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the Swedish chemist Svante August Arrhenius postulated that the increasing quantities of carbon dioxide emitted by the factories of the Industrial Revolution were changing the composition of the atmosphere. (5) Moreover, he warned that this would definitely results in an increase in the temperature of the Earth.

(5) _____

(6) Indeed, by the end of the twentieth century, the global temperature has risen by 0.06 of one degree. (7) The year 1998 was the hottest year in record history, followed by 2002. Today, there is no longer any doubt that global warming is caused by human activity.

(6) _____

(7) _____

(8) Man's impact upon the Earth, the oceans, and the atmosphere surpass the effects of natural forces. (9) Human activity is capable of instigating changes upon the terrestrial system and activate alterations to the marine system. These changes and transformations cannot be reversed. (10) Lately, on global level, we have experienced extreme heat and extreme cold, and suffered from unexpected climatic events. In several countries, food production has been jeopardised. (11) On the one hand, recurring droughts in Ethiopia have placed 14 of the 60 millions inhabitants in danger of death by hunger. (12) On the other hand, the melting of the Arctic ice has put in risk the traditional life and culture of the Eskimos in Russia, Canada, Alaska and

(8) _____

(9) _____

(10) _____

(11) _____

(12) _____

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Greenland. In fact, in the Arctic, the warming of some parts is ten times greater than the global average temperature.

(13) For the inhabitants of this region who live totally by hunting in the ocean, the melting of the ice could mean an end to his way of life.

(13) _____

It was not until the end of the 1970s that the international community began to pay attention to the problem of global warming. Then in 1979, the first world climate conference was held. Subsequently in 1988, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was formed in response to increasing public concern about industrial pollution. Such public concern has been growing. (14) Today, when we use search engines such as *Google* to look for information on global warming. We can find at least 16,000,000 entries.

(14) _____

(15) In 1997, the Kyoto Protocol was negotiated in Japan, it was the first international treaty to urge the signatory countries to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases associated with global warming. It could not enter into effect then because it had to be ratified by at least 55 countries which were responsible for 55% of the emissions in 1990.

(15) _____

Adapted from an article of the same title by Homero Aridjis, originally published in *Reforma*, 7 December 2003. Retrieved from www.heatisonline.org on 9 December 2004.

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SECTION B – READING COMPREHENSION (15 MARKS)

This section tests you on your ability to understand, interpret, analyse, and infer from the ideas presented in the passage below. There are **ten multiple choice questions**. **WRITE** the letter of the option (**A, B, C or D**) in the answer brackets [] found at the end of each question.

You should use about 30 minutes to do this task.

Reading Passage

Global Warming

1. In 1992 the United States and nations from around the world met at the United Nations
2. Earth Summit in Rio and agreed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by
3. the year 2000. The Rio Treaty was not legally binding and, because reducing emissions
4. would likely cause great economic damage, many nations will not meet the goal.

5. Representatives from around the world met again in December of 1997 at a conference
6. in Kyoto to sign a revised agreement. The Clinton Administration negotiators agreed to
7. legally binding, internationally enforceable limits on the emission of greenhouse gases
8. as a key tenet of the treaty.

9. President Clinton's position is based on the idea that global warming is real and that it
10. is caused by human activity. Further, it presupposes that the potential damage caused by
11. global warming would greatly outweigh the damage caused to the economy by severely
12. restricting energy use. Finally, his position assumes that the agreement will significantly
13. reduce greenhouse gas emissions world wide and will prevent global warming.
14. However, as this report shows, each of these premises is still very much in doubt.

15. Is global warming occurring? According to Accu-Weather, the world's leading
16. commercial forecaster, "Global air temperatures as measured by land-based weather
17. stations have shown an increase of about 0.45 degrees Celsius over the past century.
18. This may be no more than normal climatic variation, and several biases in the data may
19. be responsible for some of this increase." Additionally, satellite data indicate a slight
20. cooling in the climate in the last 18 years. These satellites use advanced technology and
21. are not subject to the "heat island" effect around major cities that alters ground-based
22. thermometers. Projections of future climate changes are uncertain too. Although some
23. computer models predict warming in the next century, these models are very limited.
24. The effects of cloud formations, precipitation, the role of the oceans, or the sun, are still
25. not well known and often inadequately represented in the climate models although all
26. play a major role in determining our climate. Scientists who work on these models are
27. quick to point out that they are far from perfect representations of reality, and are
28. probably not advanced enough for direct use in policy implementation. Interestingly, as
29. the computer climate models have become more sophisticated in recent years, the
30. predicted increase in temperature has been lowered.

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31. Research shows that 98% of total global greenhouse gas emissions are natural (mostly
32. water vapour); only 2% are from man-made sources. By most accounts, man-made
33. emissions have had no more than a minuscule impact on the climate. Although the
34. climate has warmed slightly in the last 100 years, 70% percent of that warming
35. occurred prior to 1940, before the upsurge in greenhouse gas emissions from industrial
36. processes. A Gallup survey indicated that only 17% of the members of the American
37. Meteorological Society and the American Geophysical Society thought the warming of
38. the 20th century was the result of an increase in greenhouse gas emissions.

39. The idea that global warming would melt the ice caps and flood coastal cities seems to
40. be mere science fiction. A slight increase in temperature – whether natural or mankind
41. induced – is not likely to lead to a massive melting of the earth’s ice caps, as sometimes
42. claimed in the media. Moreover, sea-level rises over the centuries relate more to
43. warmer and thus expanding oceans, not to melting ice caps. Contrary to some groups’
44. fear mongering about the threat of diseases, temperature changes are likely to have little
45. effect on the spread of diseases. Experts say that deterioration in public health practices
46. such as rapid urbanisation without adequate infrastructure, forced large scale
47. resettlement of people, increased drug resistance, higher mobility through air travel, and
48. lack of insect-control programmes have the greatest impact on the spread of vector-
49. borne diseases. Finally, larger quantities of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and
50. warmer climates would likely lead to an increase in vegetation. During warm periods in
51. history, vegetation flourished, at one point allowing the Vikings to farm in now frozen
52. Greenland.

53. How then can climate-change policies help to reduce global warming? The U.S. agreed
54. to a 7% reduction of carbon dioxide emissions from what they were in 1990, a target to
55. be met by 2008-2012. This agreement would result in massive restrictions on energy
56. use and large taxpayer-funded subsidies for new technologies. The Clinton
57. Administration has supported a system of tradable permits to be used by companies that
58. emit carbon dioxide. These permits could be bought and sold internationally, giving
59. companies an incentive to lower emissions and thus sell their permits. But this system
60. would require massive international oversight on the order of a worldwide
61. *Environmental Protection Agency* to track carbon dioxide emissions, and the costs to
62. consumers would still be high. Because of the devastating effects that global warming
63. policies will have on economic growth, the treaty that was discussed in Kyoto in
64. December 1997 currently excludes developing nations. However, the U.S. Senate has
65. voted 95-0 against supporting a treaty that does not include developing nations.

66. The economic impact of such proposals is phenomenal. According to a report by the
67. Department of Energy, stringent targets to reduce fossil-fuel emissions in the U.S. will
68. cause energy-intensive industries, including steel, iron, chemical, rubber and plastic, to
69. flee from the developed countries to undeveloped countries, taking with them thousands
70. of jobs. Carbon taxes will cause relatively large income losses in the poorest one-fifth
71. of the population. The poor, because they spend a greater proportion of their income on
72. necessities, would have few ways to cut back to compensate for higher living costs.
73. Stabilising emissions at 1990 levels by 2010 would reduce the growth of U.S. per capita
74. income by 5% per year. The burden of all this would fall on many individuals and
75. families and would be unfair in that it would be quite unrelated to income, wealth or
76. ability to pay. Instead, the burden would be determined by energy use patterns and

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77. circumstances, such as distance from work, condition and energy efficiency of homes,
78. automobiles and appliances. Senior citizens on fixed incomes would find their energy
79. costs escalating and their income dwindling.
80. The resulting economic dislocations of implementing global warming polices would be
81. tremendous, potentially outweighing the negative impacts of even the most apocalyptic
82. warming scenario. If the policies do not include developing nations the result will likely
83. be a reallocation of emissions to developing nations, not a reduction of emissions. If
84. the entire world is included and carbon dioxide emissions are severely restricted, the
85. science is not clear what impact, if any, it would have on the world's climate.

Adapted from **Consumer Alert November 11, 2000** at <http://www.globalwarming.org/article.php?uid=65>.
Retrieved on 20 Dec 2004

Comprehension Questions

1. The phrase “the goal” in line 4 refers to:
- A. meeting to discuss greenhouse gas emissions.
 - B. making the Rio treaty legally binding.
 - C. reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels.
 - D. overcoming great economic damage. [] (1 mark)
2. The pronoun “it” in line 10 refers to:
- A. the actual phenomenon of global warming itself.
 - B. the view that limits on emissions of greenhouse gases are important to the Kyoto Protocol.
 - C. the position that global warming is real and that it is caused by human activity.
 - D. the concept that the effects of global warming is worse than the effects of restricting energy use on the economy. [] (1 mark)
3. The most suitable heading for paragraph 4 (lines 15-30) would be:
- A. Measuring Global Warming
 - B. The Reality of Global Warming
 - C. Truths versus Myths of Global Warming
 - D. Technology and Global Warming [] (1 mark)
4. It is clear from paragraph 5 (lines 31-38) that:
- A. There is an ongoing debate on whether humans are causing the climate to change.
 - B. Global warming is as natural as it is man made.
 - C. Scientists disagree about the cause of pre-1940s warming.
 - D. Global warming is not a 20th century phenomenon. [] (1 mark)

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5. “(F)ear mongering” (line 44) is probably the action of
- A. denying the existence of fear.
 - B. saying or encouraging unpleasant things to induce fear.
 - C. saying things to remove fear in people.
 - D. doing things to make people fearful. [] (1 mark)
6. According to paragraph 6 (lines 39-52), which of the following are CORRECT statements?
- I The threats to climate from global warming are more real than claimed.
 - II Global warming is not responsible for vector-borne diseases.
 - III Global warming is not all bad.
- A. I and II
 - B. II and III
 - C. I and III
 - D. I, II and III [] (2 marks)
7. In paragraph 7 (lines 53-65), the question “How then can climate-change policies help to reduce global warming?” (line 53) is followed by
- A. an explanation of the problem of global warming and the difficulties of how to solve the problem.
 - B. an explanation of the various ways in which climate change policies can help to reduce global warming.
 - C. a description of the intended solution to the global warming and the problem associated with this approach.
 - D. an explanation of the various steps that can be taken to solve the problem and the condition under which such an approach will work. [] (2 marks)
8. What is the economic impact of global warming proposals in the U.S. (lines 66 – 79)?
- I The poor and old will be affected as they will have no means to pay for the energy.
 - II The rich will be not be affected as they will still be able to pay for the energy.
 - III The job market will be affected – new jobs relating to working from home will probably be created.
- A. I and II
 - B. I and III
 - C. II and III
 - D. I, II and III [] (2 marks)

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9. Based on the passage, what is the likely result of the global warming policies that might be implemented?
- A. Reduction in carbon dioxide emissions will result from the sheer number of proposals that might be implemented.
 - B. Only significant reductions will make an impact on improving the current state of global warming.
 - C. The policies will not actually stop global warming.
 - D. The policies will stop global warming. [] (2 marks)
10. What is the author's position on global warming?
- A. It is not as serious a problem as it seems, so there is no need to limit greenhouse gas emissions from both developed and undeveloped countries.
 - B. It is quite a serious problem caused by developed countries, which thus need to address the issue by limiting their greenhouse gas emissions.
 - C. It is a serious problem caused by both developed and undeveloped countries, which therefore need to address the issue by limiting their greenhouse gas emissions.
 - D. It is a serious man-made problem but the economic problem arising from limiting greenhouse gas emissions would be an even bigger problem, so it is better not to limit such gas emissions. [] (2 marks)

SECTION C – ESSAY WRITING (70 MARKS)

This section tests your ability to produce a clear, coherent, cohesive, concise and organised essay. In order for you to formulate ideas for your essay, you are advised to do the following:

- Understand the content of the passages in Section A and Section B.
- Think about the following pre-writing questions. **Do not write answers to these questions.** You may use the reverse sides of pages 7 to 10 to make notes to help you plan your answer to the writing task.

Pre-writing questions

- Could there be an effective fight against global warming if governments unite their efforts? Why?
- What are some effective steps and measures taken in your country to combat global warming?
- How can we be vigilant about reducing green-house emissions today so that we do not suffer the effects of global warming tomorrow?

You should spend about 75 minutes on this task.

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The Writing Task

Reflect on the ideas generated from the pre-writing questions and from reading the two passages; then write **an essay of about 500 words** in response to the following question:

Although an issue that concerns the world, global warming is a problem with a solution that can only be established with the efforts of each individual. Do you agree with this statement? Defend your position with arguments and examples drawn from situations in your country.

Note that:

- You should state your own views and use clear examples and well-organised points to support your answer.
- You are encouraged to use ideas from the passages, but you should acknowledge the sources.

Your reader is a university lecturer.

Write the essay on pages 11 to 14.

END OF PAPER