
Analysis of Answers for GP Paper 2 Comprehension Exercise (‘Beliefs & Actions to Save the Earth’)

1. The author uses the word ‘shiver’ to suggest that we should **feel alarm** when we see the rate at which the Arctic is melting, and **as a pun** on the literal meaning of ‘shiver’ as related to its cold climate.

**Useful points to take note of:*

2. The author implies that what is needed for success is for all major stakeholders to **pay greater attention** to the climate problem, and for **radical action** to be taken **more quickly**.

**Useful points to take note of:*

3. Our instincts are working against us by making us more likely to **selfishly hoard Earth’s resources** instead of **saving them for future generations’ use**. We are also likely to **depend on other people to take actions on our behalf** to resolve the climate issue, with the consequence that **nobody ends up doing anything**.

**Useful points to take note of:*

4. The vision of progress in materialistic terms is like the ‘religion of the modern world’ as we **believe in it uncritically**; we are **not allowed to point out its flaws**; and **it is propagated with zeal**, which is similar to how most religions operate.

**Useful points to take note of:*

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5. This is because **constant economic expansion is presumed to improve our welfare** and it is the benchmark of how politicians seeking office are assessed. As such, those who urge people to be less preoccupied with endless economic advancement are **immediately disregarded** as being **impractical** and **ignorant**.

**Useful points to take note of:*

- 6 (a). The author views human actions to be **extremely damaging** to the Earth.

- 6 (b). The author wants to evoke a sense of **disgust** and **guilt** in the reader for what humans have done to the Earth.

**Useful points to take note of:*

7. The author is implying that saving the planet is often **not viewed to be as important to us** as going for our yearly holiday because the word 'just' suggests something of lower priority or value.

**Useful points to take note of:*

8. The author is **disdainful** of green consumers as can be seen from how their minimal efforts to save the Earth are **ineffective** when they **continue to indulge in other behaviour** that have a far larger negative impact on the environment.

**Useful points to take note of:*

9. The author says this because reducing our consumption levels **should be the key step** in combating climate change, but we have **erroneously prioritized** reusing and recycling instead.

**Useful points to take note of:*

10. Summary Question (ANSWERS)

#	<i>Points from the Passage</i>	<i>Paraphrased Points</i>
1	Those in power aggressively promote industries which boost the economy (l.37)	Governments / The authorities relentlessly / constantly pushing for / encouraging economic growth / development / progress
2	no matter how much they contaminate the environment. (l.37-8)	Regardless of how / even though this degrades / destroys / damages / pollutes the environment
3	Decision-makers trade lush forests for concrete jungles without any qualms. (l.38-9)	(Transform EG.) Leaders / Policymakers sacrifice / exchange green spaces for urban development without hesitation / guilt / remorse
4	They devise ways to keep businesses functioning round the clock (l.39-40)	Firms / Companies operate / work continually
5	ignoring the drain on resources... (l.40)	(Drop ELAB.) straining limited / scarce resources
6	In an era where making money matters above all else, businesses are only concerned with getting people to spend more (l.41-2)	(Transform CONTEXT) To make profits, companies only care about / focus on / give attention to making consumers buy / purchase more
7	so the idea of designing products and packaging for maximum reuse, repair and refurbishment is anachronistic. (l.42-3)	(Inferred) Items / goods that do not last / wear out / spoil easily
8	All our items end up in an ever-growing heap in a landfill or in an incinerator. (l.43-4)	Increasing / escalating waste
9	many countries are so overwhelmed by their own waste that they export it to poorer countries. (l.44-5)	Countries send / transfer / dump their rubbish elsewhere
10	some claim that it is only through these poor countries' participation in the global waste trade...regardless of the environmental impact! (l.45-8)	(Inferred) worsening / exacerbating / aggravating the land pollution problem
11	Wealth generation requires the relentless consumption of fossil fuels (l.49)	Rising / increasing affluence / prosperity results in endless / non-stop fossil fuel use

12	fuels even more consumption (l.49)	And more purchases / buying
13	we are becoming increasingly preoccupied with the acquisition of consumer goods and the accumulation of luxury experiences because (l.50-1)	We are obsessed / fixated with material possessions / comfort / extravagance / indulgences as
14	we see these as markers of social status (l.51-2)	they reflect / flaunt / display our socio-economic class / position
15	This is, arguably, exacerbated by the pressure many feel to make the highlight reel of their lives on social media as envy-inducing as possible. (l.52-3)	Made worse / aggravated / compounded by the impetus / expectation / stress to impress people online
16	Think of the outfits-of-the-day that must never be repeated (l.54-5)	(Transform EG.) We engage in throwaway fashion
17	Think of the 'influencers' who receive package after package of products to promote – where do the items end up when the reviews are over? (l.56-7)	(Transform EG.) endlessly market goods / items which add to waste / junk
18	Think of the regular trips to far-flung corners of the world, and how everyone races to be the first to 'discover' a pristine beach untouched by mass tourism (l.57-9)	(Transform EG.) frequent long-distance trips / holidays to exotic locations
19	leaving a trail of trash in their wake. (l.59)	Resulting in littering
20	Global tourism has expanded so rapidly that it now accounts for eight per cent of greenhouse gas emissions. (l.60-1)	(Drop STATS) contributing to our carbon footprint

Sample Summary Answer

One negative impact on the environment is due to [governments constantly pushing for economic growth]¹ [regardless of how this degrades the environment]². **While** [leaders sacrifice green spaces for urban development without hesitation]³, [firms operate continuously,]⁴ **thereby** [straining limited resources]⁵. **Moreover**, [in order to make profits, companies focus on making consumers purchase more]⁶ [goods that wear out easily]⁷, **resulting in** [increased waste]⁸. [Countries **also** send their rubbish elsewhere]⁹, [exacerbating the land pollution problem]¹⁰. **Furthermore**, [rising affluence leads to endless fossil fuel use]¹¹ and [more buying]¹². **Socially**, [we are obsessed with material possessions as they]¹³ [reflect our socio-economic status]¹⁴. **Today**, [this is compounded by the impetus to impress people online]¹⁵, **causing us to** [engage in throwaway fashion]¹⁶ and [take frequent long-distance trips to exotic locations]¹⁸, [which contributes to our carbon footprint]²⁰.

(120 words)

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