

Fuel and the environment

Complete this essay with words from the Academic Word list

Achieve approach appropriate consequences emphasis ensure environ-
ment environmental global individual individuals intensive
summary policy priorities summary ultimately

The best way to solve the world's environmental problems is to increase the cost of fuel. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Most people would accept that one of the highest 1. _____ today is to find a solution on the various 2. _____ problems facing mankind. It has been suggested that the best way to 3. _____ this is for governments to raise the price of fuel. I am, however, not sure that this is necessarily the case.

One reason why this 4. _____ may not work is that there is not just one environmental problem the world faces today. If governments did make fuel more expensive, it might well help reduce the amount of carbon dioxide we produce, and so slow down the rate of 5. _____ warming and air pollution. However, it would not help with other major problems, such as 6. _____ farming, overpopulation or water pollution. For these problems we need to find other solutions.

A second reason why this approach may not be the most 7. _____ is that it places the 8. _____ on governmental 9. _____ and not 10. _____ responsibility. 11. _____, most environmental problems are the result of the way we as 12. _____ live our lives. If we wish to find a long-term and lasting solution to them, we need to learn to live in a way that is greener or kinder to the 13. _____. What governments need to do to make this happen is to 14. _____ there is a global programme to educate people of all ages about the environmental 15. _____ to their actions.

In 17. _____, I believe that increasing the level of taxation on fuel is at best a short-term solution to only one environmental problem. If we wish to provide a home for our children's children, education is likely to be the key to making this happen.