

Reading

Task 1

Read the article and choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

9 According to the writer, the effects of climate change are not

- A noticeable.
- B global.
- C damaging.
- D reversible.

10 In paragraph 1, the writer

- A explains how easy it is to fight against climate change in groups.
- B blames people for not taking any action to prevent climate change.
- C implies that change can only happen when individuals take action.
- D suggests we should review how our actions have affected the planet.

11 In lines 36 and 37, what does the writer mean by 'we only need to take the initiative'?

- A We shouldn't be indecisive if we are to succeed.
- B We can only make a difference by making changes.
- C We shouldn't wait for others in order to take action.
- D We should do something and not worry about the rest.

12 The writer believes that the easiest way to encourage children to be greener is by

- A helping them to understand the importance of climate change.
- B constantly reminding them of the impact of their actions.
- C giving them something in recognition of their efforts.
- D acting in a way that shows them how they should act.

13 In lines 71 and 72 'shouldn't take their impact for granted' implies that in their fight against climate change, people

- A underestimate the value of the small steps they can take.
- B accept minor changes to their lifestyle without any questions.
- C are eager to learn about simple but effective lifestyle choices.
- D are optimistic about how their contribution can be effective.

14 In the last paragraph the writer tries

- A to get readers to sign a very specific petition.
- B to encourage readers to take part in more projects.
- C to inform people about different fundraising events.
- D to notify them of some local and national events.

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Task 2

Read the article again and answer the questions in your own words.

15 Explain 'knowing where to start'. (line 16)

16 What does the writer mean by 'Don't let the consumerism get the best of you?' (line 22)

17 What does 'the power of collective action' mean? (line 36)

18 What do you understand by 'It's down to individuals'? (lines 57 and 58)

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Total: ___/50

Climate Change

There's a consensus among scientists that climate change is real and the planet is getting warmer. Rising sea levels, melting arctic ice and record high temperatures are some of the tell-tale signs that the Earth's surface has undergone unprecedented warming over the last century. It is believed that the trends observed over this period are probably the result of human activity; primarily caused by putting too much carbon in the atmosphere. The impact is visible and while we cannot avoid some level of warming caused by emissions already present in the atmosphere or undo the damage we have already caused, we should endeavour to reduce global warming before it reaches truly dangerous levels. The time is now for each of us to act.

Since knowing where to start is the challenge many of us are facing, we have tried to highlight some areas that need our attention on the path to tackling climate change and creating a healthier and cleaner planet. These acts might seem small but added up around the world they can make a big difference.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Don't let consumerism get the best of you – find happiness in activities that provide more purpose than buying and consuming which have a devastating impact on the environment. Producing new things not only requires energy and resources but also creates waste and pollution in every step of the process and releases greenhouse gases. Try to find satisfaction in sharing, fixing, making, repurposing, upcycling and composting instead. Challenge yourself and see how long you can go without buying something new.

Become more climate-friendly

A big contributor to pollution is transportation, which accounts for a significant amount of global CO₂ emissions. While it has put policy makers under a lot of pressure to find a solution, we shouldn't forget our role and the power of collective action; we only need to take the initiative. There are a number of simple personal climate solutions that can be considered. We can start by driving less, and using public transport more or even carpooling. Why not leave the car in the garage and walk or cycle for short trips? Walking and cycling will not only benefit the environment but also our health. Even a relatively small worldwide increase in cycling could go a long way towards cutting CO₂ emissions in a relatively short space of time.

Education

Preventing climate change in the future requires the involvement of schools and institutions. Teaching children about the Earth and the importance of protecting it will encourage them to be more environmental friendly. Motivate them through leading by example. If you have children, get them to reduce waste. Involve them in recycling; help them to embrace the basics of being environmentally responsible. With a few things here and there, you can easily get them on the path to greener living.

Improving Energy Efficiency

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is one of the best ways to mitigate the impact of climate change. It's down to individuals to take steps to reduce their carbon footprints by making small changes to their daily lifestyle which without a doubt will save energy and money as well as making life healthier and homes more comfortable. For example, you can start by unplugging appliances when they are not in use. The effect might seem insignificant but it will reduce your electricity usage and your bill. When it comes to replacing domestic and electrical equipment, consider purchasing a more energy efficient model. If you have the opportunity to improve your house, you can look into investing in double glazed windows but remember that the benefit will be long-term. These are some of the small changes that you can make, but we shouldn't take their impact for granted.

And if you wish to do more, to make a difference and influence others, try to join a campaign at a local or a national level; help raise awareness or funds to support a movement. Or power a movement by giving to a cause, spreading the word through social media or simply by putting your name on one of the many environmentally themed petitions that are available online.