

Practice 1

SECTION B

[10 marks]

[Time suggested: 25 minutes]

Questions 16 – 25

Read the following text and answer the questions that follow.

GLOBAL WARMING – THE INCONVENIENT TRUTH

Greenhouse gas emissions by mankind's activities have led to a phenomenon called global warming. It is the warming of the Earth's atmosphere by the greenhouse gases. The heat from the sun is reflected back to the Earth by the greenhouse gases thereby causing the temperature of the Earth's atmosphere to rise.

Carbon dioxide, methane, water vapour, oxides of nitrogen and ozone are naturally occurring gases in the atmosphere. They help to keep the Earth at the right temperature for living things to thrive. However, human activities are upsetting the balance of these gases in the atmosphere.

Human beings and all other animals breathe out carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas. It is also produced in large quantities when trees and fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas are burnt. Green plants absorb carbon dioxide but not as fast as it is produced. So the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is slowly but steadily increasing.

Global warming does not mean that everywhere on Earth is getting warmer. Some places warm up while others get colder; some become drier while others have more rainfall. The undesirable effects of global warming in the form of drastic climatic changes are being felt all over the world now.

Global warming has led to increased melting of the ice-caps in the arctic and Antarctic poles. This will lead to an increase in sea-levels, ecological problems to underwater marine life and other related problems. The intensity of natural disasters such as typhoons, hurricanes and floods has increased. Climate scientists have predicted that uncontrolled global warming will eventually lead to drought, starvation and diseases such as Malaria.

Source: Sunday Star

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