# LESSON 6 – HOMEWORK

## Reading

You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 1–13**, which are based on the reading passage below.

*If you want a career in environmental management, it pays to invest in the latest training.*

Anyone whose job involves the environment can be sure of one thing: they'll be working in one of the fastest-changing areas of the workplace today. The upshot is that sound training and continuing professional development have never been more important.

But anyone yawning at the very thought of endless dry courses should think again. 'Lots of people turn up to our courses because environmental standards have been bolted onto their job and they've been told to get some training,' says Anne Miller, principal environmental consultant at Woodland Grange training centre. 'Often, they're people who work in health and safety and you can see them thinking, "Oh no, I'm in for a dull day", but they go away on a high, feeling buzzy and saying "What next?" Those already working in the sector, who are updating their knowledge base, say the same.

Contrary to popular belief, training isn't just about the latest legislation, says Miller. 'A greater driver for businesses is reputation. If they look good in terms of what they're doing environmentally, it's good PR. As a result, organizations want their environmental people to go the extra mile. Very often, people phone us afterwards and say, 'Wow, we've just identified tens of thousands of pounds of savings because we're managing our waste or consumption better.' The courses always lead to good news stories.'

Claire Lea, director of membership services at the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), agrees. 'If, say, someone wants to learn about environmental management systems implementation, they could go on a three-to five-day course and learn about the different components and then go back and talk to management about developing an environmental policy, including setting objectives and targets.'

Some people become interested in a career with an environmental slant after studying an A-level in environmental science or even business studies, where corporate social responsibility is a growing issue. For others, the passion for environmental issues begins at degree level, where again they may study business or alternatively geography, another science or one of the fast-growing number of specific environment-related degrees. The third group of people only really get interested when the topic affects their job.

In terms of the training on offer once you're in work, the breadth is huge-ranging from short half-day courses through to Masters degrees, which can be done part-time or by distance learning. One of the best things about all such courses, says Lea, is that as the learner, you get to influence the syllabus. 'If people demand courses in certain subjects-for example, sustainable procurement-we try to work with training course providers to develop a syllabus.'

The IEMA don't actually provide courses, but they work with course providers, approving the best ones. 'The courses we approve are dynamic,' says Lea. 'I think there's a recognition that, especially if you are teaching about legislation, then that teaching could be boring. There has been a push to make sure it isn't, which means being interactive and case study-driven and possibly online. It's about making the subject applicable, rather than looking at every bit of detail.'

Steve Newman, senior environmental consultant for Mouchel, the consulting and business services group, teaches a university environmental impact course as part of his CPD. Newman joined Mouchel after he switched careers and did an MSc in environmental assessment and management, which he completed in 2004. His distinction quickly led to a job in the environmental planning and sustainability division of Mouchel, for whom he now runs teams in Brighton and Haywards Heath. 'One day we could be working on a pipeline project and the next a new dual carriageway or coastal flood defences,' he says.

David Hicks, course manager for the MSc in integrated environmental management at Bath University – which students study via distance learning – says he sees many career changers. 'We've had IT consultants with strong green leanings wanting to convert to environmental consultants and we've had people coming out of the forces wanting an environmental career. Then there are other people who do a job in something like banking, but they want to incorporate environmental issues into their work.'

Richard Ball, senior consultant at Corporate Risk Systems, advises people – whatever their level of training – to consider whether what they learn will be genuinely relevant to a current or future employer. 'The deep green stuff like climatology might sound interesting, but you do need to check if an employer will value it. Try to get a set of skills you can actually use – and if you're starting out, don't forget to accompany it with some practical experience, whether paid or voluntary.'

After Ball's BSc in environmental management, he struggled to find the job he wanted and settled for a purchasing role in the automotive industry. 'But after just six months, they asked if I'd be interested in becoming health, safety and environment adviser,' he says. 'I said yes before a salary was even mentioned.' He was given training through courses and a best-practice programme, through which someone came in once every two weeks to show him how to implement his strategy. It led to him making immediate energy savings of 15 per cent. 'These days, my CPD focuses more on specific subject areas. I love keeping up-to-date with topics. It's so engaging,' he says.

The next step is to get all workers trained up. 'Everyone has a part to play in terms of the environment, from HR to finance to IT to operations,' says Bekir Andrews, London environment manager for Groundwork UK, the training provider. 'Improving environmental performance is no longer just about switching off light-bulbs and recycling your cardboard and paper.'



LIVEWORKSHEETS

## Questions 1–6

Look at the following people (Questions 1–6) and the list of statements below.

Match each person with the correct statement, **A–H**.

1 Anne Miller

2 Claire Lea

3 Steve Newman

4 David Hicks

5 Richard Ball

6 Bekir Andrews

**List of Statements**

**A** The work varies from one day to the next.

**B** Employees should receive a visit at least every two weeks as part of their training.

**C** People expect the environmental management training to be boring, but they leave feeling happy.

**D** The courses that are offered are practical rather than just learning facts.

**E** Corporate social responsibility is not increasing in importance.

**F** People move from different professions into jobs connected with the environment.

**G** All departments in a company need to work together to help the environment.

**H** How the training received is then applied in businesses.

## Questions 7–12

Complete the sentences.

Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

7 People in jobs connected with the environment are currently in one of the ..... in the field of work.

8 According to Claire Lea, businesses are more interested in their ..... when receiving management training than in being updated on legislation.

9 People choose a career with an ..... for three main reasons.

10 Postgraduate degree courses, including Masters, can be studied part-time or via ..... .

11 The IEMA's job is to liaise with ..... .

12 It is important that any training done needs to be ..... to employers.

## Question 13

Choose the correct letter, **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**.

What is the best title for the reading passage?

**A** How to cultivate a green career

**B** The importance of the going green

**C** Working hard in a new way

**D** How to choose the right short course



LIVEWORKSHEETS