Climate change and pollution

2.1 **Complete the text with words from the box.**

acid	biodiversity	contaminated	deforestation	ecosystems	emissions	
environmental	erosion	exhaust	drought	fertilisers	greenhouse	waste

The advances made by humans have made us the dominant species on our planet. However, several eminent scientists are concerned that we have become too successful, that our way of life is putting an **unprecedented** strain on the Earth's (1)..... and threatening our future as a species. We are confronting (2)..... problems that are more **taxing** than ever before, some of them seemingly **insoluble**. Many of the Earth's crises are **chronic** and **inexorably** linked. Pollution is an obvious example of this affecting our air, water and soil.

The air is polluted by (3)..... produced by cars and industry. Through (4)..... rain and (5)..... gases these same (6)..... fumes can have a **devastating** impact on our climate. Climate change is arguably the greatest environmental challenge facing our planet with increased storms, floods, (7)..... and species losses predicted. This will **inevitably** have a negative impact on (8)..... and thus our ecosystem.

The soil is (9)..... by factories and power stations which can leave heavy metals in the soil. Other human activities such as the overdevelopment of land and the clearing of trees also take their toll on the quality of our soil; (10)..... has been shown to cause soil (11)..... . Certain farming practices can also pollute the land though the use of chemical pesticides and (12)..... . This contamination in turn affects our rivers and waterways and damages life there. The chemicals enter our food chain, moving from fish to mammals to us. Our crops are also grown on land that is far from **pristine**. Affected species include the polar bear, so not even the Arctic is **immune**.

Reducing (13)..... and clearing up pollution costs money. Yet it is our quest for wealth that generates so much of the refuse. There is an urgent need to find a way of life that is less damaging to the Earth. This is not easy, but it is **vital**, because pollution is **pervasive** and often life-threatening.

2.2 **Match the words in bold with these synonyms.**

1 unspoiled ..... pristine .....
2 crucial .....
3 unparalleled .....
4 extremely harmful .....
5 insurmountable .....
6 unaffected .....
7 omnipresent .....
8 unavoidably (×2) ....
9 persistent .....
10 challenging .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4.2 **Complete the sentences using the negative form of the words in brackets.**

> **Vocabulary note**
>
> The prefix *ir-* is often used with adjectives beginning with *r* to form the opposite or to mean lacking something: *reversible*, ***ir****reversible*, *regular*, ***ir****regular*. Some words beginning with *r* form their opposite with *un-*: *realistic*, *unrealistic*.

1 It is unrealistic (*realistic*) to expect everyone to change their buying habits overnight.

2 When it comes to protecting the environment, cost should be ..... (*relevant*).

3 It is ..... (*reasonable*) for rich countries to expect developing countries to reduce carbon emissions immediately.

4 People who dump chemical waste into our waterways are very ..... (*responsible*) .

5 The oil spill has caused ..... (*repairable*) damage to several marine species.

6 Scientists believe that the damage to this area is ..... (*reversible*) .

7 These species are .....(*replaceable*) . Once they are lost our ecosystem will be changed.

8 It is a mistake to think that increased consumerism and environmental damage are ..... (*related*) .

LIVEWORKSHEETS