

Answer Question 1 **and either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

- 1 The following text is taken from a speech given by Al Gore, a prominent environmental activist and former Vice President of the United States, to mark his acceptance of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. Gore delivered the speech at the Nobel Prize Award Ceremony in Oslo, Norway.

(a) Comment on the language and style of the text. [15]

(b) After hearing the speech, you and your friends decide to launch a campaign to raise awareness of climate change in your local community.

Basing your writing closely on the material of the original passage, and using 120 to 150 of your own words, write a section of a leaflet that you will use to launch your campaign. [10]

In the years since this prize was first awarded, the entire relationship between humankind and the earth has been radically transformed. And still, we have remained largely oblivious to the impact of our cumulative actions.

Indeed, without realizing it, we have begun to wage war on the earth itself. Now, we and the earth's climate are locked in a relationship familiar to war planners: 'Mutually assured destruction'. 5

More than two decades ago, scientists calculated that nuclear war could throw so much debris and smoke into the air that it would block life-giving sunlight from our atmosphere, causing a 'nuclear winter'. Their eloquent warnings here in Oslo helped galvanize the world's resolve to halt the nuclear arms race. 10

Now science is warning us that if we do not quickly reduce the global warming pollution that is trapping so much of the heat our planet normally radiates back out of the atmosphere, we are in danger of creating a permanent 'carbon summer'.

As the American poet Robert Frost wrote, 'Some say the world will end in fire; some say in ice'. Either, he notes, 'would suffice'. 15

But neither need be our fate. It is time to make peace with the planet.

We must quickly mobilize our civilization with the urgency and resolve that has previously been seen only when nations mobilized for war. These prior struggles for survival were won when leaders found words at the 11th hour that released a mighty surge of courage, hope and readiness to sacrifice for a protracted and mortal challenge. 20

These were not comforting and misleading assurances that the threat was not real or imminent; that it would affect others but not ourselves; that ordinary life might be lived even in the presence of extraordinary threat; that Providence could be trusted to do for us what we would not do for ourselves. 25

No, these were calls to come to the defense of the common future. They were calls upon the courage, generosity and strength of entire peoples, citizens of every class and condition who were ready to stand against the threat once asked to do so. Our enemies in those times calculated that free people would not rise to the challenge; they were, of course, catastrophically wrong. 30

Now comes the threat of climate crisis – a threat that is real, rising, imminent, and universal. Once again, it is the 11th hour. The penalties for ignoring this challenge are immense and growing, and at some near point would be unsustainable and unrecoverable. For now we still have the power to choose our fate, and the remaining question is only this: Have we the will to act vigorously and in time, or will we remain imprisoned by a dangerous illusion?

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Mahatma Gandhi awakened the largest democracy on earth and forged a shared resolve with what he called ‘Satyagraha’ – or ‘truth force’.

In every land, the truth – once known – has the power to set us free.

Truth also has the power to unite us and bridge the distance between ‘me’ and ‘we’, creating the basis for common effort and shared responsibility.

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There is an African proverb that says, ‘If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.’ We need to go far, quickly.

We have everything we need to get started, save perhaps political will, but political will is a renewable resource.

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So let us renew it, and say together: ‘We have a purpose. We are many. For this purpose we will rise, and we will act.’

2 The following text is taken from a nonfiction book written by the British-American journalist, Simon Winchester.

(a) Comment on the language and style of the text. [15]

(b) United Airlines wish to promote their flight 154 service with a short promotional film, which will be broadcast on the airline's website. You have been asked to produce a script for the voiceover that will accompany the film's images.

Basing your writing closely on the material of the original passage, and using 120 to 150 of your own words, write the opening section of the voiceover script. [10]

United 154, operated most days by one of the more battered old planes from United's Hawaiian stable, and known locally as the island hopper, makes its journey along almost six thousand miles, and takes some fourteen shuddering hours to do so. It skitters southwestward, then westward, then northward, stopping along the way at five places – all of them islands, scattered among three different countries – that are even less familiar to most than is Guam's city of Hagatna. 5

UA154's first stops, of half an hour or so, are on the flat atolls¹ of Majuro and Kwajalein in the Republic of the Marshall Islands; it then does the same at runways that have been squeezed into the more dramatically mountainous and jungle-draped topographies of the islands of Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Chuuk, in the Federated States of Micronesia. 10

A scant few passengers travel all the way to Guam. There is much getting off and getting on, and luggage of daunting sizes and bewildering shapes is brought on and taken off at each stop. The crew members, leather-skinned old-timers who have some passing acquaintance with the local island languages, are obliged by United to make the entire journey. They will have recited their seat-belt and tray-table hymns no fewer than twelve times before final touchdown, and seem almost comatose with relief on their arrival in Guam. 15

In the popular European imagination, the Pacific Ocean contains many of the elements that are to be found along that six-thousand-mile passage between Honolulu and Hagatna. In every stopping place, it is invariably warm, tropical; both the sea and the sky are intensely blue, the air is sweetly breezy, and there are white sands and coral reefs and sparkling fish of vivid colours darting between the anemone fronds. The roads are decked with bougainvillea and flamboyant orchids and parrots, with papaya trees and palms of incredible profligacy² that drip with dates and bananas and coconuts. Palm trees are central to Pacific imagery: they are to be seen leaning slightly off the vertical, under the endless press of the trade winds, and thereby offering a picture-perfect and theatrically green backdrop for every beach scene; a frame for other equally familiar images of curling waves and spume; or as a border to an empty ocean panorama with its distant gatherings of surfers waiting patiently for the rollers to break and the seas to begin to run. 20 25 30

Such is in evidence everywhere, at every stop, on the United island hopper's run. Hawaii, the starting point, is of course the quintessential exemplar of the mixing of what outsiders see as Polynesian wisdom and transpacific migration. From Polynesia there is the soothing sound of the ukulele, the sight of the grass skirt, the blossom in thick black hair tipped behind the ear, the nut-brown skin, the dancing, the dancing, the dancing. 35

¹*atolls*: ring-shaped coral islands
²*profligacy*: excessive abundance

3 The following text is taken from an article in the lifestyle section of a newspaper.

(a) Comment on the language and style of the text. [15]

(b) After reading the article, you decide to post a response to it on your blog.

Basing your writing closely on the material of the original passage, and using 120 to 150 of your own words, write a section of your blog post. [10]

Why veganism isn't as environmentally friendly as you might think

Deciding to become vegan is not just about the health benefits. For many, one of the driving forces behind deciding to cut out meat and dairy products is to reduce the impact on the environment. Or at least, I thought it was.

This year has seen about 150,000 people taking part in Veganuary – a month to test the waters and see if they can live without animal products. It can be a testing time, but for many it's a short-lived gimmick rather than a lifestyle change, thinly cloaked as being a healthier way of life. 5

Just look at social media. There are more than 220,000 tags on Instagram for Veganuary and an un-scrollable amount on Twitter, featuring articles such as '12 of the best vegan Instagrammers to follow for Veganuary inspiration', where it becomes more about how pretty your food is rather than including information on where it's come from and the environmental impact it has. 10

And they're not the only joyriders hopping on the bandwagon; many companies are seeing the pound signs associated with veganism. Tesco has just launched a vegan range of food, as have certain other major supermarkets. The age-old UK ice-cream company Walls now has a non-dairy ice cream, and a whole hoard of newer food brands, such as the cult Pip and Nut and the Coconut Collaborative, base their very being on having no dairy. And almost all the supermarkets have vegan sections on their websites as our obsession with 'free from' items grows. 15 20

The world is our oyster

The number of vegans has increased 160 per cent over the past 10 years, but people need to be asking 'where has this food come from' as they fill their shopping baskets with the fruits of the world: pomegranates and mangos from India, lentils from Canada, beans from Brazil, blueberries from the US and goji berries from China. Eating lamb chops that come from a farm a few miles down the road is much better for the environment than eating an avocado that has travelled from the other side of the world. 25

As we greedily plunder the world's bread basket, it's the consumer who benefits, while those at the source can be left high and dry. Take avocados, whose prices have been pushed up so much by Western demand that they've become unaffordable to those who depend on them in their country of origin. 30

Let's 'avo some of that

Kenya – the world's sixth largest exporter of the fruit – banned exporting avocados last week because the country's supply is at risk. The Agriculture and Food Authority says the average price of a 90kg-bag of avocados has reached 2,560 Kenyan shillings (18 British pounds), the highest since May 2014. The majority of shortages have been seen in the most popular varieties, fuerte and hass, but across the board Kenya has seen an 18 per cent increase in its export in the past five years, up to 50,000 tons in 2016. 35
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And it's not just in Africa where the avocado fruit has dried up. Back in December Mexico was considering importing avocados, which have been a staple in the country for tens of thousands of years. The country's economy secretary, Ildefonso Guajardo, said although Mexico now supplies around 45 per cent of the world's avocados, it wasn't ruling out importing them for their own consumption. 45

Now, Mexico makes more money from exporting the stoned fruit than it does from petroleum, and it has become a driving force in illegal deforestation to make way for planting more avocado trees.

Current shifts in the food industry reveal we are aware we need to eat less meat and more vegetables, but there needs to be a sensible balance. 50

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