



The following documents consider issues related to tourism. Read them **both** in order to answer **all** the questions on the paper.

**Document 1:** adapted from *Tourism has devalued Everest*, written by Stephen Venables in 2013. The article was published in the UK 'Travel' magazine of 'The Telegraph' newspaper. The author was the first Briton to climb Everest without supplementary oxygen. He also wrote 'Higher than the Eagle Soars', a book about his climbing adventures on four continents.

Reaching the summit of mountains in the Himalayas, like Everest, is one of the most thrilling experiences life can offer. But what really matters is how you reach the summit. It used to be a prize earned through many years of training. When I climbed Everest in 1988, it was my tenth Himalayan expedition. We pioneered a new route, with just four climbers, no high-altitude porters to carry equipment, and no supplementary oxygen.

However, Everest, the highest mountain in the world, has now become the ultimate tick on the list of global adventure tourism. But, as the famous German-Italian climber Reinhold Messner recently explained, "adventure tourism" is often a contradictory term. Adventure is all about risk and uncertainty – not about buying a predictable, packaged service that costs £40,000 (USD 50,000) to make dreams come true.

Mark Jenkins, an experienced mountaineer, wrote for the National Geographic magazine about adventure tourism. He complained that people had to take no personal responsibility for the climbing experience. He was forced to take his place in the human chain, clipped to a handrail behind masses of less competent climbers.

To be fair, faced with huge numbers of inexperienced climbers, mountain guides probably think that their only option is to fix ropes virtually all the way from base camp to the summit. In terms of deaths per number of people on the mountain, Everest is statistically a much safer place than it used to be.

Last year more than 500 people reached the summit, and this year more than 700 are expected to do so. Yesterday climbers reported scenes of chaos as around 100 people tried to reach the summit in the space of a few hours.

One solution to the problem of overcrowding would be to ban the use of supplementary oxygen. H W Tilman, the great UK explorer and leader of the 1938 Everest expedition, said that there was a logical reason for not climbing with the help of oxygen. Why devalue the challenge of the summit just to help inexperienced climbers reach the top? Supplementary oxygen in effect lowers the altitude from 8,850 metres to 6,500 metres. Remove supplementary oxygen and there wouldn't be too many people trying to reach the summit.

Another solution would be for governments to reduce the numbers of climbers. Until the late 1980s, the Nepalese government allowed only one expedition at a time on any route. The Chinese operated a similar system in Tibet. Reinstate those rules and Everest would be peaceful again. However, none of this is likely to happen. Everest is a profitable market, so who wants to give that up? With climbing permits averaging about USD 10,000 each, the Kathmandu government in Nepal earns huge amounts of cash. Sherpas\* make money most other Nepalese can only dream about.

It just seems sad to me that Everest has become such a crowded place. Adventure tourism has clearly devalued climbing the world's highest mountain and I suspect that the real adventurers will seek their challenges, and experience of wild places elsewhere.

\* Sherpa: Nepalese mountain guide or porter working in the Everest area.

**Document 2:** adapted from *Mount Everest, the high-altitude rubbish dump* written by Paavan Mathema and Annabel Symington in 2018. The article was published by Phys.org a science, research and technology news organisation. Paavan Mathema is a multimedia journalist with the Kathmandu bureau of Agence France Press (AFP), and Annabel Symington is communications officer for 'The Times', in Nepal.

Many years of adventure tourism has turned Mount Everest into the world's highest rubbish dump, as an increasing number of big-spending inexperienced climbers pay little attention to the ugly waste they leave behind. As the number of Everest climbers has risen dramatically — to at least 600 in the last 6 months — the problem has worsened. Fluorescent tents, discarded climbing equipment, empty gas canisters and even human excrement, litter the well-trodden route to the summit. "It is disgusting, an eyesore," Pemba Dorje Sherpa, who has summited Everest 18 times, told AFP. "The mountain is carrying tonnes of waste."

Many efforts have been made to solve the problem. Deposits and fines have had some success. Five years ago Nepal implemented a USD 4,000 deposit per team that would be refunded if each climber brought down at least 8 kilos of waste. On the Tibet side of Everest, climbers are also required to bring down the same amount of waste and are fined USD 100 per kilo if they don't. The Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee (SPCC) is an NGO established by local Sherpas. According to their statistics, last year, climbers in Nepal successfully brought down nearly 25 tonnes of rubbish and 15 tonnes of excrement — in total the equivalent of three double-decker buses.

However, they warned that this is just a fraction of the waste dumped each year, as only half the climbers brought down the required 8 kilos. Instead, many climbers prefer to lose their deposit, which is tiny compared to the USD 20,000–USD 100,000 they will have paid for the experience. Pemba Dorje claims: "There is just not enough monitoring at the high camps to ensure the mountain stays clean." He shrugs and warns that many climbers just don't care, and some officials accept small bribes to turn a blind eye, which makes the problem worse.

Damian Benegas from Patagonia in Latin America has been climbing Everest for over 20 years. He says that low-cost expedition operators desperate for customers attract ever more inexperienced climbers. He warns that this is making the rubbish problem worse. "Sherpas have to carry the client's gear (including tents, extra oxygen cylinders and ropes) so they are unable to carry down rubbish." Previously, experienced climbers would take their own personal kit. But now many mountaineers can't manage, leaving the Sherpas to carry everything. He added that expedition operators need to employ more high-altitude workers to ensure all clients, their kit and rubbish get safely up and down the mountain.

Former president of the Nepal Mountaineering Association, Ang Tsering Sherpa, believes another solution would be a dedicated rubbish collection team. He says his expedition operator Asian Trekking, which has been running "Eco Everest Expeditions" for the last 10 years, has brought down over 18 tonnes of rubbish during that time in addition to the required 8 kilo climber quota. China's state-run Global Times also reported that last month a clean-up team of 30 workers retrieved 8.5 tonnes of waste from the northern slopes.

Overall, as Ang said, "It is not an easy job. The government needs to motivate groups to clean up and enforce rules more strictly." There are solutions, they just need to be implemented and monitored.

**BLANK PAGE**

---

Permission to reproduce items where third-party owned material protected by copyright is included has been sought and cleared where possible. Every reasonable effort has been made by the publisher (UCLES) to trace copyright holders, but if any items requiring clearance have unwittingly been included, the publisher will be pleased to make amends at the earliest possible opportunity.

To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced online in the Cambridge Assessment International Education Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download at [www.cambridgeinternational.org](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org) after the live examination series.

Cambridge Assessment International Education is part of Cambridge Assessment. Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which is a department of the University of Cambridge.