

IoL EDUCATIONAL TRUST
INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMA IN
BILINGUAL COMMUNICATION

(IDBC)

MODULE 1

SUMMARY IN CHINESE

NOVEMBER 2008

Time allowed: 2½ hours

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

1. *Write only your candidate number on your examination script. Do NOT write your name.*
2. *Some sheets may be printed on both sides. Please ensure that you look at both sides of each sheet.*
3. *Simplified or traditional characters may be used.*
4. *Please read the task brief very carefully before producing your answer.*
5. *Only dictionaries in book form can be used in this examination. Electronic dictionaries must NOT be used.*
6. *You may NOT remove the test paper from the examination room.*

INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMA IN BILINGUAL COMMUNICATION 2008

Module 1

CANDIDATE'S TASK BRIEF

Simplified Characters

你在一个环保机构工作，机构内的网络传讯部主管要求你写一篇按外国类似机构、政府及传媒对环保这个问题的评论，在你工作机构的网页上发布。请用主管给你的英文资料，作为你中文评论的据点。

Traditional Characters

你在一個環保機構工作，機構內的網絡傳訊部主管要求你寫一篇按外國類似機構、政府及傳媒對環保這個問題的評論，在你工作機構的網頁上發佈。請用主管給你的英文資料，作為你中文評論的據點。

Dossier

"Climate Change" Greenpeace UK, 2008 www.greenpeace.org.uk

"Energy – its impact on the environment and society", Department of Trade and Industry 2006 www.berr.gov.uk

"Environmental Failures 'put humanity at risk'" by Martin Hodgson, The Guardian 26 October 2007 www.guardian.co.uk

Science and Nature: Pollution, BBC, 2008 www.bbc.co.uk

FOCUS POINTS

Simplified Characters

- (1) 气候改变是否无可避免呢？根据绿色和平组织的分析，人类，特别是我们的政治机构，如何可以把环保做得更好？气温上升对我们环境的影响又是如何呢？
- (2) 列出家用能源上升的原因，英国的家庭单位及个别消费者应如何去克服这方面的难题呢？

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- (3) 最近由联合国出版的一份报告评论人类行为与环保两者之间的影响。引述报告的评论，就政治领袖、人类的活动、国际之间的合作及动植物灭绝，来证明世界环境的倒退。
- (4) 环境污染如何影响全球性的温度上升呢？评论由化学污染、用水污染、废物污染及人类滥用天然资料产生的后果。

FOCUS POINTS

Traditional Characters

- (1) 氣候改變是否無可避免呢？根據綠色和平組織的分析，人類，特別是我們的政治機構，如何可以把環保做得更好？氣溫上升對我們環境的影響又是如何呢？
- (2) 列出家用能源上升的原因，英國的家庭單位及個別消費者應如何去克服這方面的難題呢？
- (3) 最近由聯合國出版的一份報告評論人類行為與環保兩者之間的影響。引述報告的評論，就政治領袖、人類的活動、國際之間的合作及動植物滅絕，來證明世界環境的倒退。
- (4) 環境污染如何影響全球性的溫度上升呢？評論由化學污染、用水污染、廢物污染及人類濫用天然資源產生的後果。

Climate Change

Greenpeace UK 2008

The world is warming up. Already 150,000 people are dying every year because of climate change and, within 50 years, one-third of all land-based species could face extinction. If we carry on the way we are now, by 2100 the planet will likely be hotter than it's been at any point in the past two million years.

But catastrophic climate change isn't inevitable. We know that climate change is caused by burning fossil fuels. The technologies that could dramatically reduce our dependence on fossil fuels – decentralised energy, renewables and efficiency, hybrid cars, efficient buildings – already exist and have been proven to work. If we start cutting our emissions now, using these ready-to-go technologies, then there is still a chance to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate change.

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What we're lacking is real action. The government needs to put in place meaningful policies to urgently reduce emissions – and to act on them immediately. Under the current Government, carbon emissions have risen. It is set to miss its own emissions targets. Whether through political cowardice or industry lobbying, the government is failing to put their words into action. We're the last generation that can stop this global catastrophe, and we need your help.

For all the technological gloss of the 21st century, the UK is still living in an industrial era, pumping out emissions from coal, oil and gas. Worse, our energy is supplied through a criminally wasteful, centralised energy system; two thirds of all energy generated in UK power stations is lost as waste heat – up the chimney and along transmission lines. But there are clean, affordable and proven solutions for the most polluting sectors: electricity, transport, industry and domestic consumption.

This massive and rapid change to our climate is like nothing humankind has seen before. As such, the science around it has been cautious and careful in reaching consensus over time. But a strong consensus has finally been reached; the scientific community now agrees that climate change is real, it's caused by human activity and it's already happening.

The 0.6 degree rise we've experienced already kills 150,000 people every year. Glaciers, permafrost and sea ice are disappearing. Sea levels are rising, seasons changing and extreme weather becoming more extreme. As temperatures increase further, there will almost inevitably be more flooding, more drought, more disease, more famine and more war, creating hundreds of millions of refugees and causing the destruction of entire ecosystems and species.

An average temperature rise of around 1.3 degrees centigrade above pre-industrial levels is already inevitable and will bring with it some terrible impacts worldwide. If that figure hits two degrees, many scientists say that not only will the impacts be much greater, but the probability of feedback mechanisms kicking in will be much higher; climate change could spiral completely out of control. Some studies say we have 10 years or less to tackle emissions if we are to stay below that temperature threshold.

Energy in our Homes

“Energy – its impact on the environment and society”, Department of Trade and Industry 2006

Just under one-third of this energy consumption takes place in our homes. It increased by 15 per cent between 1990 and 2005, driven by changes in the way we live. First, there has been an increase in the number of households, as more people live alone. Secondly, we keep our homes warmer in winter than we used to. Average temperatures inside domestic dwellings are estimated to have increased from 16 degrees in 1990 to 18 degrees in 2004, helped by the increased prevalence of central heating. Thirdly, household incomes have risen steadily and this has resulted in the purchase of more and bigger appliances in homes.

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The increase in energy consumption from these factors has been offset significantly by increases in thermal insulation of the housing stock and improvement in the efficiency of some appliances. In the last five years, around one million homes had their wall cavities filled with insulating material, in almost all cases at low cost to consumers through schemes promoted by suppliers in connection with the Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC) and its predecessor. However, more can still be done since 8 per cent of all homes in Great Britain still had no insulation at all at the end of 2004 and well over half of all households with cavity walls had not had them filled.

Consumers are driving the increase in the household consumption of energy, but they often lack an understanding of the way in which they use energy. Better understanding of the way in which they use energy could help consumers to play a bigger part in reducing carbon emissions. The Government's intention in the Energy Review is to empower everyone with better information about the energy they are using and encourage the introduction of real-time energy use displays.

Choices that we make about where we live and work, how we keep ourselves warm, where we holiday, how we choose to interact with technology impact on the quantity of energy we use and thus the amount of carbon emissions for which we are responsible.

Key decisions that we each make can determine our rates of energy consumption for many years to come. For example, when we move home, whilst we might take some measures to insulate our new home better, its size, structure and the materials with which it is built will determine the cost of heating it to a comfortable temperature throughout the time we live there. Similarly, when we buy a car, it largely commits us to a certain rate of fuel consumption whenever we use it until we change it. Our energy consumption in our homes and moving around, mainly in cars, accounts for half of total UK final energy consumption.

Environmental Failures “put humanity at risk”

Martin Hodgson, The Guardian 26 October 2007

The future of humanity has been put at risk by a failure to address environmental problems including climate change, species extinction and a growing human population, according to a new UN report.

In a sweeping audit of the world's environmental wellbeing, the study by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) warns that governments are still failing to recognise the seriousness of major environmental issues.

The study, involving more than 1,400 scientists, found that human consumption had far outstripped available resources. Each person on Earth now requires a third more land to supply his or her needs than the planet can supply, it finds.

Meanwhile, biodiversity is seriously threatened by the impact of human activities: 30% of amphibians, 23% of mammals and 12% of birds are under threat of extinction, while one in 10 of the world's large rivers runs dry every year before it reaches the sea.

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The report - entitled *Global Environment Outlook: Environment for Development* - reviews progress made since a similar study in 1987 which laid the groundwork for studying environmental issues affecting the planet.

Since the 1987 study, *Our Common Future*, the global response "has in some cases been courageous and inspiring," said the environment programme's executive director Achim Steiner. The international community has cut ozone-damaging chemicals, negotiated the Kyoto protocol and other international environmental treaties and supported a rise in protected areas which cover 12% of the world.

"But all too often the response has been slow and at a pace and scale that fails to respond to or recognise the magnitude of the challenges facing the people and the environment of the planet," Mr Steiner said. "The systematic destruction of the Earth's natural and nature-based resources has reached a point where the economic viability of economies is being challenged - and where the bill we hand to our children may prove impossible to pay," he said.

Climate change is a global priority that demands political leadership, but there has been "a remarkable lack of urgency" in the response, which the report characterised as "woefully inadequate". The report's authors say its objective is "not to present a dark and gloomy scenario, but an urgent call to action". It warns that tackling the problems may affect the vested interests of powerful groups, and that the environment must be moved to the core of decision-making.

The report said irreversible damage to the world's climate will be likely unless greenhouse gas emissions drop to below 50% of their 1990 levels before 2050. To reach this level, the richer countries must cut emissions by 60% to 80% by 2050 and developing countries must also make significant reductions, it says.

It addresses a number of areas where environmental degradation is threatening human welfare and the planet, including water, over-fishing and biodiversity - where the UNEP says a sixth, human-induced, extinction is under way. Billions of people in the developing world are put at risk by a failure to remedy relatively simple problems such as waterborne disease, the study says.

The report took five years to prepare. It was researched and drafted by almost 400 scientists, whose findings were peer-reviewed by 1,000 others. One of the report's authors, Joseph Alcamo, said that race is on to determine if leaders move fast enough to save the planet. "The question for me, for us perhaps, is whether we're going to make it to a more slowly changing world or whether we're going to hit a brick wall in the Earth's system first," he said. "Personally, I think this could be one of the most important races that humanity will ever run."

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Science and Nature: Pollution

BBC, 2008

Pollution can be local or widespread. Substances dumped into a river will often end up in the sea. The biggest pollution problem is global warming. This happens when greenhouse gases, such as CO₂ are released into the atmosphere, trapping heat and causing the planet to warm up. Since species are adapted to particular climates, when the Earth warms up they have to move to keep comfortable. This can be difficult if natural habitats are isolated by human settlements and agriculture.

Chemical pollutants have been responsible for affecting the reproductive organs of fish, alligators and polar bears, preventing them from producing babies. Chemical pollution in the environment also affects humans - 46 US states have issued warnings against eating local fish because of dioxin contamination, and in Europe, human breast milk passes on more dioxin to our babies than is legally allowed for cow's milk. Despite this, the amount of pesticide sprayed on our crops around the world has increased 26 times in the last 50 years.

Species living in water are often most strongly affected because water spreads pollution more easily than land, and because we often dump our pollution into water. Global warming will affect every species on Earth to some extent, and although some species will thrive in warmer climates, many will not. Coral reefs have already been very hard hit by climate change, and polar bears have received the double-whammy of climate change and chemical pollution.

Most human activities produce some waste products, but it is important to make sure that we have as little pollution as possible. Many people are switching to 'clean technology'. That means having the same benefits from our modern life-style without the pollution. Electric cars, environmentally sensitive washing powders and solar-powered energy are examples. Less pollution is not only good for wildlife and nature - human health benefits from less pollution as well. That means lower medical bills, and a better quality of life.

All living things need resources to survive, whether for food or to provide shelter. Humans are just extremely efficient at getting hold of them. One third of the world's resources have been used up in the last 30 years. One calculation estimates that in 50 years' time, we will need another planet Earth to sustain the world's population if it keeps using resources the way it does today. But people in countries such as America, Japan, and in Europe can use up to 30 times the amount of resources as people from poor countries. We simply catch too many fish, use too much wood and waste too much fresh water.

At least 70% of the world's important fish stocks are over-exploited already. Paper use has grown six times since 1961. Consumption of fresh water has tripled since 1950, and it is becoming a very scarce resource: one billion people world-wide don't have access to clean drinking water. All together, up to half of all new plant growth each year on the planet is taken for human use.

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