



MÔI TRƯỜNG

Explain some of the ways in which humans are damaging the environment. What can governments do to address these problems? What can individuals do to help?

It is known that humans are responsible for a variety of environmental problems, but we can also take steps to **minimize the damages** that we are causing to the planet. This essay will discuss environmental problems and the measures that

governments and individuals can take to address these problems. Two of the biggest threats to the environment are air pollution and waste. **Gas emissions** from factories and exhaust fumes from vehicles lead to global warming, which may have a **devastating** effect on the planet in the future. As the human population increases, we are also producing ever greater quantities of waste, which **contaminates** the earth and pollutes rivers and oceans.

Governments could certainly make more effort to **reduce air pollution**. They could introduce laws to **limit emissions** from factories or to force companies to use renewable energy from solar, wind or water power. They could also impose ‘**green taxes**’ on drivers and airline companies. In this way, people would be encouraged to use public transport and to take fewer flights abroad, therefore reducing emissions. Individuals should also take responsibility for the impact they have on the environment. They can take public transport rather than driving, choose products with less packaging, and recycle as much as possible. Most supermarkets now provide reusable bags for shoppers as well as ‘banks’ for recycling glass, plastic and paper in their car parks. By reusing and recycling, we can help to reduce waste. In conclusion, both national governments and individuals must play their part in looking after the environment.

Các cụm từ cần nhớ

- minimize the damages: giảm thiểu tối đa những thiệt hại
- gas emissions: việc thải khí độc



- devastating(adj): nguy kịch
- contaminate(v): làm ô nhiễm, vấy bẩn
- reduce air pollution: giảm thiểu ô nhiễm không khí
- limit emissions: giới hạn lại việc thải khí
- green taxes: thuế xanh (loại thuế áp lên những hoạt động kinh tế có hại cho môi trường)

The exploration and development of safe alternatives to fossil fuels should be the most important global priority today.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It is true to say that fossil fuels are still our **main source of energy** today, and as more countries develop their industries and their economies, the **scale** of their use continues to grow.

However, we are now well aware of the consequences of relying on this energy source for our natural environment. Global warming and **the damage to the protective ozone layer** are caused by carbon dioxide and other **by-products** of fossil fuels. So I certainly agree that these problems are global rather than national ones. They threaten our whole planet and no action by a single country could solve them. Furthermore, these problems are urgent as nobody knows when our natural world will be so damaged that it will no longer be able to support us.

While some countries already use safer alternative energy sources, such as wind, water or solar power, it seems that there has not been sufficient investment in developing the technology to make such alternative **viable** for all. So it should definitely be a **global priority** to invest in such research and development.



Obviously, there are other global priorities that we also need to address, such as poverty and diseases. But while it may be the case that these problems are just as important as the energy problem, there is a sense that **time is ticking away** for our planet and any solutions to the energy issue will take some time to achieve.

So in conclusion, I agree that finding alternatives to fossil fuels is certainly the most pressing global priority, if not the most important one for our world today. **(269 worlds) Band 9**

Các cụm từ cần nhớ

- main source of energy: nguồn năng lượng chính
- scale(n): quy mô
- the damage to the protective ozone layer: sự huỷ hoại tầng ozon
by-products: sản phẩm phụ
- viable(adj): khả thi
- global priority: ưu tiên mang tính toàn cầu
- time is ticking away: thời gian đang trôi nhanh

In many countries, people do not recycle their rubbish as much as they could. Why do you think this is? What can be done to change this?

With an increasing world population and subsequent environmental concerns, it is important to **dispose of trash** in an eco-friendly manner, yet there are a significant number of places around the world that fail to do so. There are a number of reasons that mean that recycling is not done as effectively as it could, the primary problem being the attitude of the general public. **Lethargy** or lack of knowledge leads people to throw all of



their rubbish into one place, meaning that material that could have been sorted and reused is buried in landfills. In the UK, for example, over 20 million tonnes of waste is buried whilst less than 1 percent of that amount is actively recycled. There is also the matter of availability, as there are situations in which **recycling facilities** are either extremely limited or nonexistent.

In order to **combat** these issues, the first step would be educating the general public about the facts of waste disposal and recycling, perhaps even enforcing participation by **levying a fine** against those who do not separate their rubbish into different types. Hand in hand with this, making recycling centres more available would also help, or perhaps adopting a system used in some Asian countries where households are given a number of different containers into which to sort their rubbish for collection.

Overall, it seems that **a change of attitude** is needed as well as more resources to manage different recyclable materials. This can be achieved through a combination of education and penalties, as well as ensuring better access to facilities.

(261 words)

Các cụm từ cần nhớ

- dispose of trash: loại bỏ rác thải
- lethargy(n): sự thiếu hụt, sự thờ ơ
- recycling facilities: các cơ sở tái chế
- combat(v): đối mặt
- levy a fine: áp đặt xử phạt
- a change of attitude: sự thay đổi về thái độ hoặc cách nhìn nhận



In many cities, there are areas of land that are used as parks. With increasing population levels, these areas would be better used to provide more housing. Do you agree or disagree?

In many major metropolitan areas, land is **set aside** for all members of the public to enjoy, and this is something that should remain as will now be discussed. The main reason in support of retaining **parkland** is that it provides a **communal area** for people who may otherwise live in apartments or small houses without access to a garden. It has been well documented that time spent outdoors has clear health benefits, not only for exercise and fresh air, but also for mental health.

Another reason is that increasing populations in urban areas has a number of negative subsidiary effects, such as **the pressure on sanitation and clean water supplies**. Replacing parks with more housing will only further **compound this problem**. In Mexico City, for example, the population is so dense that in many areas, delivery of fresh water supplies is under extreme pressure.

On a related note, there is also an environmental advantage in having parkland, as it is a source of oxygen production which may otherwise be lacking in urban areas. Admittedly, the level of the population relocating to urban areas is increasing for employment reasons as there are often more jobs available, and for this to be possible, additional land will need to be used for housing and this needs to be sourced near the place of work to avoid excess travel.

However, it is arguable that it would be better to create larger suburbs than **overcrowd** centre of cities. Overall, it is clear that there are no substantial advantages in removing these green areas, and given their advantages, they should be retained, and even expanded, wherever possible.

(273 words)



Các cụm từ cần nhớ

- set aside: để sang một bên
- parkland(n): khu vực nhiều cây cối
- communal area: khu vực công cộng
- pressure on sanitation and clean water supplies: áp lực lên vệ sinh và các nguồn nước sạch
- compound this problem: làm vấn đề nặng nề hơn
- overcrowd(adj): đông đúc quá mức