

READING

IN THIS UNIT YOU WILL LEARN HOW TO

- approach *Yes / No / Not Given* questions
- identify whether statements in questions match the writer's views
- use *so, too, either* and *neither* to agree or disagree with someone
- complete a summary with words from a box or words from a passage.



LEAD-IN

01 The environment is a common topic in IELTS. Match the words in the box with the definitions 1–8.

captivity conservation endangered extinction
 habitat poach species threaten

- 1 the natural environment of an animal or plant
- 2 a situation in which a type of animal no longer exists
- 3 the protection of nature
- 4 situation where animals or plants may soon not exist because there are very few now alive
- 5 a group of plants or animals that share similar characteristics
- 6 be likely to cause harm or damage to something or someone
- 7 illegally catch or kill animals, especially by going onto land without the permission of the person who owns it
- 8 a situation in which an animal is kept in a zoo or a person is kept as a prisoner, rather than being free



YES / NO / NOT GIVEN TASKS

01 *Yes / No / Not Given* tasks are common in the exam. The purpose of this task is to identify if the statements in the questions match the views or claims of the writer.

02 Read this short text and answer the question.

It is commonly believed that taking steps to protect the environment is morally the right thing to do. What is sadly evident, however, is that we all have friends and family who do not concern themselves at all with tackling this problem.

The number one reason for this is that, for some, it is just inconvenient. Other people just do not feel that their contribution makes a difference. Fortunately, however, the majority of us do give it the attention it deserves and many people go to great lengths to ensure the planet is protected for future generations.

TIP 02

A 'view' is a personal opinion and a 'claim' is a statement made by the writer and presented as a fact.

Look at the statements and write

- YES** if the statement agrees with the views in the text
NO if the statement contradicts the view of the writer
NOT GIVEN if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks

- 1 Some people do not pay attention to environmental issues because they do not believe their involvement would make an impact.
- 2 Some people tackle environmental problems in the wrong way.
- 3 Most people do not care about environmental issues.
- 4 Some people do a great deal to protect the environment.

Which synonyms or words/phrases with a similar meaning to those in the text helped you to locate the answer?

03 To help you approach this type of question with a longer text, put the steps in order.

Approaching *Yes / No / Not Given* tasks

- a Scan the text for these key words or words of a similar meaning.
- b Choose *Yes, No* or *Not Given*.
- c Underline these words in the text.
- d Read the question statements carefully and underline key words.
- e Read the instructions carefully.
- f Read the sentence before and after the key words or synonyms in the text.
- g Skim read the text to gain a general understanding of the topic.



04 Skim read the text and answer the question, following the steps in exercise 3.

TIP 04

In this type of task, the questions appear in the same order as the text.

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THE ROLE OF THE MODERN ZOO

Initially seen purely as centres of entertainment, zoos were often heavily criticised in society for keeping animals captive. Nowadays, however, zoos have a lot more to offer than perhaps some people realise. Good zoos have changed their focus and are now responding to environmental problems, such as the decline in wildlife and loss of habitat. Indeed, scientists believe that a third of all animal and plant species on Earth risk extinction within this century.

The modern zoo, therefore, has developed dramatically as a major force in conserving biodiversity* worldwide. Zoos linked with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums participate in Species Survival Plan Programmes, which involve captive breeding, reintroduction programmes and public education to ensure the survival of many of the planet's threatened and endangered species.

Captive breeding is the process of breeding animals outside their natural environment in restricted conditions such as farms, zoos or other closed areas.

It is a method used to increase the populations of endangered species, in order to prevent extinction. One of the main challenges facing captive breeding programmes, however, is maintaining genetic diversity.* Zoo staff are fully trained in this area, and manage the programmes carefully to ensure genetic variation.

Another way in which zoos protect endangered species is through reintroduction programmes. These programmes release animals that have been in the zoo back into their natural habitats.

Finally, and perhaps most significantly, many zoos now concentrate on educating the public, particularly the younger generation. These zoos educate millions of visitors each year about endangered species and related conservation issues. Visiting the zoo not only raises money for conservation projects, but also reminds individuals about environmental issues.



***biodiversity** – the number and types of plants and animals that exist in a particular area, or in the world generally

***genetic diversity** – the variety of genes within a species



Look at the statements and write

YES if the statement agrees with the views or claims of the writer

NO if the statement contradicts the view of the writer

NOT GIVEN if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks

- Zoos have been very successful in protecting endangered species.
- Putting endangered animals back into the wild to reproduce is a good way to increase their populations.
- All zoos now focus on teaching people about animals facing extinction.
- Zoo visits increase awareness of environmental problems.

GRAMMAR FOCUS: SO, TOO, EITHER AND NEITHER

05 So, too, either and neither can be used to agree or disagree with someone. Study the sentences.

Agreeing with the speaker

'I love visiting zoos and seeing all the animals.' 'Me too.' / 'So do I.' / 'I do, too.'

'Really? I don't like seeing animals in cages.' 'Me neither.' / 'Neither do I.'

'I'm more interested in animals in the wild.' 'Me too.' / 'So am I.' / 'I am, too.'

Disagreeing with the speaker

A: I love visiting zoos and seeing all the animals.

B: I don't.

C: Neither do I. / Me neither.

A: Really? I'm fascinated by all the different animals.

B: I'm not.

C: I'm not either. / Neither am I.

06 Using the information in the box, answer these questions using so, too, either and neither. More than one answer is possible.

1 'I like exploring nature.' _____ (agree)

2 'I would love to go on a safari holiday.' _____ (disagree)

3 'I'm really interested in animal conservation.' _____ (agree)

4 'I don't know anything about endangered species.' _____ (agree)

SUMMARY COMPLETION TASKS



There are two kinds of summary completion task in the Reading test. One provides a box with possible answers and the other requires you to choose the answers from the text.

For this type of task there are usually more words or phrases than gaps and some of the words or phrases might be distractors (words/phrases which look suitable but are not the correct answer).

07 Complete the summary of the previous text with a word from the list.

In the past, zoos focused mainly on 1 _____ the public. This is certainly not the case any more. Today, the role of good zoos is to take an active part in 2 _____ projects. Several methods are used to achieve this. One way to avoid the extinction of certain species is to ensure that animals within zoos breed. This is handled 3 _____, however, to ensure genetic diversity. Another method is to release the animals back into their natural habitat. Perhaps the most significant role of the zoo, however, is its capacity to educate the general public about conservation and, more specifically, to inform the 4 _____ generation.

A carefully

B quickly

C entertaining

D animal

E conservation

F reproduce

G younger

TIP 07

In the exam, the summary covers only a part of the whole text.

TIP 07

When you have chosen a word for each gap, make sure that your sentences are grammatically correct. This is a way of double-checking that you have the correct answer.

08 Answer these questions with a partner.

- 1 Which words from the list above are distractors?
- 2 In which spaces would they have been grammatically correct?

09 Skim read this text to understand the main ideas.

The mountain

GORILLA

As their name suggests, mountain gorillas live in forests in the mountains, at heights of around 2,400 to 4,000 m. The mountain gorilla's habitat is limited to protected national parks in two regions of Africa. They have thicker fur compared to other great apes and this helps them to survive in a habitat where temperatures often drop below freezing. Mountain gorillas also have shorter arms and tend to be a bit larger than other gorillas.

Currently there are fewer than 900 surviving and they are classed as critically endangered. They are endangered for several reasons, but most significantly because humans are moving further into their territory and consequently destroying their habitats. Human invasion also brings with it the risk of disease and the threat of being poached. Another problem the species faces is the area where they live, which is continuously troubled by war. Consequently, gorillas have been killed by bombs and war refugees have removed trees from the forests to create new homes and farms.

Many conservation projects have been set up to aid mountain gorillas and it is believed that their numbers may slowly be increasing. Nevertheless, they continue to face major threats from both loss of habitat and poaching.



10 Complete the summary using one word from the text.

Mountain gorillas are one of the most 1 _____ species in the world. With fewer than 900 surviving, there are several factors which have caused their decline. The biggest factor is humans moving into their areas and destroying their 2 _____. The risk of being 3 _____ is another major reason. In response to this decline in mountain gorillas, efforts have been made by 4 _____ groups to try and increase numbers.

TIP 10

Decide what type of word you are looking for before scanning the text, e.g. noun, adjective, etc. ...

EXAM SKILLS

11 Using all the skills you have learnt in this lesson, read the text and answer the questions which follow.

HOW EFFECTIVE ARE CONSERVATION EFFORTS?

While many organisations put a considerable amount of effort into conservation projects, it is just not enough. Many of these efforts are effective short-term, but in the long term they simply do not work, due to a number of factors.

Whilst there remains a demand for exotic animals in society, endangered species will always be at risk of being hunted and poached. Poachers often target larger animals – animals which take a long time to repopulate, such as rhinos and elephants. The poachers are clever and use methods which are sometimes completely undetectable. A recent case involved 300 elephants being killed in Zimbabwe's largest nature reserve. Poachers put poison in the water holes, killing hundreds of elephants and destroying an entire ecosystem*.

Captive breeding is perhaps the most effective method of protecting animals from extinction, but this also has its problems. First, releasing animals from captive environments could introduce disease into wild populations. Secondly, after several generations in captivity, species could become less able to survive in the wild. Would they know how to hunt for food? Or how not to be killed by other animals?

Perhaps the biggest problem facing endangered species, however, is the increasing population of the human race. Although conservation measures have helped to prevent humans from completely destroying all natural habitats, human invasion will always be one of the greatest risks to threatened species.

* ecosystem – all the living things in an area and the way they affect each other and the environment

Look at the statements and write

- YES if the statement agrees with the views in the text
NO if the statement contradicts the view of the writer
NOT GIVEN if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this

- 1 Captive breeding programmes ensure that animals can cope in their natural habitat.
- 2 Poachers are good at hiding the way in which they kill animals.
- 3 Releasing animals into the wild after captive breeding has led to infections spreading.
- 4 Conservation projects have not made any impact on saving natural habitats.

Complete the summary using the list of words, A-L.

The problems faced by conservationists

A great deal of effort is put into conservation work in order to protect endangered species from becoming 1 _____. Whilst some of these conservation efforts are successful to an extent, they are still not enough to safeguard certain species in the long term.

Culturally, these sought-after endangered 2 _____ are still valuable property and therefore they will always be at risk from 3 _____. 4 _____ is perhaps the best method to ensure their survival, but is also problematic. After generations of being held in a 5 _____ environment, these species may lose their ability to cope in their natural habitat.

One of the most significant factors is the increase in the population of the human race, leading to many natural habitats being taken over and 6 _____.

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------|
| A lost | B poachers | C strange |
| D diseases | E extinct | F species |
| G protected | H human | I destroy |
| J captive breeding | K destroyed | L changed |

WRITING

IN THIS UNIT YOU WILL LEARN HOW TO

- avoid writing irrelevant ideas in an 'agree or disagree' essay
- express your ideas clearly in an essay
- write in an appropriate neutral/formal style
- avoid repeating words and phrases.



LEAD-IN

01 Discuss these questions with a partner.

- 1 How often do you recycle? What kinds of thing do you recycle?
- 2 Do you try to save energy at home? What kinds of thing do you do to save energy at home?



02 Work in pairs. Read these statements and discuss whether you agree, disagree or agree to a certain extent with them. You must give reasons to support your opinion.

- 1 People should be fined if they do not recycle their household waste.
- 2 Environmental studies should be made compulsory in school.
- 3 These days people buy too much and this is one of the major factors affecting the environment.
- 4 Trying to save resources is a waste of time – it doesn't make a difference globally.

INCLUDING ONLY RELEVANT IDEAS

03 Read this task and the sample answer, then answer the questions which follow.

Some people believe that you should be fined if you do not recycle. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

- 1 Underline the key words in the task.
- 2 Generally the sample essay answers the task, although the writer has also included some irrelevant information. Underline the irrelevant information in the sample answer.
- 3 Why do you think the writer has included this information?
- 4 What is the best way to ensure you do not include irrelevant information in your answer?

Make sure that you answer the task by only including relevant ideas.

In order to ensure all your answer is relevant, you must read the task very carefully and underline key words. You must then spend time planning your answer.

USING AN APPROPRIATE STYLE

You are being asked to write an academic essay in this task, so your language needs to be neutral/formal. You should avoid using abbreviations, bullet points and informal language.

04 Rewrite these sentences so they sound more formal.

- 1 Our environment is getting worse day by day.
- 2 We might not be able to see all of the bad things in our environment, but they are there for sure!
- 3 If this keeps going on, our families will struggle in the future.
- 4 There are many things our teens and families can do to help get rid of pollution, e.g. hand-wash our clothes, ride a bike to school/work etc.
- 5 There could be a solution to helping our environment if we
 - reach out to people who don't care about the environment
 - change their point of view
 - tell them how bad things are.

TIP 04

Using the passive can sound more formal than using the active. However, use the passive only if it sounds natural and you are confident about its correct use.

SAMPLE ANSWER

In some countries people are fined if they do not recycle. I agree strongly with this idea and think all countries should adopt this policy. Even though it would be difficult to manage, it would encourage people to take recycling more seriously.

Choosing not to recycle simply because you do not have the time is just not a good enough excuse when you consider the impact waste has on the environment. Recycling means used materials are converted into new products, reducing the need to consume precious natural resources.

It is not only recycling which helps protect the environment – there are also many other things that can be done, for example, saving energy or water when you are at home. This can be done by switching off lights or turning off the taps when not in use. People need to educate themselves about environmental issues and then take action.

Before a fine can be issued, however, the government has to provide clear guidelines about what can be recycled and where it can be recycled. Governments could do more to help environmental issues in general. For example, the government could fine companies that do nothing to help with environmental issues and reward those that do.

In conclusion, due to over-buying and not recycling enough, we are destroying our planet and experiencing problems such as global warming and natural disasters. Consequently, fining people for not recycling is the least we can do. The fine should be at least as much as a parking or speeding fine.

LISTENING

IN THIS UNIT YOU WILL LEARN HOW TO

- complete a diagram showing a process
- answer multiple-choice questions
- understand the use of signposting words
- revise quantifiers with countable and uncountable nouns.

LEAD-IN

01 You will hear a lecture about the environment and energy sources. Listen to the first part of the lecture and complete the table with the energy sources from the box.

fracking petroleum solar power wave power

Renewable sources	Non-renewable sources
Hydroelectric power	Coal
Wind power	Natural gas

SAMPLE ANSWER

Overpopulation is indeed a growing concern in the developing world, causing many of the 1 _____ environmental problems. Although an increasing population does have a negative impact on the environment to an extent, the greatest problem is in fact caused by the way in which humans choose to live their lives. In the following essay, both 2 _____ will be discussed.

Overpopulation does have a serious impact on the world's environment for several reasons. An 3 _____ means more pollution, caused by more cars on the road, more factories, more farming and more household chemicals. Pollution is a significant environmental issue and 4 _____ can have a serious effect on human and animal health.

Overpopulation also means that natural resources are decreasing more rapidly. The modern world is consuming more than 5 _____ can produce. People are continuously buying more products and building more houses. Fresh water, oil and natural gas are just some of the resources which are in demand.

Perhaps overpopulation would not be an issue, however, if society changed the way in which 6 _____ lived. For example, in order to help these environmental problems, people could try to save natural resources by using less water or by consuming fewer products. 7 _____ could also try to reuse or recycle more. Pollution could also be kept to a minimum if people only bought organic food or tried to use their cars less.

In summary, although overpopulation is a significant problem when considering the environment, 8 _____ would be less of an 9 _____ if people made certain changes to their daily lifestyle.

In order to get a good score in the exam you need to demonstrate a wide range of vocabulary, and it is important that you avoid repeating the same words as the task. For example:

In some countries people are fined if they do not recycle. I agree strongly with this idea and think all countries should adopt this policy. ✓

Not

Some people believe you should be fined if you do not recycle. I agree strongly with this idea and think people should be fined if they do not recycle. ✗

There are several ways you can avoid repeating the same words as the task. You can use

- pronouns, e.g. *he, she, it, this, that, these, those, one, both*
- synonyms or words and phrases with a similar meaning, e.g. *problem/issue*
- relative clauses, e.g. beginning with *which, that, who*.

05 Read the task and the sample answer, then complete it using the words and phrases from the box. The words can be used more than once.

increase in population it
issue planet's
they these ideas

Overpopulation is the world's most serious environmental problem. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?



EXAM SKILLS

06 Use the information and language from this lesson to answer this Writing Part 2 task. You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Most people do not care enough about environmental issues. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

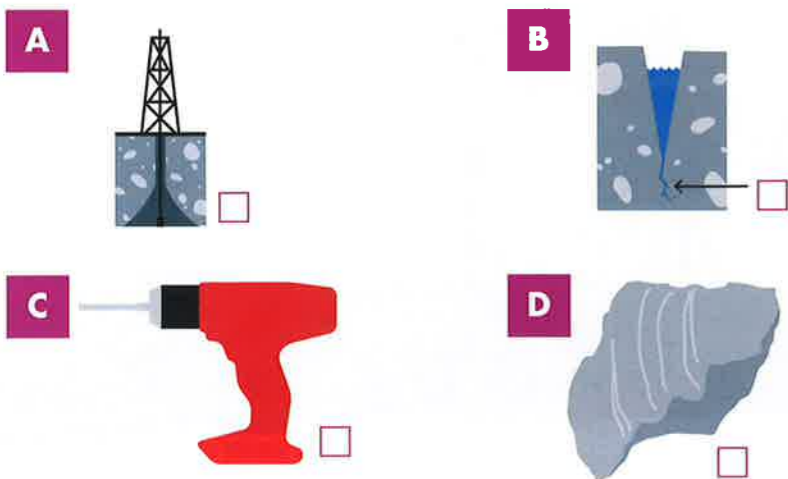
Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

COMPLETING DIAGRAMS

02 You are going to hear a lecture about fracking (a method of obtaining gas from the ground). First, listen to descriptions of some words from the lecture and match them with the correct picture, A–D.

50



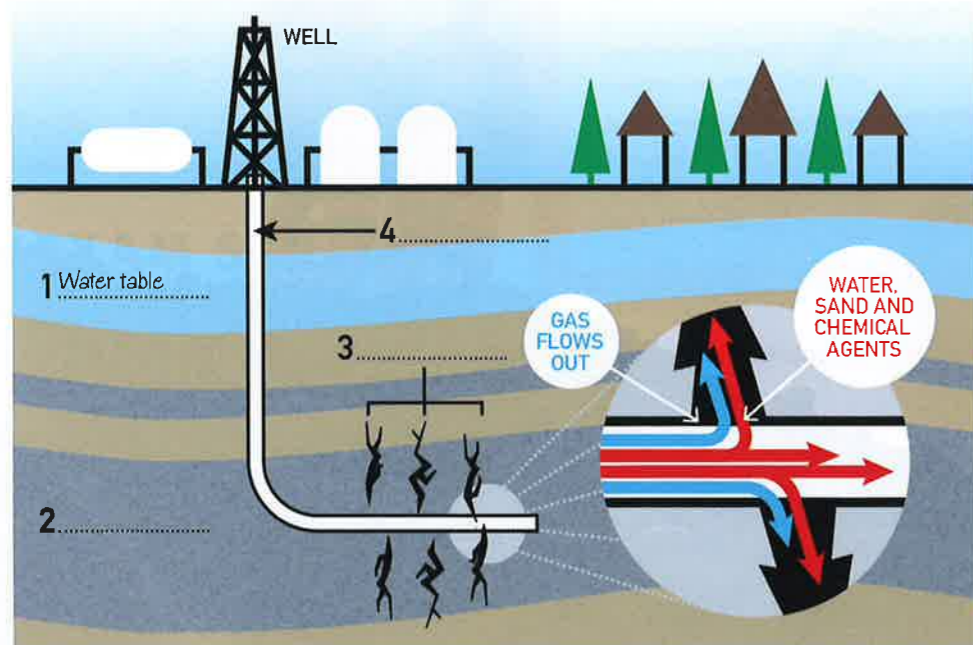
- 1 drill 2 well 3 shale 4 fissure

03 Now look at the diagram below and discuss these questions with a partner.

- Do you need to look at the whole diagram carefully to complete this type of task?
- Do you need to understand all the words? What can you do if you don't understand some of the words?
- Why is there a large circle in the diagram? What does it tell you?
- The diagram shows you the sequence of events in the process. Can you find where it starts, where it goes and where it finishes?
- What type of word do you think is missing in each case?

04 The lecturer is talking about the fracking process. Listen and complete the diagram with NO MORE THAN ONE WORD AND/OR A NUMBER for each answer.

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In the Listening test, you may have to listen and complete a diagram showing a process and what happens in a sequence of events. Some of the labels in the chart will be missing. You will need to listen and complete the missing labels.

QUANTIFIERS WITH COUNTABLE AND UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

Nouns in English can be either countable or uncountable. Some nouns can be both countable and uncountable, usually with differences in meaning.

'Quantifiers', like *some*, *many*, *few* and *all*, are used to refer to quantity. There are three types of quantifier – those which are used:

- only with countable nouns
- only with uncountable nouns
- with both types of noun.

05 Choose the correct quantifier in these sentences.

- Little / Few** of the renewable energy sources, such as wind and wave power, have been developed and used around the world.
- Although coal is still widely used, **much / many** more gas is used instead these days.
- All / Every** non-renewable resources have negative effects on the environment.
- Several / Some** energy production in the UK comes from wind turbines.
- There are not **a lot of / much** suitable sites for solar power in the UK.

06 The lecturer is talking about fracking in different countries. Listen and complete the sentences with the quantifier from the box which correctly reflects what the lecturer says. There are more quantifiers than you need.

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- a little more all every few fewer
a lot of many less much some several

- In Canada, _____ shale gas has been found in various areas.
- Only a _____ Canadian regions have allowed fracking to take place.
- In the USA, _____ of the requirement for gas is met by shale gas.
- A great deal _____ shale gas is being produced in Australia now than a decade ago.
- If fracking takes place in the UK, people might save _____ money on their gas bills.
- There are far _____ people per kilometre in the USA than in the UK.

TIP 06

Remember that you will hear the recording only once in the exam.

07 Write the quantifiers from the box in exercise 6 in the correct place in the table.

Used only with countable nouns	Used only with uncountable nouns	Used with both countable and uncountable nouns

MULTIPLE-CHOICE TASKS

0 In the exam you will need to answer multiple-choice questions about a recording. You have three choices and must choose one correct answer. The two wrong answers are distractors: they seem as if they could be correct but are not.

08 The lecturer is talking about the benefits of fracking. Listen to the first part of the lecture, look at question 1 and choose the correct answer, A, B or C. Why is this answer correct?

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- 1 Those who are in favour of fracking say that the main benefit is
- A better energy supply.
 - B lower energy bills.
 - C increased electricity generation.

09 Listen to the first part of the lecture again and make a note of the words and phrases in the listening which mean the same as the main part of the question and the correct answer.

53

10 With a partner, discuss why you think the other options are wrong.

TIP 10

It is important not to listen for words which are in the question. You must listen and understand the **idea** that the speaker is expressing and choose the answer **which means the same**.

11 Underline the important words and phrases in question 2, then listen and choose the correct answer, A, B or C.

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- 2 When fracking starts in a new location
- A local businesses lose many of their employees.
 - B companies bring in most of the workers needed.
 - C it creates more opportunities for businesses in the area.

12 Did any of your underlined words and phrases help you choose the correct answer rather than the distractors? Why? / Why not?

TIP 08

In multiple-choice tasks in the Listening test you will hear the answers in the same order as the questions.

TIP 11

Focus on the important parts of the question by looking at it carefully and underlining the words and phrases you think are key. Then listen and choose an answer. Make sure you listen to the end before making your final choice.

13 Look at questions 3 and 4 and underline the words and phrases you think are significant. Then listen to the next part of the lecture and choose the correct answer, A, B or C.

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- 3 Although burning gas produces carbon dioxide,
- A it does not produce chemicals which are harmful to the body.
 - B the amount produced is slightly less than from coal and oil.
 - C it produces much less water than coal and oil burning produces.
- 4 Some people think that using more gas from fracking to produce energy means that
- A 50% less electricity will be produced than now.
 - B more water can be used in the production of coal and oil.
 - C there will be more time to work on environmentally friendly sources of energy.

14 The lecturer is talking about people's concerns about fracking. Before you listen, underline the words and phrases in the statements that you think are important, so that you can recognise words and phrases which express the same ideas in the recording. Then listen and choose the correct answer, A, B or C.

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- 1 One of the environmental concerns is that
- A increased use of shale gas will significantly raise carbon dioxide levels.
 - B using shale gas in some areas will not benefit the environment overall.
 - C countries that use shale gas will still use high levels of oil and natural gas.
- 2 Fracking may not be economically beneficial because
- A it can reduce the value of homes in the areas where it takes place.
 - B after five years of fracking, production can fall significantly.
 - C the levels of gas in the ground are unlikely to be sustainable.
- 3 One medical concern related to fracking is that
- A the quality of the water supply in some areas can be badly affected.
 - B poor air quality causes breathing problems in healthy people.
 - C workers are passing on illnesses to local people.
- 4 Fracking has not been able to take place in some places because
- A local people have managed to prevent it.
 - B the authorities are waiting for better information about its effects.
 - C some countries want to follow the example of France.

15 Check your answers, then think about why the other options are wrong and discuss your reasons with a partner.

TIP 13

Focus on the ideas that the questions and options express, not the words themselves.

UNDERSTANDING SIGNPOSTING TO FOLLOW A TALK

○ To help listeners follow a lecture or talk, speakers often use 'signposting'. This involves words and expressions that tell the listener what the speaker is going to say, for example: saying how many main points there are, giving examples, emphasising a point, summarising what has been said, etc.

16 Listen again to the lecturer talking about people's concerns and write signposting words and expressions from the box in the table. Write the correct function for each expression: sequencing (SE), contrast (C), addition (AD), summarising (SU), topic change (T) or attitude (AT).

clearly earlier to begin with secondly now while
that first to summarise what's more last

	Signposting word/expression	Function
	To begin with _____, let's look at the environmental concerns.	SE
1	The _____ and possibly most significant environmental concern is ...	
2	_____, it is likely that, although countries which produce shale gas ...	
3	_____, there are serious pollution problems ...	
4	The _____ environmental concern connected with drilling is that of earthquakes.	
5	_____ I'd like to turn to the economic concerns.	
6	_____ there's clearly an increase in economic activity ...	
7	As I mentioned _____, there are a lot of concerns ...	
8	_____, a lot more research needs to be done ...	
9	So _____, there are significant environmental ...	
10	We can see that the future is very uncertain, and _____ is what I'd now like to discuss.	

TIP 16

Signposting can help you know where you are up to with the exam questions because these occur in the same order as the script. If you get lost, signposting words and expressions may help you find your way back to the right question.

EXAM SKILLS

17 The lecturer is talking about the future of fracking and other forms of energy. Listen and choose the correct answer, A, B or C.

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- The problem with fracking is that it
 - has caused carbon dioxide levels to rise by more than a third.
 - will not help countries meet their energy requirements.
 - will make the world climate warmer by 1 degree Celsius.
- One result of climate change is
 - lower levels of rain in some parts of Europe.
 - serious problems for food production in some African regions.
 - increased risk of ice in populated areas by the sea.
- A reason renewable energy sources are not being developed quickly is that
 - fracking is the best way to reduce global warming at the moment.
 - governments want to find other long-term solutions.
 - energy companies are afraid the cost will affect their businesses.
- To develop renewable sources further
 - commercial organisations need external help.
 - governments need to produce less gas and oil.
 - countries should work together to change their economies.
- Environmental groups believe that
 - fracking can help reduce global warming in the short term.
 - non-renewable sources can continue alongside renewable sources.
 - only renewable sources will be able to provide energy in the future.

SPEAKING

IN THIS UNIT YOU WILL LEARN HOW TO

- speak in detail about conservation and the environment
- recognise different functions in Speaking Part 3 questions
- express your opinions with the appropriate emotion.

LEAD-IN

01 ▶ Discuss these questions with a partner.

- 1 What is the most beautiful place you have ever visited?
- 2 Do you think that global pollution is a serious problem?
- 3 Does the place where you live have a lot of pollution?



TALKING ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT

02 ▶ With a partner, complete the table with words from the box. Some words can go in both columns.

- | | | | | |
|------------|--------------------|------------|-----------------|----------|
| acid rain | carbon monoxide | drought | earthquakes | tornados |
| landslides | volcanic eruptions | oil spills | radiation leaks | tsunamis |
| sinkholes | thunderstorms | floods | forest fires | |

Natural disasters	Man-made pollution
earthquakes	oil spills

03 ▶ Complete the sentences using words from the table. More than one answer may be possible.

- 1 Humanity is to blame for the increase in _____ emissions around the world.
- 2 _____ result in many homes and public buildings being burnt down.
- 3 Proper care of important facilities will result in fewer _____.
- 4 We cannot really prevent _____ but we can take steps to make buildings safer in case they happen.
- 5 _____ causes significant damage to homes and businesses.
- 6 Protection against _____ will involve the cooperation of local people and local government.

04 ▶ Which of these environmental factors are a threat where you live? Discuss with a partner.

- | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------|
| acid rain | carbon monoxide | volcanoes | landslides | chemical spills |
| floods | freezing temperatures | tornados | earthquakes | |

PRONUNCIATION: SILENT LETTERS IN ENGLISH

05 ▶ Some letters in English are 'silent' when spoken, or sound different from the spelling. Listen to these examples.

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Scenic – the first 'c' is silent – this word is spoken as /'si:nɪk/
 Business – the 'i' is silent – this word is spoken as /'bɪz.nɪs/

06 ▶ Listen to these words. Underline the letter(s) in each word which are silent or which sound different from the spelling.

59

- | | | |
|-------------|----------|------------|
| 1 calendar | 5 autumn | 9 castle |
| 2 foreigner | 6 honest | 10 yoghurt |
| 3 should | 7 light | |
| 4 guest | 8 doubt | |

MAKING TIMED NOTES

07 ▶ Look at these Speaking Part 2 tasks.

A Describe a place in your country that is famous for its natural beauty.

You should say:

- where that place is
- what kind of place it is
- what makes it beautiful

and explain why this place is famous in your country.

B Describe a place of natural beauty that you have visited.

You should say:

- when you visited this place
- what kind of scenic features the place had
- what you remember most about the place

and explain whether you would like to visit the place again.

08 ▶ Discuss these questions with a partner.

- 1 Which points in the tasks require *more* information?
- 2 What *kind* of information will you need for each point?
- 3 *How many* examples will you need for each point?
- 4 What *tense* will you need for each point?

09 ▶ Thinking about your answer to question 1 in exercise 8, make notes for tasks A and B in just 60 seconds. Use your notes to talk for TWO minutes on each topic.

10 ▶ Compare your notes with a partner. Try to talk about task A for TWO minutes using your partner's notes. Were you able to complete the task? If not, advise your partner how the notes can be improved, based on your answers to question 1 in exercise 8.

TIP 09

You have only one minute to make notes so it is a good idea to practise making them with a stopwatch or timer.

11 ▶ Here are two sets of notes for task B in exercise 7. Which set of notes do you think would be easier to write in just 60 seconds?

1

- 1 The Victoria Falls, on the border of Zimbabwe and Zambia. I went two years ago.
- 2 It's a waterfall. Lots of water, loud noise. It's the largest across at 1,738 metres.
- 3 It's huge, very tall. You often seen rainbows in the water.
- 4 It's a UNESCO world heritage site. Visitors come from around the world to see it.
- 5 Would like to visit again with my family this year.

2

Victoria Falls	International visitors
Waterfall	1,738 metres wide
Zimbabwe/Zambia	Rainbows
Two years ago	Noisy
UNESCO world heritage site	Visit with family

RECOGNISING AND USING DIFFERENT FUNCTIONS

12 ▶ Match questions 1–5 with a function from the box.

assess compare explain predict suggest

- 1 So, what do you think will happen to the environment in the future?
- 2 What can governments do to help the environment?
- 3 Is there any difference between environmental issues now and those in the past?
- 4 Have schools done enough to inform children about environmental problems?
- 5 Why have private businesses not done more to help the environment?

13 ▶ Read this transcript of a student answering a Speaking Part 3 question. Write the correct function from the box in the gaps before each phrase. Some functions can be used more than once.

How can we do more to protect the environment?

Well, that's a tough question. 1 _____ In the past, we didn't know much about the effect we were having on the environment 2 _____ as we didn't have access to much scientific knowledge back then, 3 _____ whereas now we know much more about the world and how it works and 4 _____ this knowledge has been so useful in helping us to protect the environment. 5 _____ The science has improved, 6 _____ so I think that we might start to discover new ways to reduce pollution in the future 7 _____ that are much better than those we have at the moment. 8 _____ Perhaps the government could spend more money on promoting environmental responsibility to companies, although 9 _____ it is by no means certain this will have the desired effect.



Part 2 of the Speaking test asks you to describe something, for example a place in your country. Remember that questions in Part 3 could ask you to do some (or all) of the functions in the box in exercise 12.

TIP 13

Questions in Speaking Part 3 ask you about society as a whole, rather than you and your personal experience.

EXPRESSING OPINIONS: CERTAINTY AND DOUBT

14 Complete the table using words from the box.

almost	certainly	clearly	definitely	indeed	likely
maybe	might	no doubt	occasionally	of course	perhaps
seemingly	surely	unlikely	will		

Certain	Careful
certainly	likely

15 In Speaking Part 3, you should be prepared to have an opinion about any statement or topic. For statements 1–9, put a tick ✓ to show whether the speaker is agreeing or disagreeing.

Statement	Agree	Disagree
That's true.	✓	
1 That's right.		
2 I'm not sure about that.		
3 That's also how I feel about it.		
4 I have to side with you on that one.		
5 Me neither.		
6 That's incorrect.		
7 I beg to differ.		
8 You might have a point there.		
9 I'm afraid I don't share that point of view.		

When we give opinions we often want to express **how sure** we are about our feelings or claims:

- *If things do not improve quickly, there is **no doubt** that the environment **will** suffer. **certain***
- *If things do not improve quickly, it is **possible** that the environment **might** suffer. **careful***

Certain words can be used to make these statements stronger. For example:

- I **just** don't share that point of view.*
- That's **totally** incorrect.*
- I **definitely** have to side with you on that one.*
- That's **100%** true.*



16 For statements 1–5, write how much you agree or disagree with the statement. Then, using the example phrases in exercise 15, tell your partner whether you agree or disagree with each statement, remembering to express yourself strongly where necessary.

Statement	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1 Governments should do more to prevent environmental damage.				
2 We are not responsible for damage to the environment.				
3 Global warming is not caused by humans.				
4 Factories do enough to prevent environmental accidents.				
5 Children should be educated about protecting the environment.				

EXAM SKILLS

17 Ask and answer these Speaking Part 1 questions with a partner.

- 1 Is there a place of natural beauty in your country?
- 2 Are there fewer places of natural beauty now than in the past?
- 3 Do you do anything to help the environment?
- 4 What is the most serious problem facing the environment today?

18 Answer the prompts in this Speaking Part 2 task. Try to talk for TWO full minutes.

Describe an environmental issue facing your country.

You should say:

- what kind of problem it is
- how long the problem has existed
- what effect the problem has had on people

and explain what we can do to solve the problem.

19 With a partner, discuss these Speaking Part 3 questions.

- 1 What is the cause of most environmental problems in the world?
- 2 Is there much more environmental damage now than in the past?
- 3 What more can governments do to solve environmental issues?
- 4 How can we educate children to protect the environment?