

Unsustainable Use of Natural Resources

If natural resources are not managed in a sustainable way, life as we know it now cannot be sustained because we depend on them for the basics of life and the economy.

Human impacts

Unsustainable use degrades the physical environment, harms ecosystems and threatens our survival.

- Water quality & quantity are declining because of an increasing population & pollution.
- Air pollution from factories and traffic causes smog & acid rain. Greenhouse gas emissions cause climate change
- Soil is essential for the production of food and the survival of ecosystems. Loss of soil is occurring because of erosion (caused by de-forestation, over cropping & over grazing) the spread of towns & cities, & chemical degradation (caused by pollution & overuse of irrigation)
- Plant & animal numbers are falling & biodiversity is declining.

Unsustainable consumption

We are using natural resources faster than they can be replaced. For example, the Aral sea in central Asia was once the world's 4th largest freshwater lake. So much water was used to irrigate cotton crops that it lost 70% of its volume, & shrunk to less than $\frac{1}{2}$ its former size. People in the region lost their water supply and their ability to fish.

Habitat destruction, overexploitation and pollution have devastated many ecosystems and species. For example, deforestation in Brazil occurs at a rate of 3.5 hectares per year & cleared rainforest there often ends up as huge cattle ranches to supply the global market with steaks & hamburgers

Unsustainable Waste

We are turning natural resources into waste faster than nature can turn waste back into resources. Waste is any leftover material, substance or chemical that does not have a use. If waste is put back into the environment, making it unhealthy, it is called pollution.

How do we Reduce Emissions?

Countries must generate electricity in ways that are affordable, produce large amounts of power and do not produce high emissions.

In order to reduce emissions we could:

- Use renewable energy sources (solar, wind, & hydro or water)
- Develop 'clean coal' technology which is a process that captures emissions and stores them underground, thus reducing green house gas emissions
- Use nuclear power as there are no greenhouse gasses released through this power source. However, its use is debatable because of its potential for misuse in the manufacture of nuclear weapons and the problem of safe waste disposal, as well as what can happen in the event of a nuclear meltdown.
- Use less energy and use it more efficiently; as this is the fastest & easiest way to reduce emissions. Strategies include, using power saving lightbulbs, use solar hot water, turning off taps when done, turning off lights when done.

Jason Smith

Accessing The Necessities of Life Shelter.

Many of the world's cities are growing at such a rapid rate that it makes it difficult for proper housing to be provided.

Poor people - many of whom have moved from country areas in search of work are unable to afford adequate housing. They build squatter settlements or shantytowns from whatever materials they can get on whatever piece of vacant land they can find.

These towns are known as slums. Most lack access to basic services such as water, sewage, & electricity. Many are routinely cleared by the people who own the land they are built on. To avoid being cleared, shantytowns often develop on rubbish tips & other less favourable areas of a city.

Despite the United Nations efforts to improve the global housing situation, it was reported that in 2003 there were an estimated 928 million people living in slums. In these slums people are living without basic services including clean water, & toilets & there are no garbage pickups. Conditions are unsanitary & disease & sickness are widespread.

Alice Brown

31-8-11

Accessing the Necessities of life - Fresh water.

Fresh water is a basic requirement for life on earth as it is used for cooking, drinking, washing & growing crops. To maintain good health humans need a sufficient supply of good quality water. Without sufficient water people can not survive.

In countries such as Africa accessing water means walking long distances on a daily basis to collect water in containers. Women & girls generally have the job of collecting water from the rivers, wells and boreholes. These water sources are often polluted leading to disease and even death.

In areas that lack a fresh water supply there is generally a lack of drainage & sewage systems. Sewage systems enables human waste, grey water & runoff to be collected so that it does not lie on the surface and cause disease or wash into rivers, causing pollution & health problems for people. Using a river that drains with poor sanitation means that waste & pollution run into the river spreading disease & contaminating the river system. In rich countries water is stored in reservoirs & treated before it is pumped to homes while in poor countries water is untreated & people have to collect it themselves.

Practice Essay 2.

"Characters show their real grit, guts & determination in response to difficult conditions."

When characters are put through trials & challenges, they show their true grit, guts, & determination. In the novel Animal Farm, by George Orwell, the animals are put through challenging situations and consequently show their real grit, guts and determination, to survive under the harsh rule of the pigs. Likewise, in the film Touching the Void directed by Kevin Macdonald, Joe and Simon undergo true hardship under hazardous conditions, and show great bravery and determination to survive in the harsh environment. ✓

The resident animals of Manor Farm must live under the pigs' tyranny, and suffer many hardships as a result. This is shown through the quote; "And in a terrible voice Napoleon demanded whether any other animal had anything to confess... They too, were slaughtered." The animals showed great courage and strength to confess to crimes they did not commit, all the while knowing the punishment was death! (The techniques of emotive language and anthropomorphism show the trials the animals had to undergo under the pigs rule, and how they still show amazing courage.) The hardships the animals undergo are very harsh, yet they still show true courage. ✓

good effect!
AJ

Natasha Luboya

"Characters show their real grit, guts & determination in response to difficult conditions.

When characters are put through difficult conditions they show true grit, guts and determination. In the novel Animal Farm by George Orwell the animals are under constant pressure and must show grit, guts & determination to survive under the tyranny of the pigs rule. Likewise, in the film Touching the Void, directed by Kevin Macdonald, Joe and Simon undergo true hardship and hazardous conditions, and show great bravery, and determination to survive in the harsh climate.

The Animals on Manor Farm must live under the pigs' harsh rule, and suffer many hardships as a result. The quote; "And in a terrible voice Napoleon demanded whether any other animal had anything to confess... They, too, were slaughtered.", demonstrates the courage the animals had to have, to confess to crimes they did not commit knowing all along the punishment was death. This is shown through the techniques of anthropomorphism and emotive language. The animals on Manor Farm are under very rough, and harsh conditions, and still show amazing courage.

the film

Similarly, in Touching the Void, Joe was put in a terrible situation. He was stuck in a crevasse, and the only possible way out was down the deep, dark mouth of the crevasse, which he decides to lower himself down. His courage is shown through the camera technique of the close-up. The camera then zooms out, showing how small he was compared to the massive drop below him, and the enormous wall of ice in front of him. In a truly desperate condition, he shows true courage to get through his difficulties and hardships, and was determined he would survive.

My
Integral
Notebook

Work
of your
topic
selected