

**ONLINE ASSESSMENT (MAIN)  
(MANAGEMENT FOUNDATION STUDIES)  
(INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATION STUDIES)**

**Date** : 27 May 2022

**Subject** : SSEL Study Skills for Effective Learning

**Time** : 14:15 -16:15

**Duration** : 2 hours

**Total no. of pages** : 6  
(including this cover page)

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**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:**

1. This examination carries a total of 100 marks. **Answer ALL questions.**

**Section A (30 marks): 1 question**

**Section B (20 marks): 1 question**

**Section C (30 marks): 1 question**

**Section D (20 marks): 1 question**

2. Answer ALL the questions in the answer template provided. Fill in the cover page carefully.
3. All answers must be clearly type onto the answer template provided. Students are required to upload the answer template in **MS Word format (.doc)**.
4. Please note that the answer template will be submitted through Turnitin to detect plagiarism.

**At the end of the assessment:**

Please save the answer template using the file name SSEL XXXXX (where XXXXX is your full name) and upload the answer template in CANVAS.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SIM GLOBAL EDUCATION RESERVES THE RIGHT NOT TO MARK YOUR SCRIPT IF YOU FAIL TO FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS.</b></p>
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**Read the following passage and answer ALL the questions in SECTIONS A and B.**

- A. After about two million years of hunter-gatherer society, the total population of the earth was only about five million people. Not until the beginning of the nineteenth century did the population exceed one billion. During that time, the human species had a negligible influence on the ecology of the planet as a whole. Today, as a direct result of population growth, the impact of human activities on the world's ecology is already substantial. In the future, it may be catastrophic.
- B. Studies have shown that **runaway population** growth represents a massive threat to the environment on the local, national and global levels. In areas of Nepal, the pressure of overpopulation and poverty forces farmers into the hills, where they cut down the vegetation to provide wood for heating and construction, food for their animals and land to raise crops. In the short term, the fertile topsoil is eroded by rain because it is now without the protection offered by the natural vegetation. The hillside fields then become unproductive, incapable of supporting the people who have settled there.
- C. Elsewhere, in the world's tropical zones, to provide employment and earn money from exports, Southeast Asian nations have been deforesting faster than they can replace these valuable resources. Brazil, in a desperate attempt to relieve poverty and create economic growth, has permitted the destruction of vast areas of its Amazon rain forest for agricultural use. The sad irony is that much of the cleared land proves unsuitable for traditional farming after a few years because the destruction of the forest has interrupted the recycling of natural nutrients to the soil.
- D. By 2000, at least half the world's tropical forests had disappeared. Their destruction has consequences that cross national borders and are felt globally. First, the burning of the forests releases large amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere – emissions that are contributing to potentially disastrous changes in a global climate patterns. Second, as the forest vanishes, so too does its diverse plant and animal life. Thus, the human race may be losing, along with the tropical forests, a vast potential source of scientific knowledge.
- E. Clearly, with no immediate intervention, the ecological damage caused by overpopulation and unwise development threatens to run out of control. A partial solution to the crisis may lie in the family-planning programmes that have been operating in several developing countries. In Indonesia, for example, the family-planning programme established a large number of village centres that distribute free contraceptives and information about birth control, which has had considerable success. There is clear evidence that lower birth rates can bring economic benefits to developing nations.
- F. As a response to the problem, birth-control programmes are necessary but inadequate. Since a large proportion of the population of developing countries consists of children below reproductive age, the world's population is certain to grow when these children reach adulthood and begin having children. Even if birth control becomes widely accessible and acceptable, a fifty per cent increase in the world's population is inevitable by 2050.
- G. The second essential component of a solution to the overpopulation-environment problem is social and economic development. The history of the industrial world clearly shows that birth rates fall and stabilize at a significantly lower level when society offers

the majority of its people an acceptably high standard of living. Prosperity, better educational and career opportunities, especially for women, adequate health care and relative financial security for people in their old age are probably all factors that have contributed to the low, stable birth rates of the affluent nations. Hence, most experts believe that the birth rates of the less-developed nations will decline as their populations experience the benefits of economic development.

- H. The situation today, however, is more complex than this apparently simple solution would suggest. A first major complication is that one essential component of the solution – namely, economic development – is also one cause of the problem. Birth rates will not fall without economic development. However, most of the danger of the world's ecological systems comes directly from the attempts of nations to pursue economic development. A second complication is that the industrial world must now ask poorer nations to give up the same strategy for economic development that brought it prosperity – the exploitation of natural resources with little thought for the future. In the course of history, Europeans and North Americans have destroyed 75-80 percent of their forests. Today, they are asking developing nations to cease doing what they themselves have been doing for centuries.
- I. Because all countries have the right to pursue the goal of economic development for their people, two conclusions are unavoidable. First, the traditional development policies pursued by the poorer countries must be fundamentally revised. The current policies will both exhaust those nations' ecological resources and cause serious, perhaps irreversible damage to the world's ecology. They are, in a word, unsustainable. Second, because unsustainable economic development is a clear characteristic of the industrial world, it is the obligation of the most prosperous nations to lead the way by modifying many of their unsustainable policies and practices and by offering economic and technical assistance to the poorer countries that are willing to do the same. Thus, they will be supporting, and not undermining, global efforts to encourage sustainable development.

Adapted from: Pakenham, K. (2008). *Ecology, overpopulation and economic development. Making Connections High Intermediate Student's Book: A Strategic Approach to Academic Reading*. New York: Cambridge University Press

## SECTION A

Answer ALL questions.

### **Question 1: Critical thinking and reading (30 marks)**

Briefly answer the following questions.

- (a) What is the writer's main argument?  
(6 marks)
- (b) What do you understand by the term “**runaway population**” in Paragraph B? From your perspective, briefly explain in your own words **TWO (2)** possible reasons for this situation.  
(6 marks)
- (c) According to the article, explain the two effects of deforestation by the new millennium.  
(6 marks)
- (d) According to the writer, why are birth-control programmes insufficient to reduce overpopulation?  
(6 marks)
- (e) In your own words, explain how economic development is both a cause of and solution to over-population.  
(6 marks)

## SECTION B

### **Question 2: Summary writing (20 marks)**

In one paragraph of **not more than 150 words**, summarise the passage in your own words as far as possible. Indicate the **number of words** used to complete the summary.

(20 marks)

## SECTION C

### Question 3: Study Skills Principles (30 marks)

Answer ALL questions.

- (a) Explain the importance of “Sharpening the saw” in Covey’s seven habits of highly effective people. Elaborate how you would implement one element or aspect of this seventh habit in your context as a student.  
(6 marks)
- (b) What does **S.M.A.R.T.** stand for? Provide an example of a S.M.A.R.T. goal a student might set.  
(6 marks)
- (c) What is the difference between hearing and listening? As a student, suggest **TWO (2)** ways and briefly explain how you can step up to listen better during instruction time.  
(6 marks)
- (d) In critical thinking and reading, what does it mean when you are required to state the main thesis of the article? In your critical response to the article, what should you include in your answer?  
(6 marks)
- (e) List **ONE (1)** similarity and **ONE (1)** difference between summary writing and paraphrasing. Summarise **FOUR (4)** important steps in writing an effective summary.  
(6 marks)

## SECTION D

### **Question 4: Study Skills Application (20 marks)**

One full semester of higher education has just ended. However, David is facing difficulties paying attention in class and retaining what have been taught during lessons. Possible adverse consequences are looming in the coming months when assignment deadlines and exam are due.

- (a) Identify **THREE (3)** possible reasons for this problem. (6 marks)
- (b) For each reason, provide a detailed plan that David can adopt to ensure a more positive academic outcome. (14 marks)

- **END OF PAPER** -