

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

SECTION II

Reading period—15 minutes

Total writing time—2 hours

Question 1

(Suggested time—40 minutes. This question counts for one-third of the total essay section score.)

Directions: The following prompt is based on the accompanying six sources.

This question requires you to synthesize a variety of sources into a coherent, well-written essay. When you synthesize sources you refer to them to develop your position and cite them accurately. *Your argument should be central; the sources should support this argument. Avoid merely summarizing sources.*

Remember to attribute both direct and indirect citations.

Introduction

Global warming (an increase in Earth’s external temperatures) has been blamed for a host of recent worldwide issues, including an increase in the number and severity of hurricanes, higher temperatures and droughts, and various other environmental changes. Some strategies that are used to curtail global warming may affect global politics and economics.

Assignment

Read the following sources (including the introductory information) carefully. **Then, in an essay that synthesizes at least three of the sources for support, take a position on the key issues that leaders (in science, politics, business, etc.) should consider when making policies that may affect global warming.**

You may refer to the sources by their titles (Source A, Source B, etc.) or by the descriptions in parentheses.

Source A (Kyoto Protocol)

Source B (Graph)

Source C (Fonda)

Source D (Lomborg)

Source E (Maslin)

Source F (Borenstein)

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

Source A

“Kyoto Protocol Takes Effect.” The Nature Conservancy.
Summer 2005: 13.

The following passage is excerpted from an article in a quarterly magazine focused on environmental awareness.

In February the Kyoto Protocol to reduce global warming took effect, requiring participating countries to reduce their greenhouse-gas emissions to below 1990 levels over a five-year period beginning in 2008. One hundred forty-one countries ratified the treaty. The United States and Australia, which together account for one-quarter of the world’s greenhouse-gas emissions, did not.

The Nature Conservancy regards the Kyoto Protocol as a key first step to help slow the onslaught of global warming and benefit conservation efforts.

GLOBAL WARMING AT A GLANCE

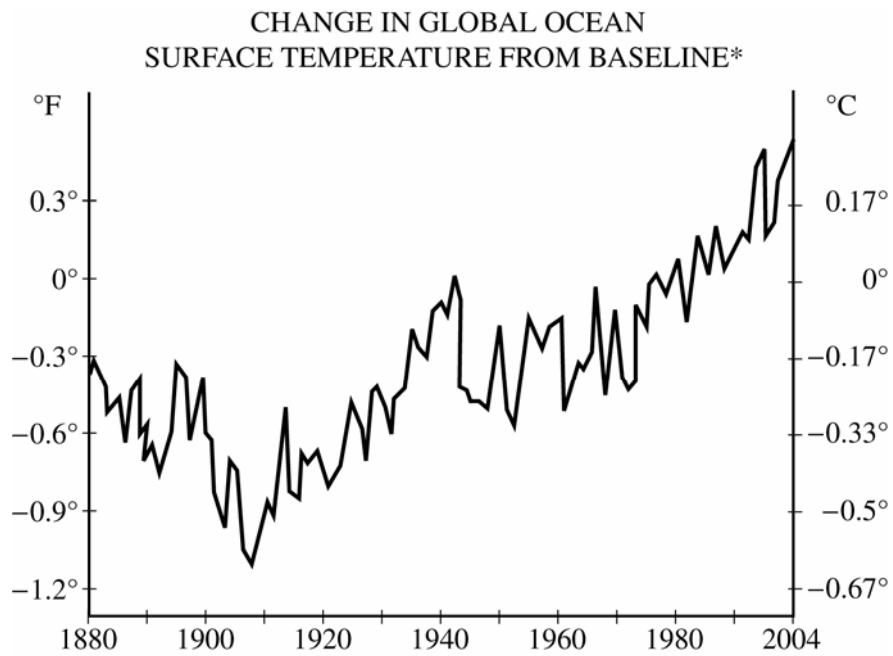
- In the 20th century, the world’s average surface temperature rose by approximately 1 degree Fahrenheit, the fastest rate in any period over the last 1,000 years.
- The combustion of fossil fuels—coal, natural gas and petroleum—accounts for nearly three-quarters of carbon dioxide emissions, the primary global-warming gas.
- Approximately one-quarter of carbon dioxide is caused by deforestation.
- Protection and restoration of forests may be able to offset up to 20 percent of carbon dioxide emissions over the next 50 years.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

Source B

Graph

The graph below is compiled from a variety of government data available on measured ocean temperatures over approximately 150 years.



* Baseline is the average surface temperature from 1971 to 2000

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

Source C

Fonda, Daren. "G.E.'s Green Awakening." Inside Business. Spec. issue of Time Aug. 2005: A10-16.

The following passage is excerpted from an article in the special business section of a weekly news magazine.

The potential for fuel-saving technologies and renewable energy is also getting more compelling as oil and gas prices reach record levels. Eighteen states, including power hogs California and Texas, have set requirements or goals for renewable energy. New York, for one, aims to generate 25% of the state's energy from renewables by 2013, up from 19% today. More than 160 mayors have pledged to curb greenhouse gases in their cities according to the guidelines of the Kyoto Protocol. Indeed, now that Kyoto has kicked in—with 34 industrialized nations legally bound to cut emissions, excluding the U.S., China and Australia—multinational companies will have to cut CO₂ emissions or pay to pollute at the old rate, bolstering the market for pollution-control gear.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

Source D

Lomborg, Bjørn. The Skeptical Environmentalist: Measuring the Real State of the World. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2001.

The following passage is excerpted from a book that argues that too much attention is being paid to the negative impact of global warming.

In general we need to confront our myth of the economy undercutting the environment. We have grown to believe that we are faced with an inescapable choice between higher economic welfare and a greener environment. But surprisingly and as will be documented throughout this book, environmental development often stems from economic development—only when we get sufficiently rich can we afford the relative luxury of caring about the environment. . . .

This also has implications for our discussions on prioritization. Many people love to say that we should have a pollution-free environment. Of course this is a delightful thought. It would likewise be nice to have a country with no disease The reason why this does not happen in real life is that the cost of getting rid of the final disease . . . will always be ridiculously high. We invariably choose to prioritize in using our limited resources.

One American economist pointed out that when we do the dishes we are aiming not to get them *clean* but to dilute the dirt to an acceptable degree. If we put a washed plate under an electron microscope we are bound to see lots of particles and greasy remnants. But we have better things to do than spend the whole day making sure that our plates are a little cleaner (and besides, we will never get them *completely* clean). We prioritize and choose to live with some specks of grease. Just how many specks we will accept depends on an individual evaluation of the advantages of using more time doing dishes versus having more leisure time. But the point is that we—in the real world—never ask for 100 percent.

Similarly, we have to find a level at which there is sufficiently little pollution, such that our money, effort and time is better spent solving other problems.

Source E

Maslin, Mark. Global Warming: A Very Short Introduction. NY: Oxford UP, 2004.

The following passage is excerpted from a book that analyzes global warming.

The first major flaw in the Kyoto Protocol, according to many, is that it does not go far enough. The Kyoto Protocol currently negotiated has cuts of emissions relative to 1990 levels of between 3 and 8% for just over half of the developed world with no restrictions for the less-developed world, while scientists have suggested up to a 60% global cut is required to prevent major climatic change. Hence it is suggested that the Kyoto Protocol will do nothing to prevent global warming and is not significantly different from a business-as-usual situation; which is of course what many developed countries want in order to maintain their economy. . . .

It is, however, unsurprising that the USA withdrew from these climate change negotiations: US carbon dioxide emissions have already risen by 12% compared with 1990 levels and are predicted to rise by more than 30% by 2012 compared to 1990 levels. So if they had agreed to ratify the Kyoto Protocol, they would have had to cut their emissions by over a third, which successive Presidents have seen as a direct threat to the US economy and their chances of re-election. . . .

There is very little doubt that global warming will change our climate in the next century; our best estimates suggest an average temperature increase of 1.4–5.8°C, a sea-level rise in the order of a metre, significant changes in weather patterns, and more extreme climate events. This . . . does produce some major challenges for our global society, the most important of which are the moral dilemmas that global warming has precipitated. First, how do we ensure that the Third World develops as rapidly as possible, while preventing a massive explosion in production of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases? Second, is the question of whether the money we plan to spend on stabilizing global warming, \$8 trillion or 2% of the World's GDP, to protect future generations is better spent on alleviating current global human suffering? Ultimately, 2% of the World's GDP is a very small cost if we can ensure that the world economy continues to grow by 2-3% per year over the next century as predicted. So ultimately global warming is an issue of morals and global economics.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

Source F

Borenstein, Seth. "Study Blames Global Warming for Early Springs." St. Louis Post-Dispatch 17 May 2005: A3.

The following passage is excerpted from an article appearing in a daily newspaper.

Each spring, the robins are arriving in Wisconsin several days earlier than they did a decade ago. Endangered woodpeckers in North Carolina are laying their eggs about a week earlier than they did 20 years ago. And some of Washington's signature cherry trees bloom about a month earlier than they did a half-century ago.

The first signs of spring are appearing earlier in the year, and a new study from Stanford University released Monday says man-made global warming is clearly to blame.

Mother Nature has rushed spring forward by nearly 10 days worldwide, on average, in just 30 years, the study shows.

What this means, biologists say, is that the global environment is changing so fast that the slow evolutionary process of species adaptation can't keep up. Early-arriving birds could crowd out birds that migrate only in longer daylight, leaving them insufficient food. Early blossoming flowers—such as the columbine—could be wiped out by spring snowstorms.

"What we're really concerned about is this tearing apart of communities; some species are going to be changing, and some are not," said study co-author Terry Root, an ecologist at Stanford's Center for Environmental Science and Policy.

The peer-reviewed study, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, statistically links global warming from the burning of fossil fuels to signs of early spring at detailed local levels for the first time.

© McClatchy-Tribune Information Services. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted with permission.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.