



Global Environmental Issues

Task: The Effects of Climate Change

Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the GESE 9.

You are going to hear a talk about **climate change**. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me generally what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

Audio Script

Everybody knows that climate change is problematic to the world. In fact, it has fundamentally been changing the world around us. Perhaps, you yourself have even seen these changes?

So, one obvious problem is pollution. Due to having huge urban areas, with many dwellings, transports and also the increase of air pollution, this has helped run up climate change. In addition, this would be somewhat thanks to overpopulation. Namely this would be because people are living longer lives and along with that there is a higher consumption of food and resources. Now, if we look into the greenhouse effect, we would see that we have to take into account gases in the atmosphere, which are water vapor, carbon dioxide, nitrous dioxide, methane and chlorofluorocarbons. They allow the heat from the sun to come in but because of the greenhouse effect some of this heat is trapped and neither is it released nor is the earth keeping a cooler temperature. The opposite happens, in reference to the earth's temperature increasing. Furthermore, it is disturbing to consider that burning fossil fuels have increased the CO₂ in the atmosphere more than one third since the industrial revolution, whereas prior to that the world had never seen such a rapid increase before. Another serious concern is that of deforestation. Little do some people realize the importance trees have in our lives. Trees help absorb CO₂, but when not replaced, the CO₂ lingers in the atmosphere. In other words, it is bringing down our quality of air in a world that has more and more people each time needing to breathe it.

So to continue, no sooner are the habitats affected than so are the animals and plants. This has been seen in habitats that have shifted and due to this some species have become endangered and even extinct, hence creating a risk for the survival of other animals. Additionally, this carries on to food sources. Apart from the loss of particular species, some areas have become difficult to grow crops. That is to say, that part of the difficulty is due to water supplies decreasing. This may have to do with either the shift of the habitat or even with the weather. That leads us into the next point. With the weather, climate change must have been noted by many with frequent and longer droughts, while causing the challenges with the water sources for crops. In addition, there are also more intense storms, floodings, and heavier snowfalls. What is more, the oceans have also been a victim to climate change. This is seen in the melting ice sheets, for instance that of Greenland and Antarctica. The problem is the



sea levels are rising and coastal regions are flooding. Last but not least, there is also the aspect of health to consider. Urban environments seem to be a trap magnet for increasing the amount of smog. It contains ozone particles, which increases quickly at higher temperatures. On top of that, because of this smog, it causes problems with asthma, heart disease and lung failure.

To conclude, it seems dire but people should be made aware that we can still fight against it. As we use more and more solar and wind energy, these don't produce greenhouse gases. We can still improve our world's environment, but we each have to continue to take an active part in the process. If only we would have realized this ages ago.

Can you tell me in one or two sentences what the speaker was talking about?

Now listen to the talk again. This time make some notes as you listen, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me about the causes and effects of climate change.

Now tell me about the causes and effects of climate change. You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

Answers:

Causes from Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● pollution: urban areas and air pollution● overpopulation: higher consumption in food and resources, more people living longer lives● The Greenhouse Effect: water vapor, carbon dioxide, nitrous dioxide, methane, chlorofluorocarbons; allows heat to come through the atmosphere but keeps some from escaping, trapping greenhouse gases there, increasing the earth's temperature● burning fossil fuels increased CO₂ in the atmosphere; more than one third since the industrial revolution● Deforestation: Cutting down forest, trees help absorb CO₂, but when not replaced, CO₂ lingers in the atmosphere
Effects from Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Habitats: habitats for plants and animals shift; some species are disappearing● Food: more difficult in growing crops, water supplies decreasing● Weather: More extreme: frequent and longer droughts, intense storms, flooding, heavy snowfalls● Oceans: ice sheets are melting; Greenland and Antarctica; sea levels rising and flooding coastal regions



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health: urban environments and smog; higher temperatures, causes asthma, heart disease and lung failure
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