

Reading

Read the text and answer the questions that follow.

"The Grass is Greener on the Other Side"

I

Young people today are more aware than ever of their environment, but they seem to feel there are so many "green" issues that it becomes difficult to decide what the top priorities are. In this article, several teenagers give their views.

II

Jack Dawn, a 17-year-old from Leeds, feels that the most important concern is the danger of a nuclear disaster. He is extremely worried about the danger of a nuclear war and is also concerned that the waste created by nuclear reactors is not being disposed of satisfactorily. He claims that it is being buried in the ground, where it takes many years to become safe. In addition, he warns that this waste is destroying the soil in which it is buried. He is afraid that in the future, if people dig up the land for building or farming, they will be using contaminated land, which could be very harmful.

III

Ann Black, on the other hand, is worried about a more everyday issue – pollution in the city. The 16-year-old, who lives in London, where there is constant smog, says that the fumes from factories and thousands of vehicles on the roads have made the air extremely dangerous to breathe. She believes that more people should use public transport, walk or ride bicycles in order to cut down on traffic and, consequently, pollution.

IV

The main problem for Mary Low, who lives in the country, is the destruction of the rain forests, which are a major source of oxygen for people and animals. 30 She says that by cutting down the forests, we are destroying the atmosphere. In addition, the burning of these trees releases poisonous gases, which are dangerous for all living creatures. In general, she is concerned about the exploitation of land for our own purposes, such as building and agriculture. She is very upset that the natural habitat of wildlife is being destroyed and many animals and birds are becoming extinct.

V

For Michael Tobe, in his last year of secondary school, 40 the greenhouse effect is the most important because he says it is affecting us the most. As a result of the hole in the ozone layer, climate changes are occurring all over the world, causing severe floods and droughts as well as typhoons and hurricanes. He thinks people 45 should be more careful and efficient in their homes. He believes that everyone should recycle rubbish and use ozone-friendly products. Michael feels that we are paying a very high price for being so advanced technologically.

VI

50 These young people are very pessimistic. They feel that they can do very little themselves because the problems seem so big and out of control. They firmly believe that the whole issue of the environment has got to be solved by governments working together because the 55 future of our world is at stake.

A What can we infer from the statement: "... the waste created by nuclear reactors is not being disposed of satisfactorily." Choose the most suitable answer.

1. Managers of nuclear plants are irresponsible about nuclear waste.
2. Managers of nuclear plants are not satisfied with the disposal of nuclear waste.

2. Why is the air polluted in London?

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3. What is happening to wildlife as a result of the destruction of the rain forests?

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B Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. What happens when nuclear waste is buried in the ground?

.....

C Rewrite the following sentence without changing its meaning.

Everyone should recycle rubbish and use ozone-friendly products.

Rubbish

.....

D Explain in your own words the meaning of “ozone-friendly products”.

.....
.....

E Decide if the following statements are T (true) or F (false). Find evidence in the text to support your answer.

- 1. People will contaminate the land if they dig it up.
..... 2. The hole in the ozone layer has led to floods and droughts.

F Find words or expressions in the text that mean the same as:

1. ideas (paragraph I)
2. smoke (paragraph III)
3. aims (paragraph IV)
4. lack of rain (paragraph V)
5. entire (paragraph VI)

Writing

Write a formal letter of 80-120 words to the Minister of the Environment, stating your opinion about pollution in your country. Suggest what young people could do to improve the situation.

“The Grass Is Greener on the Other Side” – Answers

Reading

A 1

- B** 1. It takes a long time before it becomes safe and it harms the soil.
2. The smoke from factories and fumes from cars have polluted the air in London.
3. Their natural environment is being destroyed and some animals are disappearing forever.

C Rubbish should be recycled by everyone and ozone-friendly products should be used (by everyone).

D Ozone-friendly products do not harm the atmosphere / ozone layer.

- E** 1. This statement is false according to lines 14-17.
“... if people dig up the land ... they will be using contaminated land”
2. This statement is true according to lines 40-43.
“As a result of the hole in the ozone ... typhoons and hurricanes.”

- F** 1. views
2. fumes
3. purposes
4. droughts
5. whole

Writing

Answers will vary. Accept all logical and grammatically correct answers.