

# Year 7 - Planet Earth Support Booklet



Valid: 2023-2024

Dear parent/carer,

Your child has been selected to receive this support pack for English in order to ensure that they make accelerated progress this year.

On behalf of the English department at Dormston School, I recognise that you may not have hours to devote to helping your child with English. However, research proves that every child benefits from parental involvement in their learning and from one-on-one support, so any time that you can spare to aid them in their studies will be gratefully received.

This booklet has been compiled to help you if you wish to support your child further at home. It is by no means compulsory, but does include a number of activities, information and suggestions, both for the busy parents and those that have lots of time to offer. It is not homework and is not an extended learning project and therefore, will not be marked by English staff.

Please use it at your leisure and I hope that it gives you an insight into your child's learning. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via the school's main contact number.

**A note for pupils: This is not a replacement for homework; homework must take first priority with pupils as it is compulsory.**

Yours faithfully,

*Miss B Timmins*

Acting KS3 co-ordinator of English

## **Assessment question:**

The assessment is designed to assess your ability to appropriately adapt your writing to suit the purpose and audience of the chosen form of transactional writing. The assessment is broken into two parts.

**Part A** – Short answer questions based upon transactional writing text types and features.

**Part B** – Transactional writing task based upon the chosen form.

Using language for impact:

- writing to explain
- writing to instruct/advise
- writing to argue
- writing to persuade.

Range of forms:

- Letter
- Article
- Text of a speech.

For example:

*“800 species of animal have become extinct due to mankind. The government must make more money available to fund conservation programs”*

Write **a letter** addressed to the **prime minister** in which you **argue** your point of view on this **statement**.

**Part A** – You will be **marked out of 10** for your ability to respond to short answer questions based on a Gothic extract.

**Part B** - You will be **marked out of 20** for your ability to adapt your writing to suit the purpose and audience of the chosen form of transactional writing. The 20 marks is broken into **15 marks** for your content and organisation (AO5) and **5 marks** for your technical accuracy (AO6).

**Assessment time:** 50 minutes

# Environmental Issues

## Climate Change

So why does it matter that climate change is happening again? Because it is happening more quickly now than ever. Humans are believed to be speeding up the rate at which the climate is getting warmer, and many plants and animals cannot adapt quickly enough to the changes in order to survive, like the poor old woolly mammoth.

## Plastic Pollution

While plastic has many valuable uses, we have become addicted to single-use or disposable plastic — with severe environmental consequences. Around the world, one million plastic drinking bottles are purchased every minute, while up to 5 trillion single-use plastic bags are used worldwide every year. In total, half of all plastic produced is designed to be used only once — and then thrown away.

## Over Population

The number of inhabitants in the planet is arriving at unsustainable levels as it confronts deficiency of assets like water, fuel and food. Overpopulation is one of the most important environmental concerns.

## Littering and Landfills

Littering simply means disposal of piece of garbage or debris improperly or at wrong location usually on the ground instead of disposing them at trash container or recycling bin. Littering can cause huge environmental and economic impact in the form of spending millions of dollars to clean the garbage of road that pollute the clean air.

## Deforestation

Our woodlands create new oxygen and additionally help in managing temperature and precipitation. At present, timberlands cover 30% of the area, but wooded areas are being lost on a regular basis because people are looking for homes, food, and materials. Deforestation is a huge problem and will just continue to get worse.

## Loss of Endangered Species

Human overpopulation is prompting the elimination of species and environmental surroundings and the loss of various biomes. Environmental frameworks, which took a huge number of years to come into being, are in risk when any species populace is huge.

# Structuring a Speech

## We Are Facing a Man-Made Disaster

Right now, we are facing a man-made disaster of global scale. The greatest threat in thousands of years: climate change. If we don't take action the complete collapse of our civilisations and the extinctions of much of the natural world is on the horizon. The continuation of civilisation is in your hands.

The introduction of the **speech** establishes the first, crucial contact between the speaker and the audience.

Never before have we had such an awareness of what we are doing to the planet, and never before have we had the power to do something about it. Do we not we have a responsibility to care for our blue planet? This world is a gift. An incredible, astonishing, sanctuary for all living things. Yet if we do not take a stand, all that is beautiful will drift away like the waters.

In the body of your speech you must make at least three, clear points.

Include a range of persuasive (A FOREST FIRE) techniques to persuade and convince your audience.

The future of humanity, and indeed all life on Earth, now depends on us. Almost 800 species on Earth have become extinct due to mankind. As I speak, a desperate polar bear, crippled by starvation, surveys his desolate landscape in hope of survival. An orangutan looks on helplessly, as machines destroy her home, unable to understand, she can only observe as her environment deteriorates around her. We must bring an end to this. An estimated 80% of the world's forests have already been lost to deforestation.

Right now, 8 million tonnes of plastic ends up in the oceans every year, but you, by your responses, have shown that if we begin making those small steps that are easily achievable, we can, before long, really have an effect.

We have to act. We have to act now to try and clear up some of the appalling damage we have made and that is going to require positive action.

The conclusion summarises your key points. Try to end your speech with a powerful message that will resonate with your audience.

The world needs you.

Consider how you structure your paragraphs. A single sentence paragraph can be very effective if used with purpose.

# Structuring a Formal Letter

Recipient name and address

10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

Writer's address and date

56 Jenks Avenue  
Stourbridge  
West Midlands  
DY8 4HJ

October 1, 2018

Polite greeting

Dear Prime Minister,

Explain why you are writing

Imagine being a ravenous fish and through the foggy blue of the ocean you see a small mass floating towards you. It looks edible to you, so you take a bite and it tastes good. Now imagine this being your last meal because that mass was in fact a piece of plastic.

First point

Marine animals make up about 80% of the ocean, yet the animals are dying rapidly. It's not only fish that are consuming this deadly material. Plastic is having costly effects on almost all marine wildlife. By 2050 there could be more plastic than fish in the ocean. Yet the problems start long before plastic reaches our oceans, rivers and beaches, and so must the solutions.

Second point

From protecting food and medicines to making technology accessible and affordable, our modern economy relies on plastic for many things. But the way we use this material has resulted in a crisis of waste and pollution. People around the world are coming together to demand change. Many are changing the way they shop, what they eat and how they live. Millions of pounds are being invested in cleaning up plastics from our oceans, rivers and streets. But all this vital work will be for nothing if ever more plastic continues to be landfilled, burned, or escapes into our environment. We must tackle this flood at the source. We cannot let this continue. We need your full support.

Third point

We must eliminate the plastic we do not need – the throwaway straws, cutlery and cups; unnecessary packaging and items that can be replaced with better alternatives. We must innovate so all the plastic we do need is designed to be safely reused, recycled, or composted. We must circulate everything we use; making sure the plastic we produce stays in the economy and never becomes waste or pollution. Some businesses are already changing how plastic is designed, used and re-used, to stop the pollution before it starts. Yet we need much more to happen, and many more to follow their lead. That work must start now, with firm commitments and immediate action.

Action to be taken

We must unite behind a common vision. Only when we come together and use the combined power of innovation, industry, finance, policy, and the people, will we finally turn the tide on plastic pollution. The question is not whether a world without plastic pollution is possible, but what we will do together to make it happen. It is not too late. If Britain created laws to discontinue the production of harmful plastic items such as plastic bags, straws and product packaging we can slowly begin to reverse the dreadful damage we have already caused.

Yours faithfully  
Miss A Walker.

Formal ending use 'Yours sincerely' if recipient's name is known.  
'Yours faithfully' if it is unknown.

# Structuring an Article

Newspaper Name. Consider whether you are writing a broadsheet or tabloid.

## Global Headlines

### OUR HOUSE IS ON FIRE

Headline – This informs readers about the content of the news story in as few words as possible.

Try to include short snappy language, alliteration, pun, metaphor etc.

Consider whether you want to make your story clear to your readers or if you want to create intrigue.



An image of the devastating impact of deforestation.

Images must include a caption. This explains what is happening within the picture.

The Brazilian Army have been deployed in an attempt to tackling the fires. However, at this moment their attempts appear futile.

#### How did it start?

Environmentalists have predicted that the blaze was in fact started deliberately in an effort to illegally deforest land. This is unfortunately not an uncommon occurrence as one and a half acres of forest are cut down every second.

#### Why is this happening?

On average, a person in the United Kingdom uses more than 700 pounds of paper every year. As well as this, civilizations have become dependent on products containing palm oil, making it a necessary item in our modern society. The over exploitation of forests is making it extremely difficult to replant a new ecology, meaning we are risking demolishing what is left of our rainforests.

Our world is in crisis. It is dying at the hands of humanity. We must work together to prevent the further destruction of our planet. We are still waiting for this destructive blaze to cease. We cannot afford to lose any more of our forests, the future of humanity and the world depends on it.

Use subheadings to separate your newspaper into sections. You can use the 5W's to create your own subheadings. This also makes it easy for readers to identify areas of interest.

The conclusion summarises your key points.

An introduction is usually no more than 60 words. In the introduction you should aim to include all 5W's.

The Amazon Rainforest is burning. It is thought that the fires were deliberately started in efforts to illegally deforest land for cattle ranching and palm oil. The fire has been raging uncontrollably for almost two months, damaging huge expanses of land. The Brazilian Army has been deployed to help tackle the vicious fires.

#### What is the cause?

The cause of the blaze is currently unknown. However many, such as *Julie Porter, an environmentalist, has speculated, suggesting illegal deforestation is to blame. She described the Amazon as 'the world's lungs'. She went on to say, 'the world is not dying, we are killing it'.*

#### Who is to blame?

There are a chain of people responsible. Many have argued that we, as consumers are the most to blame. Our continued desire for palm oil and paper based products is threatening the existence of hundreds of species as *an estimated 80% of the world's forests have already been lost to deforestation.*

#### When will it be under control?

The Amazon has been ablaze for almost two months. The death toll currently unknown. Due to the dry conditions of the Amazon fires spread rapidly.

Quotations tell us what has been said and who said it. They can help to tell the story by giving the reader the opinions and ideas of the people involved.

Incorporate a variety of persuasive techniques (A FOREST FIRE) such as facts and statistics.

# Persuasive Devices

Persuasive Devices	Definitions
Alliteration	The occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjoining or closely connected words.
Figurative language	Similes: Comparing two things using ' <u>like</u> ' or ' <u>as</u> '. For example: 'As white as Arctic ice'. Metaphors: Comparing two things saying that one actually <u>is</u> the other. For example: 'A sea of plastic'.
Opinion	A personal view on something that is not based on fact.
Repetition	When words are repeated in order to reinforce a message or idea.
Emotive language	Language that appeals to your emotions/ your heart.
Statistics and Facts	Statistics: Usually numbers or percentages. For example: 80% of the world's forests have already been lost to deforestation. Fact: Something that can be measured or evidenced. You cannot argue against fact. For example: There is a plastic island in the North Pacific ocean that is the size of India, Europe and Mexico combined.
Triadic structure	Using three descriptive words, or repetition x3. For example: 'The <u>desperate</u> , <u>crippled</u> , <u>starving</u> polar bear surveyed the isolated land'.
Form	How will it be structured? Is it a speech, letter, leaflet, advert or article?
Involve the reader	Speak directly to the audience/ reader. Aim to use 'you' or 'us' or 'we'.
Rhetorical Devices	Rhetorical question: A question that does not require an answer. Hyperbole: An exaggeration.
Evidence	Evidence can be short stories or anecdotes which back up your points.



## Transactional Writing Revision Table

Type of transactional writing.	Purpose	Structure	Components/ key features.
<b>Formal Letter</b>			
<b>Tabloid (newspaper)</b>			
<b>Broadsheet (newspaper)</b>			
<b>Speech</b>			

## Planning an Article

*"Global warming is an issue for another generation. It won't affect us in our life time"*

Write **an article** for a **broadsheet newspaper** in which you **explain** your point of view on this **statement**.

# Planning a Letter

"800 species of animal have become extinct due to mankind. The government must make more money available to fund conservation programs"

Write a **letter** addressed to the **prime minister** in which you **argue** your point of view on this **statement**.

Writer's  
address and

Recipient  
name and  
address

Polite  
greeting

Explain why  
you are  
writing

First point

Second  
point

Third point

Action to be  
taken

Dear

Formal ending use 'Yours sincerely' if recipient's name is known. 'Yours faithfully' if unknown.

# Planning a Speech

"Our world is dying. We are the generation that must take responsibility for our planet"

Write a **speech** for your school in which you **persuade your peers** to agree with your point of view on this **statement**.

Paragraph	Bullet-point your ideas. What will you discuss in each section of your speech?	Persuasive techniques that will be included.
<p><b>Introduction</b> Begin your introduction by explaining why you have been compelled to write this speech. Tell your audience what you are going to discuss and what you hope to have achieved by the end.</p>		
<p><b>Point 1</b> Decide on the <u>first</u> environmental issue you will discuss. Explain the <u>causes</u> and <u>possible solutions</u>.</p>		
<p><b>Point 2</b> Identify a <u>second</u> environmental issue. Why is it important that we find a <u>solution</u>? What are the <u>consequences</u> if we ignore this issue?</p>		
<p><b>Point 3</b> Identify a <u>final</u> environmental issue. What is the cause of this environmental concern? How can society help?</p>		
<p><b>Conclusion</b> What do you want your audience to learn? What actions need to be taken? Leave your audience with a final, powerful message.</p>		

## Key Spellings

1. Environment
2. Recycle
3. Problem
4. Devastation
5. Appalling
6. Which
7. Oxygen
8. Innocent
9. Pollution
10. Vulnerable
11. Crippled
12. Careless
13. Ocean
14. Suffocation
15. Dangerous
16. Destruction
17. Disaster
18. Desolate
19. Lonely
20. Humanity
21. Species
22. Extinct
23. Desperate
24. Starvation
25. Landscape
26. Survival
27. Helpless
28. Deteriorates
29. Deforestation
30. Estimation
31. Simile
32. Predator
33. Climate
34. Accidental
35. Abandoned
36. Forgotten
37. Alliteration
38. Manufacture
39. Rainforest
40. Endangered