

A/L GENERAL ENGLISH · PRACTICE PAPER SERIES

MODEL PAPER 05

Achievers, the Environment and Social Responsibility

PAPER I · 60 MARKS · 1 HOUR

PAPER II · 140 MARKS · 3 HOURS

FINAL SCORE = (I + II) ÷ 2

FREE TO USE · NOT FOR SALE

Practice paper. Format copied from the 2020/2024/2025 papers. Content is original. Biographical passages stick to well-known facts but are simplified for exam use — answer from the passage as printed.

Progress Today. **Greatness** Tomorrow.

අද දැනුමෙන් හෙට දිනුමට.



PAPER I

General English I · One hour · Total 60 marks

Instructions

- Answer all questions on this paper itself.
- Marks will be deducted for incorrect punctuation (omission of full stops, capital letters, etc.) and for mistakes in basic grammar.

PART A GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY

35 MARKS

1 QUESTION 01

05 MARKS

Fill in the blanks in the following text, using the prepositions given in the box. Use each preposition only once. There is one preposition extra.

after at for from into with

A city official came to a village and announced that the government was going to plant trees along the main road.

An old farmer, who had been listening quietly (1) the back of the crowd, raised his hand.

"Sir, twenty years ago your department came and cut down all the trees that stood here. Now you are asking us to be grateful (2) new ones."

The official, who had not expected an argument (3) a farmer, said nothing.

"Plant them, by all means," the old man added, "but this time, please look (4) them, and do not turn them (5) firewood in ten years."

2 QUESTION 02

10 MARKS

Fill in each blank with the correct form of the verb given within brackets.

Last August, the students of a small school in the hill country decided that something (1) (have) to be done about the stream behind their playground. It (2) (block) for years by plastic bottles and polythene, and after every heavy rain the water (3) (flood) the lower classrooms.

They began by (4) (survey) the stream from end to end. Once they (5) (identify) the worst sections, they asked their parents for help. Forty volunteers (6) (turn) up on the first Saturday.

By the end of the month the stream (7) (clear) completely, and the school (8) (place) two bins at the entrance to the playground.

The principal says that the classrooms (9) (not / flood) since. He adds that if the students (10) (wait) for the authorities to act, they would probably still be waiting.

3

QUESTION 03

10 MARKS

Underline the most appropriate word from those given within brackets to fill in the blanks in the following text.

Sri Lanka is one of (1) (a / an / the) world's biodiversity hotspots, with hundreds of species found nowhere else. (2) (This / These / Those) natural wealth is, however, under serious pressure.

Forest cover has fallen steadily, (3) (although / because / unless) land has been cleared for agriculture and settlement. Wetlands around the cities have been filled in, and (4) (many / much / few) of the rivers that supply drinking water are polluted.

The consequences fall on ordinary people. When a wetland disappears, (5) (it / its / it's) capacity to absorb floodwater disappears with it, (6) (so / nor / for) the next heavy rain inundates the houses built on the reclaimed land.

(7) (However / Therefore / Moreover), the position is not hopeless. Community groups have successfully restored several mangrove forests, and (8) (they / their / them) work has been recognised internationally.

Protecting the environment is not the responsibility of the government alone. (9) (Every / All / Much) citizen who refuses a polythene bag or plants a tree contributes to a result that no ministry could achieve (10) (by / with / for) itself.

4

QUESTION 04

05 MARKS

Underline the most appropriate word from those given within brackets.

We must (protect / defend / guard / cover) our forests for future generations.

Careless disposal of waste can (pollute / dirty / spoil / stain) our rivers.

The community (launched / threw / started off / put) a tree-planting campaign last year.

Renewable energy can (lower / reduce / shorten / lessen) our dependence on imported fuel.

Every citizen has a (duty / work / task / job) to keep public places clean.

5

QUESTION 05

05 MARKS

Underline the correct word-ending, selecting from those given within brackets.

Sri Lanka's mangrove forests are among the most product (1) (ive / ion / ing) ecosystems in the country. They act as nurseries for fish and provide natural protec (2) (tive / tion / ting) against coastal erosion. Their destruc (3) (tion / tive / ting) during the past few decades has therefore been extremely cost (4) (ly / less / ful) for fishing communities. Restoration projects run by villagers have proved remark (5) (able / ably / ability) successful, and several have been copied in other countries.

PART A · 35 MARKS



PART B READING AND WRITING

25 MARKS

6 QUESTION 06

05 MARKS

Underline the option that best expresses the meaning of each of the sentences given below in bold print.

(1) Had the wetland not been filled in, the flood would not have reached the houses.

- (a) The wetland was not filled in, so there was no flood.
- (b) The wetland was filled in, and as a result the flood reached the houses.
- (c) The flood reached the houses even though the wetland was preserved.
- (d) The houses were built before the wetland was filled in.

(2) Chathuri, whose father is a fisherman, won the national essay competition on marine conservation.

- (a) Chathuri's father won the competition.
- (b) Chathuri is a fisherman.
- (c) Chathuri won the competition.
- (d) Chathuri and her father both entered the competition.

(3) Rather than complaining about the rubbish, the residents organised a monthly clean-up.

- (a) The residents complained about the rubbish and did nothing else.
- (b) The residents complained and also organised a clean-up.
- (c) The residents organised a clean-up instead of complaining.
- (d) The residents refused to organise a clean-up.

(4) The project would not have succeeded but for the support of the villagers.

- (a) The project failed because the villagers did not support it.
- (b) The project succeeded because the villagers supported it.
- (c) The villagers supported the project but it failed.
- (d) The villagers had nothing to do with the project.

(5) Scarcely had the campaign begun when donations started to arrive.

- (a) Donations arrived long before the campaign began.
- (b) Donations began to arrive very soon after the campaign started.
- (c) No donations were received during the campaign.
- (d) The campaign was cancelled before donations arrived.

7 QUESTION 07

10 MARKS

Read the following four news items and answer the questions (I) and (II).

Mangrove replanting project completed in Puttalam

A community project to replant thirty hectares of mangrove forest in the Puttalam lagoon was completed on Thursday, 9th July. The project, which began three years ago, involved 180 villagers from four fishing communities. Officials said the survival rate of the seedlings had exceeded 80 per cent and that fish catches in the lagoon had already begun to improve.

School wins national award for waste management

A school in Badulla received the national award for school waste management at a ceremony held in Colombo on Saturday, 11th July. The school has operated a composting system for four years and now sends almost no waste to the municipal dump. The principal said the compost produced is used in the school garden and the surplus is sold to raise funds for the science laboratory.

Power cuts as reservoir levels fall

Scheduled power interruptions of one hour a day were introduced from Sunday, 12th July after water levels in several major reservoirs fell below forty per cent of capacity. The electricity authority said the interruptions would be reviewed weekly, and appealed to consumers to reduce unnecessary usage during peak hours.

Sri Lanka ranked highly for renewable potential

A report published on Tuesday, 14th July by an international energy institute placed Sri Lanka among the top fifteen countries in Asia for untapped renewable energy potential. The report assessed 34 countries on solar, wind, hydro and biomass resources. It noted that Sri Lanka's wind resources in the north-west remain largely undeveloped, but warned that grid capacity would need substantial investment.

(I) Underline the most appropriate response in each of the questions from (1) to (5).

- (1) How many villagers took part in the mangrove replanting project?
(a) Four (b) Thirty (c) Eighty (d) One hundred and eighty
- (2) Which of the following happened on Saturday?
(a) The completion of the mangrove project
(b) The waste management award ceremony
(c) The introduction of power interruptions
(d) The publication of the energy report
- (3) Who or what does the pronoun "It" refer to in the fourth news item?
(a) Sri Lanka (b) The report (c) The energy institute (d) The grid
- (4) Which of the following was not given in the news item about the school award?
(a) how long the composting system has operated
(b) what is done with the compost produced
(c) the number of students involved in the project
(d) where the award ceremony was held
- (5) The underlined phrase "untapped renewable energy potential" in the fourth news item most nearly means
(a) renewable energy that is already being fully used.
(b) renewable resources that have not yet been made use of.
(c) renewable energy that is too expensive to develop.
(d) renewable energy imported from other countries.

(II) Do the following statements agree with the information given in the above news items? In boxes (6) to (10), write True, False or Not Given.

	Statement	
(6)	More than eight out of ten mangrove seedlings survived.	
(7)	The Badulla school sells all the compost it produces.	
(8)	The power interruptions were introduced because reservoir levels had fallen.	
(9)	The power interruptions will continue for exactly three months.	
(10)	The energy report assessed a total of thirty-four countries.	



QUESTION 08

10 MARKS

Write a paragraph beginning with the given sentence. Use about 75–100 words. Do not exceed the word limit. Do not write more than one paragraph.

Sri Lankan achievers inspire the younger generation in many ways.

Write your answer below.

PART B • 25 MARKS



PAPER II

General English II · Three hours + 10 minutes reading time · Total 140 marks

PART A READING SKILLS

50 MARKS

1 QUESTION 01

10 MARKS

Read the following text in which some words are given in bold print. Then, underline the meaning that is most appropriate to the context for the words given in bold print from (1) to (10).

Wangari Maathai was a Kenyan scientist and campaigner whose work showed that protecting the environment and defending human rights are not (1) **separate** causes. Born in a rural village in 1940, she was one of the few girls of her generation to be sent to school, and she went on to become the first woman in East and Central Africa to (2) **earn** a doctorate.

Returning home as a university teacher, she observed that the streams she had known as a child had dried up, that firewood had become (3) **scarce**, and that women were walking further every year to find both. The deforestation that caused this was (4) **relentless**, and no official programme was addressing it.

Her response was simple enough to seem naive. In 1977 she began paying rural women a small sum for every tree seedling they raised and planted. What began as a modest scheme (5) **evolved** into the Green Belt Movement, which has since been responsible for planting tens of millions of trees.

The work brought her into direct conflict with a government that regarded environmental campaigners as troublesome. She was arrested repeatedly and on occasion beaten, but she refused to be (6) **intimidated**. She argued that a government which allowed forests to be given away to its supporters was not merely mismanaging land but (7) **undermining** the rights of its own citizens.

In 2004 she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, the first African woman to receive it. The committee's decision was initially (8) **disputed** by those who felt that planting trees had little to do with peace. Her reply was (9) **characteristically** direct: societies fight over resources, and a country that destroys its own is preparing its own conflicts.

She died in 2011. The movement she founded (10) **endures**, and the argument she made has since been widely accepted.

No.	Options
(1) separate	connected · unrelated · important · popular
(2) earn	obtain · teach · refuse · borrow
(3) scarce	plentiful · in short supply · expensive · unnecessary
(4) relentless	occasional · unstoppable · illegal · gradual
(5) evolved	shrank · developed · collapsed · returned
(6) intimidated	encouraged · frightened · convinced · rewarded
(7) undermining	strengthening · weakening · explaining · protecting
(8) disputed	accepted · questioned · celebrated · ignored



No.	Options
(9) characteristically	unusually · typically · politely · reluctantly
(10) endures	ends · continues · expands · fails

2

QUESTION 02

10 MARKS

Read the following text and answer questions (I) and (II).

① Susanthika Jayasinghe is the most successful track athlete Sri Lanka has produced. She was born in December 1975 in a village in the Kegalle district, one of a large family with very limited means, and she began running competitively at school without any of the facilities available to athletes in wealthier countries.

② Her international breakthrough came in 1997, when she won the silver medal in the 200 metres at the World Championships in Athens. It was the first world championship medal ever won by a Sri Lankan athlete, and it announced her as a genuine competitor at the highest level rather than a promising outsider.

③ Three years later she competed at the Sydney Olympic Games. She finished third in the 200 metres final and was awarded the bronze medal. Several years afterwards the result of the athlete who had finished ahead of her was annulled, and Susanthika's medal was upgraded to silver. She therefore became only the second Sri Lankan in history to win an Olympic medal, the first having been Duncan White, who took silver in the 400 metres hurdles at the London Games of 1948 — a gap of more than half a century.

④ Her career was not a straightforward story of support and success. She trained for long periods with minimal funding, faced public disputes with officials, and spoke openly about difficulties that many athletes would have preferred to keep private. She continued to compete internationally into her thirties.

⑤ Since retiring she has spoken frequently about the conditions facing young athletes in Sri Lanka, arguing that talent in the country is abundant and that what is lacking is systematic support: coaching, nutrition, facilities and the willingness to invest in an athlete over a decade rather than a season. Her own career, she points out, succeeded despite the system rather than because of it.

(I) Do the following statements agree with the information given in the above text? Write True or False in the boxes (1) to (8).

	Statement	
(1)	Susanthika Jayasinghe was born in the Kegalle district.	
(2)	She won a silver medal at the World Championships in 1997.	
(3)	Her 1997 medal was the first world championship medal won by a Sri Lankan athlete.	
(4)	She originally received a silver medal at the Sydney Olympic Games.	
(5)	Duncan White won his Olympic medal in the 200 metres.	
(6)	More than fifty years separated the two Sri Lankan Olympic medals.	
(7)	She retired from international competition before the age of thirty.	
(8)	She believes that Sri Lanka lacks athletic talent.	

(II) Underline the most appropriate answer.

(9) Who or what does the pronoun "It" in bold print in paragraph ② refer to?

- (a) The World Championships
- (b) The silver medal she won in 1997
- (c) The city of Athens
- (d) The 200 metres event

- (10) The phrase "succeeded despite the system rather than because of it" in paragraph ⑤ most nearly means
- (a) the system was the main reason for her success.
 - (b) she succeeded even though the system did not support her properly.
 - (c) she refused to take part in the national system.
 - (d) the system succeeded because of her.

3

QUESTION 03**05 MARKS**

Read the following poem and do the activities that follow.

What the River Said

I did not ask to carry this —
The bottle and the broken chair,
The bag that will not rot away,
The oil that spreads and settles there.

I gave you fish. I gave you rice.
I turned the stones of half your mills.
I came down clean from where I rose
Among your green and quiet hills.

You built your houses on my bank
And then complained about the rain;
You took the marsh that drank the flood
And asked me not to come again.

I have no anger. I have time.
I only do what water does.
But when at last you look for me,
Remember what I was, and was.

(A) Underline the most appropriate response.

- (1) In the first stanza, the river is describing
- (a) the fish that live in it. (b) the waste that has been thrown into it.
 - (c) the hills where it begins. (d) the mills built beside it.
- (2) According to the third stanza, why does flooding now occur?
- (a) Because the rain has increased.
 - (b) Because houses were built on the bank and the marsh was taken away.
 - (c) Because the river has become angry.
 - (d) Because the mills use too much water.
- (3) The line "I have no anger. I have time" suggests that the river
- (a) will forgive everything quickly.
 - (b) is indifferent to human complaints and will outlast them.
 - (c) is planning to take revenge.
 - (d) has already been destroyed.
- (4) The overall tone of the poem is best described as



(a) calm but reproachful. (b) cheerful. (c) furious. (d) frightened.

(B) Write down a word, selecting from the poem, which means the same as "an area of soft wet land."

.....

4

QUESTION 04

05 MARKS

Complete the blanks of the summary meaningfully and appropriately, using one word only from the passage titled "Recycling."

Recycling

Recycling is the process of collecting materials that would otherwise be discarded and converting them into new products. Paper, glass, metal and certain plastics can all be treated in this way, and doing so reduces both the volume of waste sent to landfill and the quantity of raw material that must be extracted from the earth.

The environmental case is straightforward. Producing aluminium from recycled metal requires a small fraction of the energy needed to produce it from ore. Recycling paper reduces the pressure to fell trees. Every tonne of material recovered is a tonne that does not have to be buried.

Recycling is not, however, a complete solution, and treating it as one can be misleading. It consumes energy itself, and some materials degrade each time they are processed, so they cannot be recycled indefinitely. Most specialists therefore place recycling third in order of importance, after reducing consumption in the first place and reusing items that are still serviceable.

Summary

Recycling means collecting materials that would otherwise be (1) and turning them into new products. It reduces waste sent to landfill and the amount of (2) material that must be extracted. Producing aluminium from recycled metal, for example, needs far less (3) than producing it from ore. However, recycling is not a complete solution, because some materials (4) each time they are processed. Specialists therefore rank recycling third, after reducing consumption and (5) items that can still be used.

5

QUESTION 05

20 MARKS

Read the following text and answer the questions from (1) to (5).

① Sri Lanka contributes a negligible share of global greenhouse gas emissions — well under one tenth of one per cent — and yet appears near the top of almost every list of countries most exposed to the effects of climate change. This is the central unfairness of the problem: the countries that caused it least are frequently the ones that must adapt to it first.

② The exposure is not theoretical. An island with 1,300 kilometres of coastline, a population concentrated near the sea, and an economy resting on agriculture, fisheries and tourism has little protection against rising sea levels, more erratic monsoons and higher ocean temperatures. Coral bleaching has damaged reefs that once absorbed wave energy before it reached the shore. Saltwater has moved further inland along several river mouths, affecting paddy cultivation in areas that have been farmed for centuries.

③ Farmers who once planted according to a reliable calendar now describe seasons that arrive weeks early or fail altogether. A crop planted on the strength of an early shower and then lost to six dry weeks is not merely a bad harvest; for a smallholder with no insurance, it can mean debt that takes years to clear.

④ Adaptation is therefore not optional, and some of it is already happening. Drought-resistant paddy varieties have been introduced, several coastal districts have restored mangrove belts as natural sea

defences, and early-warning systems for floods and landslides have improved considerably since the disasters of the past two decades. Restoring the ancient tank irrigation network — a technology a thousand years old — has proved one of the more effective responses to irregular rainfall.

⑤ What is harder is the political dimension. Adaptation costs money that a country under fiscal pressure does not readily have, and the benefits appear over decades while the costs fall in the current budget year. International climate finance exists but is slow, and access to it requires administrative capacity that is itself in short supply.

⑥ None of this makes individual action pointless, though it is worth being honest about its scale. A household that reduces its electricity consumption is not going to alter the trajectory of global temperatures. What individual action does achieve is the creation of a constituency: people who have changed something themselves are far more likely to demand change from those with the power to make it at scale. That, rather than the carbon saved, is its real value.

(1) Do the following statements agree with the information given in the above text? Write True, False or Not Given in the boxes from (a) to (f). (06 marks)

	Statement	
(a)	Sri Lanka is responsible for a very small share of global greenhouse gas emissions.	
(b)	According to the text, coral bleaching has improved the reefs' ability to absorb wave energy.	
(c)	Saltwater intrusion has affected paddy cultivation in some areas.	
(d)	Restoring the ancient tank irrigation network has proved an effective response to irregular rainfall.	
(e)	Sri Lanka has received more climate finance than any other South Asian country.	
(f)	The writer believes individual action is completely pointless.	

(2) Answer the following. (03 marks)

(i) Underline the most appropriate option to complete the missing sentence in paragraph ③.

- (a) Rainfall patterns have become markedly less predictable.
- (b) Sri Lankan farmers have stopped growing paddy altogether.
- (c) Insurance is now available to every smallholder in the country.
- (d) The monsoon has disappeared from the north of the island.

(ii) Why does the writer describe the situation in paragraph ① as unfair?

- (a) Because Sri Lanka produces more emissions than it admits.
- (b) Because the countries least responsible for the problem are among the first to suffer from it.
- (c) Because other countries refuse to publish their emissions figures.
- (d) Because adaptation is cheaper in wealthy countries.

(iii) According to the writer, what is the real value of individual action?

- (a) The amount of carbon it saves
- (b) The money it saves households
- (c) The way it creates people who will demand larger-scale change
- (d) The publicity it attracts internationally

(3) If you wish to extend each paragraph further, in which paragraphs do you include the following information? Match the information with the paragraphs of the text and write the number of the paragraph



in the relevant box. (03 marks)

	Information	Paragraph
(a)	A village committee in Anuradhapura desilts a 900-year-old tank and restores irrigation to 60 hectares.	
(b)	A hotel association reports that tourist arrivals fall sharply in years when reefs are visibly damaged.	
(c)	An application for an international climate grant takes two years to process because of documentation requirements.	

(4) Who or what do the following pronouns in bold print refer to? (03 marks)

- (a) it (paragraph ①, "must adapt to it first") :
(b) it (paragraph ③, "lost to six dry weeks... it can mean debt") :
(c) those (paragraph ⑥, "demand change from those") :

(5) Write one word in each blank, selecting from the passage, which means the same as the following. (05 marks)

- (a) So small as to be hardly worth considering :
(b) Irregular and unpredictable :
(c) A farmer who owns only a small piece of land :
(d) The process of adjusting to new conditions : (e) A group of people who support a particular cause :

PART A · 50 MARKS

PART B DIALOGUES

25 MARKS

6

QUESTION 06

05 MARKS

How do you respond in each of the following situations? Write only one appropriate sentence or question for each, beginning with the word/s given.

- (1) You see a stranger throwing a polythene bag into a canal. Object politely.
"Excuse me"
- (2) Your class has been asked to suggest a project for Environment Week. Make a suggestion.
"Why don't ?"
- (3) A shopkeeper offers you a polythene bag. Refuse it, giving a reason.
"No, thank you"
- (4) Your neighbour has planted twenty trees along the lane. Appreciate what she has done.
"It's wonderful"
- (5) You want the principal's permission to hold a clean-up campaign on a Saturday.
"Sir, would ?"

**QUESTION 07****05 MARKS**

Imagine that you are telephoning an environmental organisation to find out about volunteering. Complete the following telephone conversation. Do not use more than two sentences/questions in each blank.

- Officer :** Good morning. Green Lanka Foundation. How can I help you?
- You :** Good morning. (1) ?
- Officer :** Yes, we do accept school volunteers during the holidays.
- You :** (2) ?
- Officer :** At present we are running mangrove replanting and beach clean-up programmes.
- You :** (3) ?
- Officer :** Volunteers must be over sixteen and must bring a letter from the school.
- You :** (4) ?
- Officer :** The next programme begins on the first Saturday of next month.
- You :** (5) ?
- Officer :** You can register through our website or come to the office on any weekday.
- You :** Thank you very much. I'll speak to my teacher today.

**QUESTION 08****15 MARKS**

The following is an advertisement. Imagine that your school's Environment Society wishes to take part. You contact the coordinator over the phone. Write out the telephone conversation that takes place between the Coordinator and you. You may use the information given in the advertisement. Each one should speak at least five times.

ONE MILLION TREES — SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN 2026

Free seedlings for participating schools

★ Training for student leaders ★ Certificates ★ Monthly monitoring

Registration closes 31st August

Contact: The Coordinator — 011 2 334 556

Write your answer below.

PART B • 25 MARKS

PART C WRITING SKILLS

65 MARKS

9

QUESTION 09

05 MARKS

Select any five words from the list given below. Write five meaningful sentences using the selected words. You may use the verbs in any tense and nouns in singular or plural form. Do not change the form of the other words.

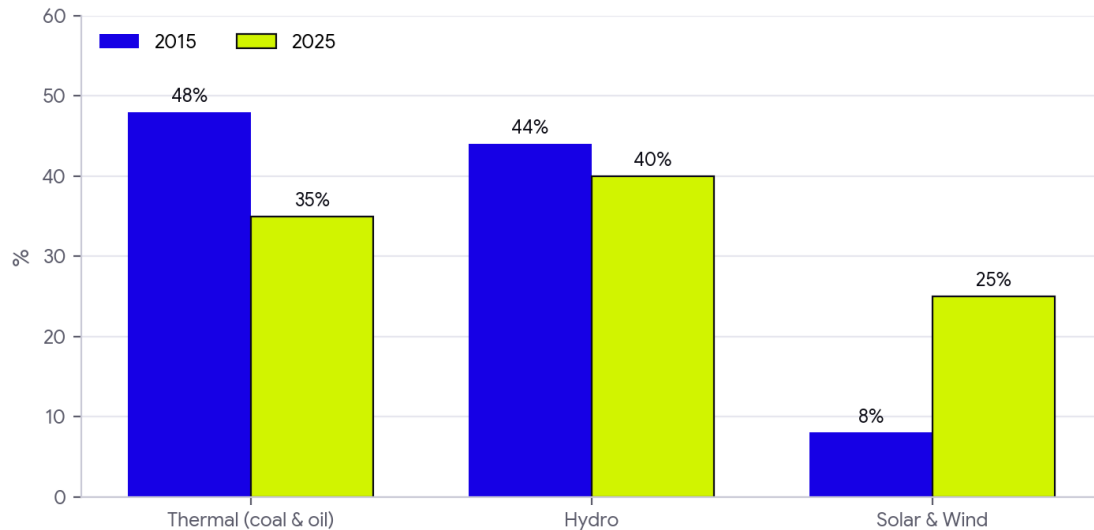
conserve valuable pollution seriously contribute renewable
awareness replace gradually responsible

10

QUESTION 10

10 MARKS

The bar chart below shows the sources of electricity generation in Sri Lanka in 2015 and 2025. Describe the information given in the bar chart by reporting the main features and making comparisons where relevant. Use about 100 words.



(Note: the 2025 figures total more than 100 per cent because of rounding in the source. Report the trends as given.)

Write your answer below.

11 QUESTION 11

15 MARKS

Your school's Environment Society is holding a tree-planting campaign next month. Write a letter to a friend in another school inviting him/her to take part with a group from his/her school. In your letter, include the following details:

- what the campaign is and why your society decided to organise it
- the date, time and place
- what participants should bring
-

why you would like his/her school to join

Use about 100–125 words.

Write your answer below.

12

QUESTION 12

15 MARKS

Mr. Ranjith Alwis, an officer of the Central Environmental Authority, conducted a workshop on "Waste Management in Schools" for the students of your school. As the Secretary of the Environment Society, write a letter of appreciation to him. Include the following in your letter:

- the purpose of the letter
- important details such as the date, venue and topic of the workshop
- how the workshop was useful to the students, with one example of what has changed since
- thanks for his time and contribution

Use about 100–125 words.

Write your answer below.

13 QUESTION 13

20 MARKS

It is proposed that "Every citizen has a personal responsibility to protect the environment, and this cannot be left to the government alone." Do you agree or disagree? Write an essay giving reasons for your choice. Use about 150–200 words. Do not exceed the word limit.

Write your answer below.



© Pro Path · FREE TO USE for personal study and classroom teaching · NOT FOR SALE — commercial redistribution is not permitted