



FUNCTIONAL SKILLS ENGLISH

AQA | Edexcel | City & Guilds | Open Awards | NCFE | Highfield
Level 1

Reading: Comparing Texts

Instructions

- Answer **all** questions.
- Answer questions on separate paper if required.

Information and Advice

- The marks for each question are shown in brackets – use this as a guide on how long to spend on each question.
- Read each question carefully before you answer it.
- Check your answers.

Source A

 Wellingborough Council **The Environment Act** 2021

• ABOUT THE ACT •

The Environment Act, created this year, is a law introduced by the government.

It aims to hold the UK to the standards of environmental protection it had while it was a part of the European Union.

An addition to the Environment Act of 1995, the new law aims to improve water and air quality, tackle waste and improve the diversity of plant and animal species in the UK.



As part of the new Environment Act, the government will be reviewing its environmental targets and commitments. It will also be thinking about whether meeting them would improve England's natural environment.

The government are also holding an important public meeting, which will take place at 11:00am on the 27th June, 2022. This meeting will try to get opinions from the public about the new environmental targets in the Environment Act 2021.

DEFRA (the Department of Agriculture, Environment, and Rural Affairs) in Northern Ireland needs to set out an Environmental Improvement Plan in line with the overarching schedule.

The aim of these targets is to leave the environment of the UK in a better state than when the current government came into power.

Your opinion is vital!

You can find details of how to get involved on our webpage, linked below.



4 Main areas of improvement

- ① Improve water quality and availability
- ② Improve air quality
- ③ Reduce waste and improve resource efficiency
- ④ Improve the diversity of plant and animal species

• A new body, the **Office for Environmental Protection** (OEP) has been created to help **ensure** the Act is followed.

• To make sure the Act works, the government will keep **setting and re-evaluating** its **long-term environmental targets**.

• The Act will provide a **strong foundation** for a future of UK-led environmental governing.

To learn more, go to www.WCC.gov.uk 

Turn over ►

NEW ENVIRONMENT LEGISLATION: AN ACT?

Written by: Marius Zusak

The government's recent Environment Act has sparked significant debate amongst the academic community. The discussion within the top circles of environmental scientists is largely critical.

Since the mid 1990s, specialists have advised the government that the climate crisis* is incredibly serious. Many people think that the Act does little to prevent climate change and may even make the current situation worse.

The main issues with the Act are the aims, as they have angered the population.

The government's aim for air purity has received minimal support. Many believe that the aim has not been planned out thoroughly, as the government has not set a date for the target to be achieved. Consequently, the aim has faced criticism from scientists.

Researchers at Imperial College London and UCL have stated that the government's goal of lowering the percentage of NO gas in the air is achievable ten years before the set goal date.

However, the setting up of 'clean air zones' is a positive step forward. Established zones, in which air must remain at a certain level of purity, could be an effective answer to the short-term issue of high pollution levels in urban cities.

As the inhalation of contaminated and heavily polluted air is a chief cause of death and lung complications, reducing the locations where individuals inhale such air is certainly a positive step.

*A term used to describe the threat of climate change.



Surprisingly, the Act provides no offer of support or financial help to councils wishing to implement the changes. Council areas which lack larger budgets for wellbeing and health, and the ability to put these measures in place, will be the last to benefit from this Act.

Overall, the intention of those who created the legislation appears to have been positive. Ultimately, it must be said that what the government aimed for with the Act has unfortunately not been accomplished.

It is clear that there are a number of factors which may prevent the success of the Act. As a consequence, it will not be able to sufficiently protect forests, or to reduce air pollution as hoped.

Q1 'Compare the views of the authors of Sources **A** and **B** on the subject of the Environment Act, and how these views are conveyed.'

Below is part of a model answer for this question. **Fill in the blanks** by selecting the correct words from the word bank below.

Source A informs the reader and the different parts of the Environment Act.

It gives an perspective through informative language and focuses the attention of the reader through the use of

Contrastingly, Source B aims to inform the reader of others', rather than focusing on the Act itself. In this way, Source B could be considered more Lastly, Source B is, as it provides both positive and negative opinions.

explains unbiased bullet points

subjective balanced perspectives

[6 marks]

Q2 Source **A** is a leaflet produced by the council. In contrast, Source **B** is a

- a) newspaper article
- b) business report
- c) letter

[1 mark]

Q3 The layout of Source **A** is **more varied** than the layout of Source **B**, what is the reason for this?

- a) The author of Source A likes lots of variety
- b) It is important to break down the Act into smaller sections so that the readers are able to understand each part clearly.
- c) The author of Source B only knew how to format columns

[1 mark]

Q4 'Sources **A** and **B** are written about the same topic'.

True or False?

- a) True
- b) False

[1 mark]

Q5 Sources **A** and **B** have the same but different

- a) Audiences, styles
- b) Topic, purposes
- c) Purpose, topics

[1 mark]

Q6 Sources **A** and **B** share the same perspective on the Environmental Act

True or False?

- a) True
- b) False

[1 mark]