

1 While voices are rising constantly for the protection of Planet Earth- the natural habitat of the human race- from various ecological threats, these same voices seem to show an amazing tolerance for a form of pollution that is a growing problem: noise. Airplane traffic is increasing by five percent a year. Urban noise is doubling every ten years and is getting increasingly diverse as city life becomes more dependent on technology and robotics. By air, land and sea, **we** are facing an onslaught of noise that is threatening our ability to survive safely in this world.



2 We have granted ourselves the right to make noise. But what about our responsibilities? Have we developed a sense of acoustic responsibility? The evidence suggests that we have not. Many people seem to believe **they** have unlimited liberty to make noise with cars and motorbikes and with loud music at home and in the street. In some countries, measures have been taken to force people to produce less noise. In Britain, for example, a law has been passed preventing people from disturbing their neighbors with music at night. But though these measures constitute one step towards recognizing noise as a shared environmental concern, they still address the issue only partially and don't allow for a concrete change to take place.

3 It is widely accepted now that we should deal with our rubbish in a responsible way; and many people have started to demonstrate awareness of this conventional form of pollution. Noise is in reality a particularly insidious form of rubbish. It destroys community life, pursues us into our homes to spoil our tranquility, keeps us from sleeping and is the cause of many stress-related illnesses, as well as hearing loss.



4 Our acoustic environment is property to us all. Everyone has the right to use **it**, but no one has the right to abuse it. Let's start using it sensibly.

**I COMPREHENSION (15 POINTS)**

**{BASE ALL YOUR ANSWER ON THE TEXT}**

**A Give a title to the text (2pts)**

.....

**B Answer the following questions: (2 pts)**

1 Why is our world becoming more difficult to live in?

.....  
.....

2 How can noise affect our lives?

.....  
.....

**C Are these sentences true or false? Justify. (2 pts)**

1 Nowadays, people seem to be as concerned with acoustic pollution as they are with the other conventional forms of pollution.

.....  
.....

2 British law protects people from all forms of acoustic pollution.

.....  
.....

**D Choose the right answer from the list given. (2 pts)**

**1 The level of noise produced in towns and cities:**

1 is less greater after every 10 years.

2 is twice as high now as it will be after ten years.

3 is twice as high now as ten years ago.

**2 Many people think that**

1 they have the right to use motorcycles and cars noisily.

2 motorcycles and cars are not noisy.

3 motorcycles and cars are disturbing.

**E What do the underlined words refer to? (3 pts)**

1 we (paragraph 1) : .....

2 they (paragraph 2) : .....

3 it (paragraph 4) : .....

**F Find in the text words or expressions that mean the same as: (4 pts)**

1 strong attack (paragraph 1) : .....

2 dangerous (paragraph 2) : .....

3 quietness (paragraph 3): .....

4 to use in an improper manner (paragraph 4) : .....

**II LANGUAGE (15 POINTS)**

**A- Complete the following sentences with the appropriate modals. (3pts)**

1. Bill almost .....make his class presentation last semester because he was so nervous. ( *can't / mustn't / couldn't* )
2. I .....practice the waltz last weekend because I hurt my ankle. ( *wasn't able to / could / had to* )
3. Children under 12 .....swim without an adult. ( *don't have to / mustn't / must* )

**B- Put the verbs in the brackets in the correct tenses. (3pts)**

1. If I find your passport, I.....(telephone) you at once.
2. If he .....(work) more slowly, he wouldn't make so many mistakes.
3. The whole machine .....(fall) to pieces if you removed that screw.

**C- Underline the correct answer (4pts)**

1. It will take me **a little / a few** time, but I'm sure everyone will learn how to use the new software eventually.
2. I waited for **a few / either** minutes and then I tried to call him again.
3. **Neither / None** of the supermarkets was open.
4. Emma and Megan **both / either** went to the party. They really enjoyed it.

**D- Complete the sentences with the appropriate words from the box. (3pts)**

**typical – sales – refund – currency – bargains – shooting**

1. I thought he might want a .....on his unused laptop.
2. On a clear moonless night one person may count eight or ten .....stars in an hour.
3. You can get lots of good .....at Second Hand City. This shirt only cost me \$4.
4. European countries now share a common .....known as the euro.
5. The teenager was dressed in the .....adolescent rebel uniform of blue jeans and leather jacket.
6. The city continued to be the largest primary fur market of the world, with .....of \$27,200,000 in 1920.

**E- Use the words in capitals at the end of each sentence to make words which fit in the space. (2pts)**

1. Investing in the stock market is a very .....way to try to make money. *RISK*
2. In Italy, steam from active volcanoes supplies heat and power to .....area. *SURROUND*
3. ....on second-class mail was charged according to distance. *POST*
4. There is .....that pollution of the world's ocean is increasing. *EVIDENT*

**III- WRITING (10 POINTS)**

*Imagine you have travelled to the moon in a space rocket. Write a description of the trip.*

A large rectangular box with a solid black border, containing 20 horizontal dotted lines for writing.