

Sample Paper
Class – XII
Subject – English

National Network of Education

Scientists Set Forth Proposals to Tame Climate

In 20 years, global temperatures will rise by 0.2-0.4 degree centigrade, they say

1. Scientists from 12 academies round the world have met in Tokyo to issue a statement on the inevitable long-term rise in temperature.

Their forecast is that in the next 20 years, global temperatures will rise by 0.2-0.4 degree centigrade. The consequences of global warming will be felt worldwide. Polar icecaps will continue to melt and the world's oceans will erode coastlines still further.

2. The academics assessed the scientific aspects of global climate change. This will be a G-8 plus 5 summit involving China, India, South Africa, Brazil and Mexico.

Representatives of these five nations participated in drafting the statement on climate change.

3. The decision to expand the summit format was logical as China now ranks second after the United States in industrial emissions, and the other four countries are also notorious for their high pollution levels.

The scientists called on world leaders to minimise the threat of climate change, stressed the need for urgent action to clarify the causes of this process and set forth proposals to "tame" the climate.

4. Yury Izrael, director of the Institute of Global Climate and Ecology at the Russian Academy of Sciences, who co-authored the statement, told RIA Novosti that the document mostly aimed at enhancing climate-stabilisation measures, outlined ways of adapting to the situation and stipulated a transfer to a low-carbon society.

5. He said less carbon carbon-intensive energy sources and the energy-preservation principle had to be introduced.

Japan, which will hold the G-8 summit, has invented a production process making it possible to cut toxic emissions by 70 percent by 2050. However, Mr. Izrael said this would not solve the climate change problem even if all industrial giants followed suit.

"To stabilise the climate, we must reduce toxic emissions down to the Earth's natural absorbing capacity. The planet can now absorb less than 50% of toxic emissions," he said.

6. "This means that we cannot achieve any short-term results in this sphere."

Mr. Izrael said direct efforts to fight greenhouse emissions held little promise.

Scientists have not yet assessed the impact of greenhouse gases on the global climate. At any rate, state-of-the-art industrial technologies are not the only way

to fight global warming. This costly programme will take several hundred years and many millions of dollars to implement.

The G-8 plus 5 academic meeting also focussed on other factors influencing global climate change.

7. “We must have different ‘weapons’ for fighting climate change and stabilising the climate, and have to use the most effective ones,” Mr. Izrael said.

For instance, geo-engineering technologies can alter the Earth’s albedo, or reflecting power. According to scientists, young and old trees have different albedo levels. Young trees actively detonate carbon needed for their growth and development, while older trees either absorb little or no carbon at all. Consequently, new forests must be planted regularly to preserve a stable climate. Moreover, we must care for old forests, protecting them from wildfires and implementing well-thought-out tree felling programmes.

8. The Tokyo statement said it was necessary to intensify biological processes in the world’s oceans. For instance, plankton, the perennial inhabitant of the seven seas, requires huge amounts of carbon dioxide for further growth and should therefore be planted en masse with special biotechnologies.

It is also possible to build orbital solar-ray reflectors. This project may eventually prove less expensive than the costs of global warming. The statement called for developing and promoting Carbon Content Sequestering (CCS) technologies for accumulating, storing and extracting (sequestering) fossil-fuel carbon. This primarily concerns coal, which will remain a major source of energy for the next 50 years. All surplus carbon could be stored under the ground or dumped into the sea.

9. Mr. Izrael is an active supporter of the so-called optimal scenario aiming to change the meteorological solar constant by spraying fine dispersed aerosols of sulphuric acid and other substances into the lower atmosphere at 12-16 km altitudes. This will decrease sunshine reaching the Earth’s surface and reduce the temperature in the troposphere by the required number of degrees, serving as an instrument of climate change.

In 1974, Mikhail Budyko, member of the Soviet Academy of Science and author of the global-warming theory, proposed the aerosol-spraying method for increasing natural atmospheric layers. It is a well-known fact that after volcanic eruptions, surface temperature is reduced over vast areas because natural aerosols block sunshine and bring temperature down.

Sulphuric acid aerosols could be sprayed from specially-equipped planes. According to Mr. Izrael, this is an optimal and inexpensive scenario in case of fast global warming. It would be possible to change the situation in 12 months or several years at most.

Right now, a group of climatologists headed by Mr. Izrael is preparing to conduct an experiment to assess the impact of sulphuric acid aerosols on temperature fluctuations in some Russian areas.

However, the method has some drawbacks. For example, the stratosphere must be sprayed regularly because sulphuric acid aerosols will eventually drift to the ground.

But their amount is a thousand times smaller than current greenhouse gas emissions. According to Mr. Izrael, international agreements and joint projects are needed to introduce the aerosol-spraying method.

“We have to accomplish this objective because climate remains a major problem and a hard-to-solve social phobia.”

—*RIA Novosti*

I. Answer the following questions :

- (a) The G-8 summits has been logically expanded. How ?
- (b) What are the ways to transfer the society into a low-carbon society ? (Mention two). 2.
- (c) What is meant by Geo-Engineering Technologies ?
- (d) Why has dispersal of aerosols of Sulphuric acid been most favoured by Scientists ?
- (e) How does plankton help tame climate ?

II. Find words from the passage which mean the same as :

- (a) To state clearly and firmly that something must be done or how it must be done.(para 4).
- (b) Living for two years or more. (para-8)
- (c) Strong unreasonable fear of something. (para-9)

PASSAGE—2

Read the following passages for note making :

With the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) clearing the proposed Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) recently, the decks are cleared for the launch of a mission-mode exercise to universalise secondary education.

The Union Human Resource Development Ministry will now place the proposal before the Cabinet. Designed along the lines of the ongoing Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan to universalise elementary education, the RMSA seeks to make secondary education “available, accessible and affordable” to all 15 and 16-year-olds by 2017.

Another target of the RMSA is to ensure universal retention by 2020.

The estimated cost of the RMSA has been pegged at Rs. 42,705 crore in the XI Five Year Plan. Of this, Rs. 34,164 crore will be the Centre’s share. With the road map to universal

retention being chalked out till 2020, the total spill-over beyond the current Plan will be in the range of Rs. 54,000 crore.

Under consideration for sometime now in the wake of an anticipated demand for secondary education as a result of SSA, the RMSA was conceived on the premise that eight years of schooling is insufficient. During the XI Plan, the proposal is to have a secondary school within five kilometres of every habitation. Through the RMSA, the government also plans to provide necessary infrastructure and resources to create higher capacity in secondary education; fill up the gaps in existing secondary schools; and give extra support for education of girls, rural children, Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, minorities and other weaker sections of society. As in the case with the SSA, the existing programmes for secondary education will be merged into the RMSA—“an umbrella scheme”—to create a holistic convergent framework for implementing various schemes. The additional teacher requirement is over two lakh. At present, there are around 10.82 lakh teachers in secondary schools with a Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) of 1:32. To fill the existing gap at a PTR of 1:30—recommended by the Central Advisory Board of Education—72,000 additional teachers will have to be recruited. This apart, 1.77 lakh more teachers will be needed to cater to the anticipated additional enrolment of 53.10 lakh.

At last count in 2005-06, the gross enrolment ratio for Classes IX and X—the target age-group of the RMSA—was 52.26 percent. With the government’s focus till date being on elementary education, 58.86 percent of high schools are run by the private sector, Of these 31.08 percent are private unaided schools; thereby necessitating governmental intervention to increase capacity to broad-base secondary education.

- (a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using recognizable abbreviations. (Minimum 4) wherever necessary. Use a format you consider appropriate. Supply a suitable title. 5
- (b) Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. 3

Section B

1. The Counseling Cell of your school is organizing an orientation programme for the parents of class XII in the school auditorium. Frame a notice giving information about the same to the parents.

Or

1. You are manager of Sunrise Production house Patparganj Institutional area, Patparganj. You urgently require two computer operators for your office. Write an advertisement for the situation vacant column of a local newspaper.
2. Your school organized a workshop under NAEP to create awareness among adolescents of the growing abuse of drugs. Write a report in not more than 125 words for publication in the Times of India (NIE).

Or

1. You are the Secretary, RWA, Masjid Moth, Delhi. The incessant rains of the region have caused flood in the area. You have written to the concerned authorities for help but all in- vain. Write a letter to the Editor of a local daily highlighting the problems faced by the residents.

Or

You are Kamakshi / Kuber. You have been selected to represent your school in an All India School Debate organized by the Lions Club, New Delhi .The topic for the debate is “An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth will make the whole world go blind.’ Write an article in not more than 200 words for or against the motion giving arguments for your stand.

Or

The Beggar Menace at important tourist spots is on the increase. Write an article in 200 words for a newspaper suggesting suitable measures to cure this problem.

Section C

Short (3 out of 4)

Though aunt Jennifer is a representative of women fighting against masculine authority and power what is the implication of creating a tiger that is extremely masculine and authoritative

Nature is a great teacher. Discuss.

What is picturised as an immortal drink? What makes it outstanding?

What did the mother look like? What made the poet feel so?

Short (5)

Sophie flits from one dream to another. What trait of hers is brought out by this action?

Was the sale of 'Name of Rose' successful in the U.S? Substantiate your point logically.

Why does he entrust teachers rather than politicians to make changes in the society?

What was Edla's Xmas gift to the peddler?

The boss of Gemini studio had nothing to do with Spender's poetry but not with his 'God that failed'. Bring out the significance of this line?

Essay

The tenacity and determination on the part of Douglas helped him to shirk away the fear factor. Discuss.

Or

When you have sight you never realize the value of your eyes' how far is this true with the story 'The Last Lesson'?

Essay types

When Bama understood and realized that being born into a particular caste could bring with it untouchability, how did she react and what did she resolve to do?

Or

Justify the title "Evans tries an O` level"

Short

How did the author feel when her hair was cut short?

What did Derry find when he returns to Mr. Lamb?

There is difference in opinion about the ending of the story of Roger Skunk. What does John Updike want to say through this story?

What are the two moral implications on which the whole story is built upon?