

'N' LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER II

Text 1

Study the poster below and answer Questions 1-3 in the Question Booklet.



Rewind. Before it's too late.

Burning wood for fuel and cutting down trees release carbon dioxide stored in trees into the atmosphere. The increase in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere thickens the 'greenhouse blanket', allowing solar radiation to come in but preventing heat from going out. As a result, the heat is trapped in the Earth's atmosphere, resulting in global warming and climate change. Don't push this further any more, the results will be devastating.

It's time to go back and build a better future for the next generation. Let's Rewind.

Text 2

The text below is about a village girl going to the city with her mother. Read it carefully and answer Questions 4 to 14 in the Question Booklet.

- 1 The bus squeals to a halt with a blasting of horn and a hiss of brakes. Chickens scatter before it, squawking, lost feathers spiralling in the dust. One bird arrives in a fluster on the front porch of the tailor's shop where Gommati is waiting. The girl watches the chicken, keeping her head low. Beside her, Ma stands erect in a brown and purple sari, smelling of underarms and turmeric. 5
- 2 The young woman follows her mother through the harsh light and onto the bus. It is like stepping into the stomach of a great beast, where crushed bodies swelter in the juices of sweat and hair oil. She feels a rising nausea, but obeys Ma's prod to slide in next to an old woman. The torn seat is hot. Ma squeezes beside her, fishes in her woven bag for a wad of notes and hands fifty rupees to the conductor. 10
- 3 Belching back into life, the bus rumbles out of the village, tipping and heaving over the pot-holes. Gommati rests her hand on her belly and clenches her teeth. Out the window the fields are alive with rice-planting. Sunlight flashes on the terraces of water where women work in rows, ankle deep in the carpets of green. She should be there too, bent over in the paddies, hands full of wet shoots, singing. 15
- 4 When the bus stops in the next village she watches a woman sitting outside a house gently massaging her baby. Fat and gleaming with oil, he wriggles under her hands and laughs, like water bubbling. At the next stop a woman is washing her toddler at the village tap, forcefully rubbing a turban of foam over his head. As the cold water courses down his body, the child screams. 20
- 5 Further on, a little girl in a ragged skirt runs to a ditch beside the road. She bends forward and squats down, as a mustard stream of vomit bursts out of her mouth. Just then, an explosive burp sounds off next to her, and soon a distinctive smell of half-digested fish curry drifts to her nose. Her stomach erupts and she vomits, splattering on the old woman beside her as she lunges for the window. 25
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- 6 "Oh you filthy girl! Look what you've done!" scolds the woman, pushing past Gommati and Ma to get to the aisle. She pulls off her shawl and shakes the slimy chunks of yellow onto the floor. "Chha!" she spits.

- Gommati huddles into the window seat with her head bent, the hot metal of the frame burning her cheek. She wipes her mouth on the back of her hand and rubs it down her kurta. Ma says nothing, lips tighter. 35
- 7** As the bus roars into the outskirts of the city, Gommati feels the crush of too many buildings, too much traffic, too many people. As she looks out, a truck puffs its brown fumes in her face, souring her mouth. She holds up her scarf against the smells of melting tar, rotting vegetables and open gutters, all stewing together in the heat as the bus stops near a market. The sudden shriek of a horn jolts her as a land rover swerves past. She jerks her head around to look at it as it suddenly stops next to the bus. 40
- 8** A young man is in the land rover, wearing a smart clean shirt and sunglasses. He smiles at the people on the bus. Gommati feels her cheeks burning as a few villagers wave at him enthusiastically. Ma rolls her eyes. 45
- 9** "Ah, what happy folks they have from the villages," the young man says, grinning.

Adapted from 'A Collection of Short Stories'

Text 3

The text below is about tropical cyclones. Read it carefully and answer Questions 15 to 19 in the Question Booklet.

- 1 A tropical cyclone is a rotating storm in the tropical oceans. It is known around the world by various names: hurricanes in the Atlantic and Caribbean, typhoons in the North-West Pacific, and tropical cyclones in the Southwest Pacific.

- 2 It is estimated that from 1960-1970, 17 major storms in various parts of the world killed about 350,000 people, most from drowning. Indeed, the most serious immediate consequence of cyclones is the loss of human lives. The death rate is significantly higher in rural areas and overcrowded urban slums where communications are poor and evacuation plans are inadequate. 5
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- 3 The most dramatic impact of cyclones is the physical damage they cause. They may destroy or damage houses and other physical structures, including facilities that are critical not only for responding to disasters, but also for maintaining a safe environment and public order.

- 4 The high winds and devastating floods destroy or damage standing crops, especially grains, and orchards, though the flood often also deposits fertile soil on the farm land. Excessive water from the intense rain may also damage crops, especially tubers and herbs. Farm animals may also be killed by flash floods or collapsed buildings. Farming activities are often disrupted, for example, when access to markets is impeded by damage to roads, bridges, railways, and other infrastructure. 15
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- 5 Cyclones often cause the disruption of economic activities, the loss of investments and increased unemployment. During the emergency, people must leave their jobs and devote their time to disaster-related activities such as search-and-rescue or caring for survivors. Normal economic activities are severely curtailed even if the sources of employment are unaffected by the cyclone. After a cyclone, it is not uncommon for many small enterprises to fail. 25

- 6 In addition, the government has to increase its expenditures for medicine, aid to the unemployed, and repair or replacement of housing. The cost of relief and reconstruction can create a financial burden on the government, and this could be especially problematic at a time when there is a decrease in public resources due to an overall decrease in economic 30

activity and tax receipts.

- 7** Much of the potential impact of cyclones, however, can be reduced or eliminated if proper mitigation measures are taken. The lessons learnt from past cyclones can also be used to mitigate and better respond to future occurrences. 35

Adapted from 'Tropical Cyclone Information'