

Globalisation – global challenges

Possible answers and solutions

1. Summarise Bjørn Lomborg's view of global warming and the main arguments he presents. (*Comprehension*)

Aspects of the task:

- The author's view of global warming:

Phrases from the text you could have highlighted	Your own words/paraphrases (Use your dictionary!)
"obsession of our time" (I.1)	excessive political interest (media hype)
"from governments and campaigners ... incessant admonition" (II.1–3)	moral appeals from politicians and pressure groups
"Global warming is real and caused by CO ₂ " (I.5)	Global warming is a fact and its main cause is known.
"we can do very little" (I.6)	powerless, ineffective solutions
"substantial ... cost of Kyoto compliance" (II.9–10)	very expensive agreement
"We need to stop our obsession with global warming" (I.42)	We must stop focusing on global warming (at the cost of other problems).
"many more pressing issues" (I.43)	Other global problems are more urgent.

- The author's main arguments:

Phrases from the text you could have highlighted	Your own words/paraphrases (Use your dictionary!)
"climate models" (I.6) → "change ... immeasurable" (I.8)	scientific evidence/predictions
"economic models" (I.9) → "half that amount could solve the most pressing problems in the world" (II.10–12)	An economic calculation of the costs shows that the money could be used more effectively elsewhere.
"[not] the best of all worlds" (I.20); "limited resources" (I.37)	need to be realistic; limit on the amount of money available
"moral obligation ... to spend each dollar doing the most good" (II.39–40)	It is necessary to compare costs and benefits when ranking the global problems.

2. Describe and analyse the cartoon in detail. Compare the cartoonist's message with Lomborg's attitude to global warming. (*Analysis*)

– Introduction:

- source: Steve Greenberg, Ventura County Star, 2004
 content: President Bush's attitude to global warming
 message: President Bush is unaware of the threat of global warming; he ignores this problem/does not see how it can affect the USA. Global warming poses a very serious threat and may lead to catastrophe.

Task 1 aims at the contents of the text (*Anforderungsbereich 1*).

Summarise means you have to give a concise account of the main points in the text. This means that your text should be much shorter than the original text and precise in its formulations. Avoid quotations but add some line references in brackets: (I.X) or (II.X–Y).

Task 2 aims at *Anforderungsbereich 2* (text analysis).

Analyse means you have to describe and explain in detail certain aspects of the text.

Compare means you have to point out similarities and differences between the two texts.

Never give your own opinion in this *Anforderungsbereich!*

– Description and Analysis:

Description	Analysis
in the centre: President Bush sitting at his desk in his office – formally dressed (suit, tie) – arms on the desk with folded hands – upright posture – wrinkled forehead – open mouth	Mr Bush is speaking in his role as President, probably addressing a wider public or speaking to people who have approached him with a hint/warning.
on his desk: only two picture frames, two pens, an empty desk pad, a seagull	Bush is a family man, not working; the seagull represents the approaching sea/the imminent catastrophe.
in the top right hand corner: a speech bubble which says "WHAT GLOBAL WARMING THREAT?"	Two readings are possible: Mr Bush – has never heard of the problem (ignorant). – refuses to accept its urgency.
left side: the American flag ("Stars and Stripes")	This visual symbol: – helps to identify the speaker. – may indicate that Bush is speaking on behalf of the whole nation.
desk: surrounded by water with fish of various sizes, an octopus and a starfish, as well as sea plants	The humour lies in the discrepancy between the President's behaviour and the exaggerated effect of global warming: The sea has entered the White House – the sea level has risen unrealistically high; it is strongly suggested that the President is close to drowning, i.e. he has lost all touch with reality.

– Comparison:

The cartoonist's message contrasts sharply with Lomborg's assessment of global warming. Whereas Lomborg plays the danger down and analyses it rationally, Greenberg presents global warming as highly threatening. The cartoon dramatizes this ecological danger and ridicules the ignorance of the American President. This contradicts Lomborg, who claims that politicians pay too much attention to global warming.

3. a) Comment on the following question: How has the development of technology influenced the process of climate change and which role will it play in the future? (*Evaluation: comment*)

Your text should

- refer to items given in the text.
- contain your own opinion on climate change with regard to technological developments: e.g. the development of technology is the main reason for global environmental problems, because proceeding industrialisation has led to many environmental problems (more factories, more cars, etc. -> more pollution)
- discuss new developments like the construction of energy saving appliances, e.g. fridges, washing machines, which use only a small percentage of energy compared to previous models, or low-energy bulbs. This can be a challenge because there are more possibilities which are being developed (e.g. fuel cells or hybrid cars)
- be clearly structured: introduction – main part divided into paragraphs – conclusion.

Task 3 a) aims at *Anforderungsbereich 3*.

Comment means you are to state clearly your opinion on the question what role the development of technology has played and will play for the process of climate change. Try to support your view with evidence and arguments in such a way that you can make your point most effectively. Do not forget to write a proper conclusion.

3. b) You are an engineer of a famous car company who has developed the latest fuel cell technology which is ready for mass production. You are asked to give a speech at an international conference on global warming. Describe your product and explain how it contributes to the fight against global warming?

In your (in-role!) speech pay attention to structure:

- Clearly structure your train of thought.
- Make clear at the beginning who is speaking (introduce yourself as the engineer of a car company you have chosen).
- Start with a description of your new invention.
- Point out the features which especially contribute to an improvement of the current climate situation.
- Use your background knowledge on globalisation.
- Address the listeners at the beginning and thank them for their attention/for listening at the end.

Also make sure you use appropriate language:

- Make it interesting to listen to you.
- Use a tone which fits the occasion of your speech.
- Use mainly formal English.
- Make efficient use of rhetorical devices.

Task 3 b) also aims at *Anforderungsbereich 3*.

Try to be convincing in your role as engineer and make sure that you stick to the requirements of writing a speech.