Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1)

Time 2 hours 30 minutes

Paper reference **4GL1/01**

Global Citizenship

PAPER 1

Source Booklet

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Source A – Solving the plastic pollution problem

Another 8 million tonnes of plastic pollution is added to Earth's oceans annually. The amount is far higher than it used to be because of global economic development.

About 80% of plastic pollution in oceans is transported there from the land. Many large cities are built on coastlines where litter is easily washed or blown into the ocean. Another source is litter left on beaches by tourists. The main source is rivers, however, which bring plastic pollution from much further inland to the oceans. The River Yangtze, the world's most polluted river, transported 333,000 tonnes of plastic in 2015. This was 4% of all plastic pollution entering the oceans that year.

The remaining 20% of plastic pollution in oceans is added directly by shipping. Around half of this is produced by fishing fleets, including abandoned nets, lines and vessels. The rest has been washed overboard from container ships and large cruise ships.

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs), such as Friends of the Earth and Plastic Change, say not enough is being done by the world's governments to tackle the issue.

Source B – Africa's forest elephants

The Forest Elephant is an endangered species found in African rainforest countries including Gabon, Cameroon, Liberia and Ghana. Elephant numbers have declined sharply. This is because of rainforest destruction and demand for elephant meat from poor communities who have often been displaced by conflict. Finally, tens of thousands of elephants are killed each year for their ivory tusks. Most of the ivory is exported illegally to markets in China.

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) is a global organisation that wants to stop further losses. WWF believes this can be done by educating communities about the issues, and by persuading them to hunt non-endangered species instead of elephants. WWF wants to work in partnership with governments in central Africa, China and other countries to tackle the illegal ivory trade.

WWF's website is hopeful about the future. It says: 'By 2030 we will live in a world that has halted the loss of biodiversity and saved threatened species from extinction.'

Source C – Preserving the Global Commons

As the world becomes more interdependent, improved governance of the Global Commons is urgently needed. International law recognises them as 'domains' that are not owned or used by merely one country. Instead, all nations rely on them. Earth's oceans, atmosphere and tropical rainforests can all be viewed as the Global Commons.

Globalisation and climate change mean that the Global Commons are threatened. Earth's temperature is rising. Increasing human activity has left few natural environments undisturbed.

National governments must work together to protect the environment. Only improved global governance, overseen by the United Nations, can ensure that the environment will be preserved for future generations.

Source D – Record numbers of international migrants

According to the United Nations:

- More people than ever before now live in a country other than the one where they were born.
- In 2019, globally, there were an estimated 272 million migrants, 51 million more than in 2010.
- International migrants made up 3.5 per cent of the global population in 2019 compared to 2.3 per cent in 1980.
- While most have moved voluntarily for work reasons, there are political and environmental reasons why some people have fled their home countries. In 2018, UNHCR estimated there were 30 million refugees.

Over time, some obstacles to migration have decreased. Cheaper international travel makes migrating more affordable. Another obstacle – missing family – is helped by the internet. Thanks to messaging apps and video conferencing like Zoom, different countries feel closer together than they did in the past.

One result of migration is increased social diversity in many countries, particularly in major cities.

Source E – The growth of 'food globalisation'

The global growth of 'fast food' brands has provided jobs in developing countries. But it brings worrying cultural changes too. In many countries:

- fewer people are eating locally-grown traditional foods
- more people are adopting high-sodium and high-fat diets which can lower their life expectancy.

Many foreign-owned fast food restaurants are found in Jamaica, a small state with less than 3 million citizens. Advertising is widespread, including at bus stops. In 2019, there were around 20 Burger Kings, 20 Dominos, 10 Pizza Huts and 35 KFC restaurants. They compete with Jamaica's own fast food restaurants, including around 60 Juici Patties and 40 Tastees. This is far too many fast food companies.



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Source F – Tackling 'hate speech' on social media

A United Nations conference on social media and hate speech was held in 2020. The focus was increased online hostility towards some communities because of their ethnicity, gender, religion, disability or sexuality.

Participants from UN agencies, some national governments and citizen groups met virtually to discuss the issues. They talked about the need for new international human rights laws which would protect minorities from online 'haters' (the people who are responsible for hate speech).

However, the issue is controversial. Many social media users believe that people should be allowed to write anything they want to.

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