

# AE Academic English UK Students

## Academic Reading Tests

### Air Pollution Booklet



#### EXAMPLE

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## Air Pollution **EXAMPLE**

### Task 1: Introduction

Take some notes on the following questions.

1. What do you know about air pollution?
2. How would you define 'air pollution'?
3. What are some of the issues with air pollution?
4. What are governments doing to address air pollution?

### Task 2: Reading text

Read the text and check any unknown vocabulary

## Ambient Air Pollution

By J. Robertson (2022)

1. Ambient air pollution is another term for outdoor pollution, which is a direct result of [redacted] (The Clean Breathing Institute, 2018). Although indoor household activities can contribute to [redacted] [redacted] problem we face at present. According to the World Health Organisation (2021), outdoor pollution [redacted] they are [redacted] regardless of income.

2. Ambient air pollution is measured through the Air Quality Index, which focuses on five major components in the atmosphere. These [redacted] level [redacted] photochemical reaction of sunlight, nitrogen oxides (NOx) causing smog, and particulate matter (PM), which [redacted] organic substances suspended in the air, such as dust, smoke, pollen and chemicals (WHO, 2021). PM is then further divided into three categories, [redacted] Particles which have diameters of ten micrometres or fewer (PM10) are considered coarse, [redacted] 1.0 are [redacted] less than PM1.0 is ultra-fine and the most toxic, but also not as frequently monitored (CBI, 2018). What is regularly monitored, however, is PM2.5, [redacted] is in cities and countries across the world. Currently the World's Air Quality Index (2021) [redacted] and [redacted] is also unhealthy overall, but some areas are hazardous. In comparison, London is moderate, with a score of 61, and for a city's air to be [redacted] than 50.

3. As previously mentioned, the main contributory factors of outdoor air pollution are from human activity. Although industrial purposes [redacted], and [redacted] power or heating have been the main reason for the ongoing rise in global air pollution, it is now [redacted] is [redacted] engines used in vehicles and ships. This is due to the amount of carbon monoxide, volatile organic [redacted] [redacted] long-distance transport affecting both rural and urban areas (Department for Environment, [redacted] to say, nowhere on this planet is free from air pollution, which means that anyone of us could suffer [redacted] the lower PM, the more it is penetrated into the lungs, and the more effects one will suffer from, [redacted] as a cough, wheezing and congestion, to more serious illness such as bronchitis, stroke, heart disease a

breathing difficulties, such as asthmatics, continued exposure to air pollution could aggravate develop to pollution long-term. Most concerning of all, WHO (2021) states that in one year alone, million premature deaths.

4. As WHO (2021) claims that in 2019 '99% of the world population was living in places where, it seems more important than ever to begin tackling the problem of outdoor pollution. In capital, measures the city centre, expanding pavements along the river to make space for more tree planting and bike lanes, and reinvesting money raised from congestion on which lead to poorer air quality (United Nations Environment Programme, 2021). Moreover, countries who governments to set targets regarding reducing the level of PM, as well as enabling local councils to, and the most pollutant of vehicles (DEFRA, 2021), we will likely see significant reductions in.

5. Although human activity has been responsible for the increase in outdoor air pollution, it is hoped that within the next thanks to the increases in green spaces, commitment to reducing the average level of PM, more sustainable modes of transport and more businesses and local authorities.

### Reference list

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The United (2021). *These five cities are taking aim at air pollution* [online]. Available at: <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/these-five-cities-are-taking-aim-air-pollution> [Viewed 05.04.2022].

World Health Organisation (WHO), (2021). [online]. Available at: [https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ambient-\(outdoor\)-air-quality-and-health](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ambient-(outdoor)-air-quality-and-health) [Viewed 05.04.2022].

World's Air Quality Index (2021). Available at: <https://waqi.info/> [Viewed 06.04.2022].

**Task 3: Comprehension Questions**

Now see if you can answer these comprehension questions.

**Comprehension Questions EXAMPLE**

1. **Headings:** Choose a subheading for each paragraph. One title is not needed.

1	<i>E (example)</i>	A	How ambient air pollution is measured
2		B	From being [redacted] the solution
3		C	Current measures around the world
4		D	The UK's [redacted] pollution
5		E	The biggest environmental health problem we face
		F	The causes [redacted] air pollution

\_\_\_ / 4

2. **True / False / Not Given:** One question per paragraph.

		T / F / NG
<b>Paragraph 1</b>		
i.	According to the World Health Organisation (2021), outdoor pollution levels are the same in both urban and rural places.	
<b>Paragraph 2</b>		
ii.	Ultra-fine particulate [redacted] of air pollution.	
<b>Paragraph 3</b>		
iii.	Ambient air pollution was [redacted] deaths in one year alone.	
<b>Paragraph 4</b>		
iv.	In some cities, people are [redacted] city centre.	
<b>Paragraph 5</b>		
v.	There will be a global [redacted] in the next decade.	

\_\_\_ / 5

**4. Open Answer Questions.**

Paragraph 1. What causes ambient air pollution?

i.	
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\_\_\_ / 1

Paragraph 2. How is ambient air [redacted] ?

i.	
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\_\_\_ / 1

Paragraph 2. What are the [redacted] of ambient air pollution?

i.	<i>Nitrogen dioxide (example)</i>
ii.	
iii.	
iv.	
v.	

\_\_\_ / 4

Paragraph 2. What are the [redacted] of Particulate Matter (PM)?

i.		ii.		iii.	
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\_\_\_ / 3

Paragraph 3. What is the biggest threat to clean air?

i.	
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\_\_\_ / 1

Paragraph 4. What does the UK's updated Environment Bill give local councils the power to do?

i.	
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\_\_\_ / 1

Paragraph 5. What FOUR things [redacted] quality?

i.	
ii.	
iii.	
iv.	

\_\_\_ / 4

**5. Reference Words:** Explain what these reference words connect to: (underlined in the text).

Paragraph	Word	Connection
1	<u>They (example)</u>	<u>Outdoor pollution levels</u>
2	Which	
2	[redacted]	
3	It	
3	[redacted]	
4	Those	
4	[redacted]	

\_\_\_ / 6

**6. Vocabulary**

**Key language** – search for the word(s) in the paragraph that mean(s):

Paragraph	Explanation	Word
2	<u>A part that combines with other parts to form something bigger.</u>	<u>Components (example)</u>
2	A mixture [redacted] the atmosphere difficult to breathe.	
2	This means dangerous.	
3	Helping to cause something.	
3	Coal, [redacted] of years ago from plant and animal remains.	
3	The two [redacted] to breathe.	
3	The unborn offspring that develops from an embryo.	
4	Information [redacted] something should be done.	
4	To officially [redacted] something.	
4	A situation in which a place is too blocked or crowded causing difficulties.	
4	A law suggested [redacted] official by parliament.	

\_\_\_ / 10

**Overall Total:** \_\_\_ / 40

**Task 4:** Comprehension Questions

Check your answers to the comprehension questions.

**Comprehension Questions ANSWERS**

**EXAMPLE**

**1. Headings:** Choose a subheading for each paragraph. One title is not needed.

<b>1</b>	<i>E (example)</i>	<b>A</b>	How ambient air pollution is measured
<b>2</b>	<i>A</i>	<b>B</b>	From being the problem towards becoming the solution
<b>3</b>	<i>F</i>	<b>C</b>	Current measures around the world

**ALL ANSWERS INCLUDED IN PAID VERSION...**

**Task 5: Summary Writing**

Take notes on the key points of the text using this outline

**Outline: Summary Notetaking**

**EXAMPLE**

1. Main idea:
Support:
2. Main idea:
Support:
3. Main idea:
Support:
4. Main idea:
Support:
5. Main idea:
Support:

**Task 6: Summary Writing**

**Using your notes write a 200-250-word summary of the text.**

**Summary**

**EXAMPLE**

Word count: \_\_\_\_\_



**Task 7: Note-taking Answers**

**Check your notes to these suggested answers**

**EXAMPLE**

1. Main idea: Ambient air poll. = big. environ. health prob. ppl face.
Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ambient [redacted]. (The Clean Breathing Institute, 2018).</li><li>• Rural + urban areas = the same level of poll. (World Health Organisation, 2021).</li><li>• All [redacted]</li></ul>
2. Main idea: How ambient air poll is measured.
Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Air qual index = [redacted]</li><li>• PM = coarse, fine &amp; ultra fine (most toxic, but not mon (CBI, 2018).</li><li>• PM2.5 = [redacted]</li><li>• Beijing &amp; New York - air unhealthy (World's air quality index, 2021).</li><li>• [redacted]</li><li>• Score = less than 50 is good.</li></ul>
3. Main idea: Causes and effects of ambient air poll.
Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• [redacted]</li><li>• Industrial process = burn. coal &amp; other fossil fuels.</li><li>• Maj. [redacted] ships &amp; vehs. – [redacted], NOx &amp; PM released &amp; O3 prod (DEFRA n.d.).</li><li>• Effects: PM – [redacted], congestion, bronchitis, stroke, heart disease &amp; lung cancer.</li><li>• [redacted]</li><li>• Ambient air poll. = caused 4.2 m deaths in a yr (WHO, 2021).</li></ul>
4. Main idea: Current measures taken.
Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some capital cities: [redacted], expand pavements by rivers for tree planting &amp; cycle lanes and invest in public transp.</li><li>• UK: update enviro. bill [redacted] restrict on smoke emissions.</li></ul>
5. Main idea: From being the problem to becoming the solution.
Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase [redacted]</li><li>• Red. PM.</li><li>• [redacted].</li><li>• Coop &amp; account. among bus &amp; local auth.</li></ul>

**Task 8: Model Summary**

**Check your summary to this model summary.**

**Air Pollution - Model Summary**

**EXAMPLE**

Caused by human activities, and affecting all parts of the globe (WHO, 2021), ambient air pollution is the largest [REDACTED] are currently facing (The Clean Breathing Institute, 2018). The level of pollution is calculated using a tool called the Air Quality Index which measures [REDACTED] to determine how polluted the air is. One of these components is particulate matter (PM), [REDACTED] cities around the world. According to the World's Air Quality Index (2021), a city needs to score less than 50 to [REDACTED] 'unhealthy' or 'hazardous', and this level of pollution can have a negative impact on the citizens' [REDACTED] respiratory symptoms, some diseases (The CBI, 2018) and premature death (WHO, 2021). Because of this, it is [REDACTED] and this is being seen in some cities through tree planting, increasing the number of cycle lanes [REDACTED] (The United Nations [REDACTED] also needed is legislation that places restrictions on smoke emissions in order for [REDACTED] of vehicles (DEFRA, 2021). Only [REDACTED] more sustainable forms of transport and more collaboration and accountability among [REDACTED] an human activities become part of the solution and no longer the cause.

252 words