Carbon footprint analysis

Every time you do something that uses energy and creates pollution, you leave a “mark” on the planet. Environmental scientists call this your “carbon footprint”. Carbon footprints can be used to assess the amount of damage being done by an individual, a city or a country to the environment.

Part One: Your family’s habits

Answer the following questions by choosing the answer that best describes your or your family’s habits.

1. When you leave a room, what do you do to the lights?
   a. Leave them on.
   b. Try to remember to switch them off but not always.
   c. Always turn them off.

2. Do you leave appliance such as the TV, PlayStation, the computer, etc. on standby?
   a. Always.
   b. Sometimes.
   c. Never.

3. How do you get to school?
   a. In a car.
   b. In a taxi or bus.
   c. Walk or cycle.

4. How often do you turn on the heating/air conditioner at home?
   a. It’s always on, either warming or cooling the home.
   b. Only when we need it.
   c. Never.

5. How does cooking get done at home?
   a. Usually on an open fire or in an electric oven/on an electric stove.
   b. Gas stove.
   c. Microwave.
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6. Which of these describes the appliances in your home?
   a. Washing machine, dishwasher, tumble drier
   b. Washing machine
   c. None

7. How many television sets in your home?
   a. More than two.
   b. One or two.
   c. None.

8. What does your family do with supermarket shopping bags?
   a. Get new ones each time we go shopping.
   b. Re-use the ones we get till they break.
   c. Use cloth bags.
   d. 

9. Do you recycle?
   a. Never.
   b. Sometimes.
   c. Always.

10. Do you buy recycled goods?
    a. Never.
    b. Sometimes.
    c. Always.
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Part Two: Your carbon footprint

1. Now assess your carbon footprint:

   Mostly A:
   You have a very large carbon footprint! You need to think wisely about the environment.

   Mostly B:
   You are on the right path and with a little effort; you could reduce your footprint.

   Mostly C:
   You are well on the way to contributing to a great environment as your carbon footprint is small.

2. Do some research and find out how the carbon footprint of a family can be reduced. Write your findings in the form of a pamphlet that can be used to educate families in your area.

   [16 marks]

Rubric for assessing a pamphlet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A definition of the carbon footprint.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A description of the kind of benefits or rewards there are for reducing the carbon footprint.</td>
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You have a very large carbon footprint! You need to think wisely about the environment.

Mostly B:
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Mostly C:
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Suggested Solutions

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Appendix of Assessment Tools

Rubric for assessing a pamphlet

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