

Grade 8 Life Orientation Worksheet

Sustainable development

Essay about sustainable development

Read the following text:

Sustainable Development: The Big Picture

<http://oambassadors.org/students/high-school-area/millennium-development-goals/sustainable-development>

Development projects like clean water programmes or health clinics help people build strong communities. They can fix a problem like hunger for the short term, or find solutions that are lasting and help communities grow even stronger over time.

We call that sustainable development: when a project is good for today and good for the future. When development is sustainable, people are empowered to begin to meet their own needs.

Sustainable development projects also consider impacts on the environment. A project that is sustainable considers the ability of the Earth to continue to support the project forever. For example, a project that involves cutting down trees to sell lumber is not sustainable, even though it gives people income in the short term. Eventually, there won't be any more trees to cut down.

Clean Water and Sanitation: Basics of Sustainable Development



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A sustainable clean water project: safe drinking water or sanitation facilities can keep people from getting diseases.

Sustainable Development: We Can Do it Together

Sustainable development is truly a global issue, because everyone shares one world. We are all dependant on each other to make sure this world is a great place to live. Together, we can make sure everyone has the ability to continue to meet their needs well into the future.

Sadly, we often make decisions that make it even more difficult for people in developing countries to meet their own needs.

For example: if a company builds a factory in Sri Lanka that uses toxic substances which pollute the environment or doesn't pay workers a fair wage, then Sri Lankans are not being empowered to break the cycle of poverty. In fact, that factory is making it more difficult for them to get ahead.

When development is sustainable, local and global economies both benefit, because developing countries can get stronger and contribute more to the global marketplace.

Global Status: Where the World is Now

Sustainable development is needed in developing regions right away.

Why Sustainable Development is Needed

- Two million children die each year from infections spread by dirty water or the lack of toilets.
- 1.2 billion people lack access to safe drinking water and 2.4 billion people lack access to proper sanitation facilities.

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- If we are to meet the goal of making sanitation systems available to those who need them, we will have to provide an annual average of 140 million people with access to sanitation until 2015.
- 924 million people are living in slums—that's about one-seventh of the world's populations. Slums are overcrowded places where public toilets are shared by hundreds of families. These places are not safe, especially for girls and women, who are at greater risk for sexual assault.

Activity 1

Dirty water, unsafe drinking water and lack of proper sanitation facilities are a direct cause of ill-health, disease and death in South Africa. We live in a country that does not have an abundance of water and yet pollution of our rivers and dams is still a major issue.

Furthermore, we have an enormous issue of poverty and starvation, which could be resolved in the short term and sustained in the long term by teaching people to plant and grow their own basic food-stuffs.

- Write an essay about why sustainable development is important in South Africa. Try to include some facts about diseases that are directly linked to dirty water, poor sanitation facilities and lack of essential foods.
- Your essay should have an introduction, a main body with separate paragraphs and a conclusion.
- It should be between 1 ½ to 2 pages in length.

Your teacher will assess your writing using the rubric below.

Criteria	Level 4 Outstanding – 15 to 20 marks	Level 3 Achieved 10 – 14 marks	Level 2 Partially achieved 7- 9 marks	Level 1 Not achieved 1 – 7 marks
Content 10 marks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is evidence of planning. • The topic has been well interpreted. • There is an engaging introduction . 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some evidence of planning • The essay is related to the topic. • There is an adequate conclusion. • Some of the ideas in the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some evidence of planning. • Essay partly off topic. • The introduction is not fully developed. • Few original ideas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little evidence of planning. • The essay is off the topic. • The introduction is missing or irrelevant or uninteresting.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ideas in the essay are original and well developed. There is a logical appropriate conclusion. <p>[8 - 10 marks]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> essay are original. There is an adequate conclusion <p>[5 – 7 marks]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The conclusion is not fully developed. <p>[3, 4 marks]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ideas are irrelevant or uninteresting. The conclusion is missing or irrelevant. <p>[1, 2 marks]</p>
Language and vocabulary 5 marks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sentences vary in length and structure. There are only 1 or 2 spelling errors. The vocabulary is varied and appropriate. <p>[4, 5 marks]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sentences could have been more varied. There are fewer than 4 spelling and grammar errors. The vocabulary is adequate for the purpose. <p>[3 marks]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some variation in sentences. Fewer than 10 spelling and grammar errors. The vocabulary is not always adequate. <p>[2 marks]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sentences are monotonous . More than 15 grammar and spelling errors. The vocabulary is not appropriate or too basic. <p>[1 mark]</p>
Style 5 marks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The essay is the correct length. The style and format of the essay are appropriate. The tone and register are appropriate. <p>[4, 5 marks]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The essay is less than one page in length. There are one or two style errors. There are some errors in tone and register. <p>[3 marks]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The essay is too long or too short. There are several style and format errors. There are many errors in tone and register. <p>[2 marks]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The essay is far too long or too short. The style and format are not appropriate to the topic. The tone and register are not appropriate. <p>[1 mark]</p>
Total: 20 marks				

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Suggested Solutions

Question number	Possible marks	Solution
1	20	See rubric in Appendix of Assessment Tools.

Appendix of assessment tools

Rubric to assess essay

Criteria	Level 4 Outstanding – 15 to 20 marks	Level 3 Achieved 10 – 14 marks	Level 2 Partially achieved 7- 9 marks	Level 1 Not achieved 1 – 7 marks
Content 10 marks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is evidence of planning. • The topic has been well interpreted. • There is an engaging introduction . • The ideas in the essay are original and well developed. • There is a logical appropriate conclusion. <p>[8 - 10 marks]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some evidence of planning • The essay is related to the topic. • There is an adequate conclusion. • Some of the ideas in the essay are original. • There is an adequate conclusion <p>[5 – 7 marks]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some evidence of planning. • Essay partly off topic. • The introduction is not fully developed. • Few original ideas. • The conclusion is not fully developed. <p>[3, 4 marks]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little evidence of planning. • The essay is off the topic. • The introduction is missing or irrelevant or uninteresting. • The ideas are irrelevant or uninteresting. • The conclusion is missing or irrelevant. <p>[1, 2 marks]</p>
Language and vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentences vary in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentences could have 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some variation in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentences are

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5 marks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> length and structure. There are only 1 or 2 spelling errors. The vocabulary is varied and appropriate. <p>[4, 5 marks]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> been more varied. There are fewer than 4 spelling and grammar errors. The vocabulary is adequate for the purpose. <p>[3 marks]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sentences. Fewer than 10 spelling and grammar errors. The vocabulary is not always adequate. <p>[2 marks]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> monotonous. More than 15 grammar and spelling errors. The vocabulary is not appropriate or too basic. <p>[1 mark]</p>
Style 5 marks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The essay is the correct length. The style and format of the essay are appropriate. The tone and register are appropriate. <p>[4, 5 marks]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The essay is less than one page in length. There are one or two style errors. There are some errors in tone and register. <p>[3 marks]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The essay is too long or too short. There are several style and format errors. There are many errors in tone and register. <p>[2 marks]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The essay is far too long or too short. The style and format are not appropriate to the topic. The tone and register are not appropriate. <p>[1 mark]</p>
Total: 20 marks				