

Paper 2 Mini Mock: Environmentalism

Source 1: *From a speech by Greta Thunberg in January 2019 at the Davos conference.*

1 Our house is on fire. I am here to say: our house is on fire. According to scientists we are less than 12 years away from not being able to undo our mistakes. In that time unprecedented changes in all aspects of society need to have taken place including a reduction of our co2 emissions by at least 50%. At places like Davos people like to tell success stories, but their financial success has come with an unthinkable price tag. And on climate change we have 5 to acknowledge that we have failed. All political movements in their present form have done so, and the media has failed to create broad public awareness. But Homo sapiens have not yet failed. Yes we are failing, but there is still time to turn everything around; we can still fix this, we still have everything in our own hands. But unless we recognize the overall failures of our current systems we probably don't stand a chance.

We are facing a disaster with unspoken suffering for enormous amounts of people and now is not the time for 10 speaking politely, focusing on what we can or cannot say. Now it's the time to speak clearly. Solving the climate crisis is the greatest and most complex challenge that Homo Sapiens has have ever faced. The main solution, however, is so simple that even a small child can understand it. We have to stop the emissions of greenhouse gases. And either we do that or we don't. You say nothing in life is black or white but that is a lie, a very dangerous lie. Either we prevent 1.5 degrees of warming or we don't. Either we avoid setting off that irreversible 15 chain reaction beyond the human control, or we don't. Either we choose to go on as a civilization or we don't. That is as black or white as it gets.

There are no gray areas when it comes to survival. Now we all have a choice. We can create transformational action that will safeguard the future living conditions for humankind, or we can continue with our business as usual and fail. That is up to you and me. Adults keep saying we owe it to the young people to give them hope. But I don't want your 20 hope - I don't want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic; I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. And then I want you to act. I want you to act as if you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if the house was on fire, because it is.

Source 2: *From a 1909 letter by Frank Underwood, President of the Eerie Railroad company, to his priest.*

1 There is a good deal of nonsense about coal smoke being injurious. There is no healthier class of people in the world than those employed about soft coal mines, and they are begrimed from head to foot the majority of their lives. Permit me to state that men occupying leading positions, such as yours, are expected to allay senseless clamor against corporations instead of adding fuel to it, and it is hoped we may have the influence of your valuable efforts in 5 our direction rather than adversely. Many of the people who gain a livelihood through the Railroad I have no doubt are parishioners of yours and you should be able to ascertain from them whether there is more black smoke than is absolutely necessary in the operation of a railroad.

In conclusion, the Railroad was chartered fifty years ago, and it is identical with other interests in that it pays taxes. Is not something due to it, therefore? And was it not on the ground in advance of most of its complainants? It is a 10 penalty people pay for prosperity. The smoke-laden air of every city is but a testimonial of the general prosperity of the country. No smoke and rural stagnation is the rule—pleasant to live in, but not conducive to general prosperity. All of which is respectfully submitted by the president in behalf of the board of directors.

Questions – first read and annotate for 5 minutes

Q1: Write T for true or F for false next to the following statements about Source A, lines 1-8.

- A According to scientists we are 12 years away from disaster
- B Within the next 12 years we need to reduce CO2 emissions by 50% or more
- C Greta Thunberg has no hope for the future
- D Thunberg has serious concerns about the future of humanity
- E She is unimpressed by politicians
- F She is impressed by the financial success of people at Davos
- G She thinks humanity's greed has damaged the world
- H She admires the media

Q1 – 4 marks – 5 minutes

Q2: What can you infer about their different views on the use of fossil fuels.

Q2 – 8 marks – 10 minutes

Q3: Consider lines 1 – 16 in Source A. How does the writer use language to describe the threat of climate change?

Q3 – 12 marks – 15 minutes

Q4: Consider both sources. Compare how the writers convey their different perspectives on climate change.

Q4 – 16 marks – 20 minutes

Q5 – 40 marks – 45 minutes

'Climate change is a problem, but its dangers have been exaggerated'. Write an article for a newspaper in which you explain your point of view on this issue.

[24 marks for content and organisation, 16 marks for technical accuracy]