



Cambridge International AS & A Level

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES & RESEARCH

9239/12

Paper 1 Written Exam

October/November 2025

INSERT

1 hour 30 minutes

INFORMATION

- This insert contains all the resources referred to in the questions.
- You may annotate this insert and use the blank spaces for planning. **Do not write your answers** on the insert.



This document has 4 pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

The following documents consider issues related to climate change. Read them **both** in order to answer **all** the questions on the paper.

Document A: adapted from *Scientists Again Call for Civil Disobedience To Spur Climate Action, Saying 'Time is Short'*, an article written by Kristoffer Tigue, published in 'Inside Climate News' (US) in 2022. The author is a journalist who writes about environmental justice issues. 'Inside Climate News' is a Pulitzer Prize-winning, non-profit news organisation that provides reporting and analysis on climate change, energy and the environment.

For the second time this year, climate scientists are urging their colleagues to risk arrest and commit acts of civil disobedience. They want to pressure governments to take quicker, more substantial action on the climate crisis. In the scientific journal 'Nature', a group of climate scientists argued that this is justified because inadequate government action has set the planet on course for "3.2 °C of warming" by 2100. "Time is short to secure a liveable and sustainable future," they said.

The 'Nature' article shows that a growing number of leading scientists are concerned about climate change and no longer want to remain neutral. In April, around 1000 scientists in more than 25 countries staged demonstrations to demand stronger climate action. Several scientists were arrested for blocking traffic and locking themselves to bank entrances and the White House in Washington DC.

The scientists' concern comes as the world experiences increasing numbers of wildfires, droughts, heat waves and flash floods. Scientists expect these to worsen dramatically if global emissions continue to rise at their current pace. Devastating heat waves, wildfires and floods this summer have killed thousands of people in the United States, Europe and Asia. In Pakistan, a "monster" monsoon season, made worse by climate change, unleashed massive flooding. This left a third of the country underwater, according to Climate Minister Sherry Rehman, causing damage costing USD 10 billion.

Climate activists say that these extreme weather events are further evidence that the world's leaders aren't moving fast enough. Many activists are increasingly turning to acts of civil disobedience out of a sense of desperation. This summer, climate activists blocked rush hour traffic, deflated car tires and interrupted baseball games and Formula One races. Some even glued themselves to famous works of art, including Raphael's "Sistine Madonna" and a copy of Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper". In every case, the activists said their stunts were drawing attention to the lack of progress by their governments to reduce climate-warming emissions.

Tierra Curry, a senior scientist at the US Center for Biological Diversity, says that the science community has generally disapproved of scientists participating in activism. Scientists have always viewed themselves as unbiased observers and reporters of truth. Curry says that view has started to shift in recent years. More and more scientists see it as their duty to point out the facts about climate change and put pressure on politicians.

Peter Kalmus, a climate scientist for NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab, agrees. He was arrested for locking himself to the front door of JP Morgan Chase bank. He has since urged other scientists to join him in protest. "For the sake of our children, for the sake of the future of humanity, you have a responsibility to do everything you can to get that information out there."

"Scientists know that all the impacts of global heating are going to get worse and worse," Kalmus said. "So, we have to be the adults in the room because no one's coming to save us. I think scientists will get out there and engage in civil disobedience sooner or later. I just really hope it's sooner."

Document B: adapted from *If you don't like climate activists staging art gallery protests, organise something better*, an article written by Jeff Sparrow published in 'Guardian Australia' in October 2022. 'Guardian Australia' is the Australian website of the British global newspaper, 'The Guardian'. The author is a writer, editor and former activist based in Melbourne, Australia. His latest book is 'Crimes Against Nature: Capitalism and Global Heating'.

It's far better to speak too loud than to remain silent. With the environmental catastrophe worsening day by day, activism has never been more important and protests matter more than ever.

Last week, two Just Stop Oil activists threw tomato soup at Vincent van Gogh's "Sunflowers" painting in a London museum. The protest was part of a broader movement to halt new fossil fuel projects. A report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) describes this movement as crucial to prevent climate disaster.

The "Sunflowers" painting, safe behind a transparent Perspex sheet, remained entirely unharmed and went back on display the same day. The stunt followed other art protests, in which activists glued themselves to artworks by Botticelli, Boccioni, Van Gogh and other old masters. In Melbourne, Extinction Rebellion campaigners targeted Picasso's "Massacre in Korea". No art has been damaged. No one has been injured. Yet journalists everywhere have lost their collective minds.

As far back as May, in 'The Australian' newspaper, journalist Greg Sheridan said that activists are destructive and dangerous – "a direct threat to our national security, no less".

In July, journalist Dan Petrie was tut-tutting in the 'Courier Mail' newspaper about activists upsetting their own supporters. He explained this by saying that gallery protests would increase insurance premiums and so raise the prices of tickets to exhibitions. Gosh, wait until he hears about what climate change will do!

The 'Courier Mail' also published photos of Extinction Rebellion supporters under the headline: "Faces of ... serial climate activists revealed." Those protesters hadn't targeted any art, but the paper still blamed them for "bring[ing] misery" with "their disruptive tactics".

In the 'Herald Sun' newspaper, writing about the Van Gogh stunt, journalist Andrew Bolt gave the game away. After the usual abuse of climate activists, Bolt said that "global warming ... has actually helped us grow record crops, because carbon dioxide is a plant food". In other words, he not only doesn't like Just Stop Oil because of their tactics but because of their goals. They want to prevent climate change. Bolt doesn't. The more effectively we mobilise against fossil fuels, the more hysterical such journalists will become.

As environmental disasters intensify, governments everywhere are introducing strict anti-protest laws. These anti-protest laws are designed to suppress climate activism and demonstrations of any kind. This makes our activism even more essential.

Strategy is important. In a previous article published in 'The Guardian' newspaper, I argued for grassroots activism, based on involving and empowering the ordinary men and women who suffer most from climate change. Mass, collective actions are preferable to publicity stunts directed largely at gaining the attention of the media. However, these stunts do have a positive role to play in getting the public, and policy-makers, to take notice. It's far, far better to speak too loud, than to remain silent; it's far better to do something, than to do nothing.

As the environmental catastrophe is accelerating day by day, it's easy to become frustrated. With a chunk of Australia once again under water, demonstrations of any kind are preferable to apathy or cynicism.

To put it another way, if you don't like the gallery protests, organise something better.

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