

## THE ENVIRONMENT

### ECONOMICS

#### Vocabulary: Find the "odd one out"

There may be more than one answer. Give your reasons.

	A	B	C
1.	green	efficient	environmentally friendly
2.	to conserve	to save	to protect
3.	to condemn	to campaign	to oppose
4.	traffic jams	motorway tolls	park and ride schemes
5.	nuclear energy	oil pollution	radioactive waste
6.	to ration	to share	to deplete
7.	sustainable	biodegradable	renewable
8.	an oil rig	a power station	a recycling plant

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#### Text for dictation:

Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and the Green Party all *campaign* for a *cleaner, healthier* and *less polluted* environment.

*Greenpeace* operates internationally and is able to embarrass governments and large oil companies through feats of *direct action* which attract public sympathy. These may include attempts to *block* the *disposal* of *radioactive waste* at sea or to *prevent* the *siting* of a new *oil rig*.

*Friends of the Earth* has branches in many towns and cities and is known especially for local initiatives such as *recycling tins* and *newspapers*, *opposition* to *road-building schemes* and attempts to raise people's *awareness* of *green issues*.

*The Green Party* in Britain has never won a seat in parliament. Nevertheless, *the green movement* as a whole has had an influence on the agendas of the major political parties. Both the reduction in the tax paid on *lead-free petrol* and the imposition of VAT on *domestic heating* have been presented as policies to help *the environment*.

As more of our streets become *jammed up* with *cars* and more of our children suffer from *asthma*, the need for a *greener life-style* becomes one of self-interest, not to mention the protection of other species and their habitats.

## **THE ENVIRONMENT**

### **Discussion questions:      ask and answer**

1. Does the environment belong principally to the human race?
2. Do your consumption habits destroy the habitats of other species?
3. Do you think that developers should be permitted to build big hotels and tourist complexes in the most beautiful places in your country?
4. Should the private motorist be made to pay more heavily through higher road tax, petrol prices, parking fees and motorway tolls?
5. Should cars be banned from city, town and village centres?
6. Are you for or against nuclear power?
7. Does your country need stricter laws to punish noisy neighbours or discos which play loud music late at night?

8. Are your country's seas, rivers and / or lakes clean to swim in?

9. What government and private campaigns are there in your country to protect and improve the environment? Are these campaigns motivated by concern for

the lives and habitats of species other than our own?

## **THE ENVIRONMENT**

**Dialogue:**      **read aloud in pairs**

**A:** *What would be your favourite green measure?*

**B:** *I can answer that directly. I'd start by rationing petrol to cut out unnecessary car journeys.*

**A:** *What do you mean by unnecessary?*

**B:** *Let me explain. Every morning, people go up and down motorways or cross from one side of town to the other in their cars, when they could quite easily take trains or buses.*

**A:** *But public transport is expensive and inconvenient.*

**B:** *It wouldn't be expensive if we could give it more public support. Firstly, motorists who want to live within their rations of normally priced petrol could leave*

their cars at home. Drivers who want more than their rations would have to pay a much higher rate for the extra. The profit could be used to develop environmentally clean vehicles and fast and efficient railway systems.

**A:** *Don't you think you are being unfair to the private motorist and what about the car industry?*

**B:** The private motorist is being unfair to the environment. *Why shouldn't those who cause air and noise pollution do something to reduce it? As for the car industry, how many of our vehicles are truly British made? Wouldn't it be better to cut the import bill and turn our own production to the vehicles of the future?*

**A:** *You can't build new industries overnight.*

**B:** *I'm not saying you can. The oil companies are determined to get in the way of any scheme which means that people will consume less of their product. Many promising developments have been suppressed.*

**A:** *Well, how is it all going to change then?*

**B:** *Only through the election of a government which is courageous enough to take on the oil companies and ration petrol.*

