

Read the **two** passages carefully, and then answer **Question 1** on the Question Paper.

Passage A: Holidays that don't cost the earth

In this section from its website homepage, a company selling activities to people wanting to be eco-tourists is introducing potential customers to the range they have to offer.

We understand that travelling 'green' can be tricky and, ironically, also requires a lot of energy to organise. At BackPack we not only recognise, but celebrate the importance of travelling in a way that causes minimal disruption to the environment you are visiting. We invite you to discover trips that will bring you closer to your planet. Eco-tourism is going places, and we think you should too.

- Peru, Bolivia and Chile

Take a voyage of discovery across the alluring Andes. Explore the ancient wonders of Machu Picchu. Every time you travel, we donate money to a selection of charities both at home and abroad. Join our 'Pack for a Purpose' campaign where you bring supplies that local communities you visit on the way have specified they particularly need. Do something good with your luggage allowance.

- Malawi

Enjoy an unforgettable travel experience. Select from our wide range of wildlife safaris and trekking holidays, or choose to revel in the sandy delights of the almost untouched Likoma Island, Lake Malawi, where you will stay in Kaya Lodge, a dwelling so romantic it defies reality. While you're there, explore the magnificent beaches and rocky coves and dive into one of the cleanest and clearest freshwater sites in Africa.

- Galapagos Islands

Sail around the Pacific's most thriving epicentre of wildlife in The Eco-Beagle, a boat named after Charles Darwin's own ship. We believe that low-impact tourism is crucial to a sustainable planet – either staying in an eco-lodge or following an eco-tour to explore natural habitats. This particular trip, with its strict adherence to the restrictions surrounding the conservation of the Galapagos archipelago (and the number of times we've said 'eco') makes this trip as eco-friendly as they come.

Passage B: How green is eco-tourism?

This magazine article discusses eco-tourism, a particular type of tourism which is growing in popularity.

Tourists interested in protecting the environment can travel and still be ecologically responsible. At least that's the idea behind 'eco-tourism', the movement to put green into travel. Eco-tourism is often seen as the answer to conservation problems and many people appreciate the remote locations, small numbers of tourists and unsophisticated facilities.

But if the idea of travelling to an environmentally sensitive site and bringing business to locals, all while enjoying yourself and helping Planet Earth, sounds just too good to be true, the chances are it may be. Eco-tourism is no different from any other business – to be successful, the numbers need to add up. Companies need lots of visitors to generate a profit, and can end up losing sight of their original intention.

Sceptics worry that some eco-tourism packages aimed at tourists who have more conscience than facts could be no better for the planet than a celebrity chartering a private aircraft for a weekend in Paris. In fact, if the Paris flight is by fuel-efficient jet, travelling to Paris might be better for the Earth than a quiet wildlife-seeking trip to the Galapagos Islands. The French capital is equipped to handle tourists in a way that more sensitive destinations may not be.

'People should ask themselves why they want to be eco-tourists, and behave accordingly,' says Richard Bett, a professor of International Tourism. 'If it's simply to "tick off" a rare species or a new national park from your list, fine, but don't pretend that's eco-tourism.'

There's little doubt that tourism is big business. Interest in eco-tourism is increasing, even if the term's meaning isn't always clear to consumers.

'A common misconception is that eco-tourism equals roughing it in tropical jungles,' says Bett. 'In fact, eco-tourism is tourism carried out in a specific way, following a set of principles that minimise the negative impacts and maximise the positive.'

Eco-tourism guidelines for how tourists should behave when visiting fragile environments include keeping to footpaths, not scaring animals, or taking too many showers, and supporting locals by buying their produce, as well as respecting customs and traditions. However, there is no universal scheme to regulate or certify eco-tourism. How do we know, as competing companies chase customers, that every brochure claim is true? Tourists have to do their research and choose to act responsibly if eco-tourism and sustainable development are to be achieved.

If eco-tourism doesn't work, there will be dire consequences. As campaigner Delphine Noble says: 'Any fragile, unspoilt wilderness is vulnerable, but places such as Antarctica and the Galapagos Islands are coming under increasing ecological pressure from the growing numbers of tourists arriving on their shores.'

BLANK PAGE

Permission to reproduce items where third-party owned material protected by copyright is included has been sought and cleared where possible. Every reasonable effort has been made by the publisher (UCLES) to trace copyright holders, but if any items requiring clearance have unwittingly been included, the publisher will be pleased to make amends at the earliest possible opportunity.

To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced online in the Cambridge Assessment International Education Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download at www.cambridgeinternational.org after the live examination series.

Cambridge Assessment International Education is part of the Cambridge Assessment Group. Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which itself is a department of the University of Cambridge.