



# Cambridge International AS & A Level

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES & RESEARCH

9239/11

Paper 1 Written Exam

October/November 2024

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 ethics of food. Read them **both** in order to answer **all** the questions on the paper.

**Document A:** adapted from *Vegans may be obnoxious, but on the climate crisis, they're also right*, an article written by Daniel Orenstein, published in 'The Times of Israel', in 2019. The author is an associate professor at the Israel Institute of Technology. His research interests include human-nature interactions, environmental issues in Israel and globally, and public engagement in environmental policy.

We can make major environmental and health improvements if we substantially lower the amount of meat in our diet – just ask my vegan daughter.

My daughter wasn't always the stereotypical vegan. For most of her vegan life, she would just remove all meat and dairy products from her food repertoire without too much fuss. She didn't preach, and the rest of the family went on with their lives. Then, for reasons unknown, she opened the flood gates. "Just watch this video about the meat industry!" "Just consider the ethical issues in eating meat!" "Just consider the health issues!" "Just consider climate change!" "You're such a hypocrite!" She had become that stereotypical vegan – impatient, self-righteous and judgmental.

But she caught me on the climate change issue. "As an environmental studies professor, you should know better!" She may be obnoxious, but she is also right.

As an environmental scientist, I have to admit that all the scientific evidence points to the fact that a meat-heavy diet is a major cause of environmental damage.

The modern meat industry feeds our ever-growing appetites for animal-based protein. There are circumstances in which meat can be a sustainable part of the human diet. However, it is undoubtedly degrading the planet's capacity to support human life. Since 1961, global meat consumption has doubled, and along with it, the environmental impact.

Almost all of the planet's resources are now utilised by humans, and much of this is for meat production. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 71 per cent of the earth's ice-free land cover is currently used for agriculture, grazing, and forestry. Our appetite for resources is severely threatening our own well-being and prospects for long-term survival.

Livestock farming and industrialized agriculture are driving many of the planet's most serious environmental challenges, as reported in IOPscience. Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon is driven by demand for land for both cattle grazing and growing fodder crops like soy. Alejandra Borunda writes in National Geographic (2019) that Greenland's ice sheets, Antarctic glaciers and Arctic Sea ice are melting at ever-accelerating rates. This is because of rising temperatures driven by record concentrations of greenhouse gas in the atmosphere. 23 per cent of greenhouse gas is a product of agricultural and forestry activities.

In more simple language, major damage from climate change might be avoided, and major environmental and health improvements could be made, if humans were to substantially lower the amount of meat in their diet.

We are naturally defensive when someone sticks their nose and opinions into our dinner plates. Vegan activists have earned a reputation for not understanding this point. But the human-driven climate crisis tells us that our meat-based diet is unsustainable. We must consider the arguments raised not only by vegans, but by an increasing number of climate and environmental scientists. For our own future and that of our children (some of whom are vegans), our meat consumption must fall and the quicker the better.

**Document B:** adapted from *Why Veganism Isn't THE Solution To Climate Change*, an article written by Jen Panaro, published in 'Honestly Modern' in 2021. The author is the founder of Honestly Modern, an online forum all about eco-friendly living for modern families, based in Pennsylvania, US.

Have you heard the claim that the best thing you can do for the environment is to become vegan?

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But consider that there is much more to solving our environmental problems than giving up meat.

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