

Writing and Language SAT Practice Test 35

Policing Our Planet

Once completely oblivious of the damages to the environment caused by pollution, waste, and overpopulation, the world ¹ had now began to look seriously upon the depletion of our natural resources. Whether we scrutinize the harmful exhaust gases that pollute our ² air—carbondioxide, sulfur dioxide, ammonia, among others—or turn to deforestation and chemical effluents, the situation is clearly out of control. ³ For example, scientists have proven that all of the threats to the Great Lakes come as a result of human activity. Furthermore, it is no longer a question limited to a certain population or government, but a matter of global concern. The recognition of its severity is undoubtedly behind the rise in demand for environmental engineers.

Environmental engineers use the ⁴ principles of biology, chemistry, and engineering to develop solutions to environmental problems and consider global issues such as potable water, climate change, and sustainability. Typically, the work of an environmental engineer involves inspecting facilities for compliance with state and federal regulations, preparing and reviewing environmental investigation reports, designing projects to protect and conserve the environment, and advising corporations in regard to contamination clean-up. ⁵ Unexpectedly, environmental engineers may collaborate with specialists of science, law, or business to address specific concerns such as acid rain, soil degradation, or hazardous wastes.

For those interested in pursuing a career as an environmental engineer, a bachelor's degree is a must. While a degree in environmental engineering is ⁶ necessary, related fields such as general or civil engineering can be acceptable as well. Even then, the four-year degree is mandatory for even ⁷ an entry-level position, and many employers seek out those who have differentiated themselves with previous experience, graduate degrees, and/or licensing. At the top of the list for preferred skills for candidates are strong critical thinking skills and complex problem solving, followed closely by problem sensitivity and deductive reasoning. ⁸ You can be expected to have strengths in analyzing, evaluating, and interpreting highly complex data. For management or supervisor positions, a master's degree is required.

⁹ Your commitment to education in environmental engineering does not go unrewarded. The median annual income is recorded at well over \$80,000, and the outlook is promising. Tightening federal regulations ¹⁰ to meet environmental safe standards and for the purpose of the cleaning of contaminated sites are expected to only stimulate the need for environmental engineers over the next decade. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, ¹¹ environmental degradation is increasing at an exponential rate, with up to 30 percent of current species becoming extinct in the coming years. With wages climbing and job prospects high, environmental engineering seems a promising occupation for one interested in remedying the current damage and preventing further harm to our planet.

1.

- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. has now began
 - C. has now begun
 - D. have now begun
- 2.

- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. air, carbon dioxide sulfur dioxide, ammonia among others, or
 - C. air-carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, ammonia among others, or
 - D. air, carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, ammonia, among others-or
3. Which choice offers an accurate interpretation of the data in the chart?

- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. For example, the vast majority of the threats to the Great Lakes comes as a result of human activity.
 - C. For example, approximately 24 percent of the threats to the Great Lakes comes as a result of human activity.
 - D. For example, environmental regulations have successfully negated human activity as a source of threats to the Great Lakes.
- 4.

- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. principals
 - C. principle concepts
 - D. principal ideas
5. Which choice provides the most logical introduction to this sentence?

- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. Habitually,
 - C. Other times,
 - D. Possibly,
6. Which choice gives the most logical contrast with the second part of the sentence?

- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. educational,
 - C. preferable,
 - D. adequate,
- 7.

- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. a starting gig,
 - C. a position acquired at the outset of one's career,
 - D. a job,
- 8.

- A. NO CHANGE

- B. I can be
 - C. One can be
 - D. She can be
- 9.

- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. You're commitment
 - C. One's commitment
 - D. Ones' commitment
- 10.

- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. to meet environmentally safe standards and clean up contaminated sites is
 - C. in order to meet environmentally safe standards and in order to clean up contaminated sites are
 - D. to meeting environmentally safe standards and cleaning up contaminated sites were
11. Which choice provides the most fitting and specific justification for the argument in the sentences before and after?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. job prospects for high-technology jobs are going up.
- C. the need for environmental specialists is increasing at an alarming pace.
- D. there are 21,100 projected job openings in environmental engineering by the year