**Question 2 – Religion and Planet Earth.**

Within this topic candidates should be familiar with the key teachings from the religion(s) studied and should be aware of how religious leaders and other faith members have interpreted these teachings and applied them to life in society today.

- religious beliefs about the origins of life;
- religious views about the nature of Planet Earth, e.g. awe and wonder;
- religious beliefs about care and responsibility for the planet – stewardship;
- the work being done to look after the world – conservation, earth summits, international action, targets to reduce carbon emissions/greenhouse gases, sustainable development;
- problems caused by pollution, such as acid rain, oil spills, toxic chemicals and pesticides;
- effects of modern lifestyles – through emissions from cars, factories and waste, recycling;
- the debate about and the effects of climate change (global warming) – severe weather, droughts, floods, famine, destruction of crops, effect on plants and animals;
- the use and abuse of natural resources, e.g. oil;
- destruction of natural habitat, including deforestation.

This topic is about the environment and, from the religions' point of view, humanity's duty to look after the environment.

It considers the situation the modern world is in, and how governments are trying to tackle issues.

Some key ideas include:

- Life is special or sacred. This means all life, not just human life. Humans have a duty or responsibility to look after it.

- Humans have a responsibility to look after the world - for God, for themselves, for other people now and in the future.

- Everybody has a role to play in looking after the natural world - not just some people.

**Now you have thought about how we use the planet**

This course is interested in how life began. We can take the scientific route, which is a theory based on bits of evidence. Or we can take the religious route, which is stories based on what people say God told them - whichever you choose to accept as your truth is fine, but you still need to know both for the exam.
What the religions say

Religions each have their own ideas about how the world and life began. They are almost always linked to a God, and this gives religions a special attitude to the world around them. They feel responsible for the world because of their beliefs.

Creation
Christianity, Islam and Judaism share the same story of how the world began. At the beginning of time, God created the world from nothing. It took six ‘days’, and after its completion God was pleased with it. The creation included the world (land, sea, vegetation, sun, moon, stars) and all life on it (fish, birds and animals). Humans were the final creation.

Hindus believe that Brahman is responsible for the universe. There are many creation stories in Hinduism. In one, Vishnu is said to sleep on a cobra in the middle of a vast ocean of nothingness. Vishnu wakes, and from his navel grows a lotus flower. Inside the lotus is Brahma, who creates the world. Shiva is also there, and he is responsible for the cycle of life and death in all of the creation.

Stewardship
This means 'looking after'. All religions believe we have to look after the world. It belongs to God, not us. By looking after the world, we show respect to God. In fact, in Islam Judaism Hinduism and Sikhism it is almost an act of worship to look after the world. In all the religions, stewardship is a duty that God has set for humans. A 'duty' is a responsibility, a job - so looking after the world is one of the jobs humans have to undertake.

Future's thinking
What does this mean?

You can probably work it out - it is thinking about the future. We all do that, so let's work out why it is key for religious people.

Firstly, if I trash my house, I have to live in the mess. So in terms of the world, whatever I do to it, I still have to live there.

Secondly, others live there too, so they suffer. It's the same with the world - the damage I do affects others. In the future the things we do will affect our own children. And it's no good to say it wasn't us, it was our parents and grandparents, because the crisis point has been reached. Everybody has to help, whether or not they did anything to cause the problems.

Thirdly, if I believe God made the world, and that I have a duty to look after it, then there must be a reward for doing my duty (or a punishment for not!), so it is in my interests to look after the world for God as God will reward me (heaven). Alternatively, I might be Hindu. In this case I believe I will live on earth again after dying in this lifetime. So stewardship is still in my interests, as I need to come back!
The earth and God - seeing God in nature

We really have to wonder why religions came up with the idea that God created the world.

Can you imagine the scene, many thousands of years ago, where a child asks his grandfather how all the world came to exist? Perhaps they are sitting around the fire, late in the evening, with a vast, star-filled sky above them. Imagine it - all is quiet except for the sounds of insects and animals, the fire crackles, the grandfather is telling stories from their people's history. The boy gazes at the world around him and the deep, inky blackness of the sky which is peppered with twinkling lights. It isn't difficult to imagine grandfather telling him the story of how the world was made by a great being - the greatest of all, because only such a being could create the world. The beauty and sense of peace can't all just be an accident - it must have deliberately been done. How did this being make it? Well, there wasn't anything to start with, because beginnings are always empty. Then you need a place, then the right conditions before you put life on it, from simple to complex. So, the boy is satisfied - and even more awestruck by the world around him that he now sees in a different way.

People see beautiful landscapes, sunsets, sunrises, waterfalls - these can make you feel privileged to have seen them, as if it was a special moment. That feeling is what we call 'awe'. The exam might ask you about 'awe and wonderment' - in other words things that make you feel amazed in the way just described.

So, it isn't hard to see why nature can inspire people to think of God. Also to see that nature provides a proof of God's existence for many people. We as simple humans must wonder at this power which is shown in the created world. If we wonder at it, we must respect the God who made it, and even worship that God by looking after the world.

Now you know how people are inspired by the world around them

World problems

1 Climate change and global warming

Climate change is what it says - that the climate is changing. Scientists tell us that their records show the earth is getting hotter. So temperatures everywhere will get higher - this is global warming.

Why is it happening?

It could be that the earth's cycle is to get hotter and cooler over time you've heard of the ice ages, when the earth froze over, well this is the opposite. So this climate change and global warming is all part and parcel of the earth's life. However, scientists know that the activities of humans over the last 250 years, and especially the last 100, have speeded up temperature change. They estimate that the surface temperature of the earth will increase between 1A and 5.8°C before 2100. This is mainly because of the gases released by burning fossil fuels as energy or transport. Scientists are telling us we need to act now because if we are the problem, then we should be able to solve it.

So what are the consequences?

Imagine British summers being so hot that you don't need to go to Greece to get a tan! Sounds good? Hotter usually means dryer so plants and animals have to adapt or die. Hotter also means more frequent extreme weather. Hotter means some places become too hot to live in. The ice caps melt, so seas rise, so lands flood (and Britain isn't much above current sea-level!) If it gets too hot, diseases like malaria and dengue fever will come to Britain. Still sound great?

Solutions?

Scientists say the key solution is to change our energy use. We need to find alternatives to fossil fuels (coal, gas and oil) so that fuels either don't add to the problem, or are renewable. This is called sustainable energy - energy we can keep using without doing more harm.
2 Pollution

Pollution basically means there is too much of something, which has caused an imbalance and damage to the environment. It can be of air, water, or land. We even now talk about light and noise pollution. Usually, it is a result of what humans have done.

- Busy roads cause **air** pollution. This affects our health, and drives some wildlife away. It also makes **acid rain**, so that when rain falls, it poisons the land and water, and damages buildings and structures.
- Factories can cause **water** pollution by emptying waste into rivers, which poison the fish. Fertiliser running off farmers' fields can kill all the fish, as it makes the algae grow too fast, taking the oxygen from the water. This is just one form of **toxic chemical**—chemicals which can kill in big doses. Too much **pesticide** does more damage to the ecosystem than intended, and can change its whole balance.
- You are probably a **land** polluter because of dropping litter. Doesn't just look bad, it also kills lots of wild animals who eat it, or get trapped in it.
- In towns and cities, you see fewer stars than when you are in the countryside. The **lights** at ground level block out the stars—light pollution is affecting our appreciation of the beauty around us.
- People who live near airport runways suffer from **noise** pollution. Even if it doesn't affect their hearing, it makes life unpleasant, and affects the value of their homes.

Pollution is a big part of the reason for the increasing temperature. Our waste produces the greenhouse gases that heat the Earth.
3 Destruction of natural habitats

You have just read about pollution - pollution is one reason why natural habitats are being destroyed. For example, if a tanker spills oil into the sea, it wipes out life in that area, and degrades the land for many years. Check out the Torrey Canyon spill to get a better idea of this.

Another reason for the destruction of natural habitats is deforestation, where huge areas of forest are cut down, for example, to create grazing land for cattle, or to create areas for building, mining and roads. The trees, of course, are the habitat for many species - so these species are affected, even dying out. Also, the trees convert the carbon dioxide into the oxygen we breathe, so they help in the fight against global warming. Shame we are cutting so many down!

The rainforests also contain many plants that can be used as medicines, which are lost with deforestation. There are thought to be many species of animals and plants that we haven't even recorded yet in the rainforests - they could become extinct before we have even studied them. Plants are the raw materials that drug companies use to produce drugs and to invent new ones.

Clearing land to build factories, for farming, and for people to live on also causes the destruction of natural habitats. When we clear the vegetation, we take away the home of some animals. We also destroy plants, sometimes putting the species into danger of extinction.
4 Use and abuse of natural resources

Natural resources include vegetation, minerals and fossil fuels. Humans are using these in greater quantities and at a faster rate now than at any other time in our history. This is because of how technologically advanced we are. We can cut materials out of the ground faster and in greater quantities than ever before. We use more fossil fuels at a faster and greater rate than ever before. Our technology, cars and all forms of transport, for example, needs more of them. More and more people in the world are getting more and more technology. We are also richer, so we use more resources. For example, more people go on holiday by plane, which uses much fuel.

Some of the fossil fuels, such as coal, are already running out. These fuels are limited in quantity and take millions of years to be formed. We either have to stop using them, or find a different source of energy, which is renewable. If we don't stop using them, and they run out, we will have to find a new source anyway.

What will be the problems caused if, for example, oil runs out?
It isn't just that these fuels are limited. They give off lots of the greenhouse gases, cause the pollution which we have already mentioned. The more we use, the more the problems stack up. So finding an alternative helps us with those problems - it isn't something we can hide from.

Now you know about use and abuse of natural resources

5 Modern living

It's really easy to think that global warming, pollution and so on are someone else's fault, and someone else's problem. It's also easy to think the problems are too big for us as individuals to do anything about. In our everyday lives, we put huge demands on the planet.

How many of these questions do you answer 'no' to?
1 Does your family have a car or cars?
2 Does your family eat every scrap of food bought?
3 Do you only eat all-organic and free-range food?
4 Do you eat 'fast foods'?

cars use up fossil fuels, and are a major polluter. The gases they put out (emissions) add to the greenhouse effect. If you buy more than you eat, there is waste in all kinds of ways - the food, its wrappings. Most food has been grown using pesticides, which will have polluted its local environment. Rain on the crops runs off, taking the pesticides with it into the soil or nearby water as a poison. Waste goes into landfill sites, which emit greenhouse gases as their contents decompose. The meat for fast-food burgers often comes from herds that graze cleared rainforest land, leading to the destruction of natural habitats.

So, you see, you are contributing to the problems we've read about. The question is - what can you do about it? We could each take responsibility for our own contribution, and show respect to ourselves and the rest of the planet (now and in the future) by trying to solve the current problems. This is the message of governments and religions.

Now you have thought about the demand of modern living
Hindu attitudes to the environment

Traditionally, Hindu life was very simple, and relied on the environment. This was linked with beliefs about the sanctity of life and non-violence to form a religion that is peaceful towards the environment. Brahman (the Ultimate Reality) is in all life.

Hinduism teaches:

- Respect for all life.
- Ahimsa - non-violence.
- Hindus should focus on environmental values (*Artharva Veda*).
- Trees have five sorts of kindness which are their daily sacrifice: to families they give fuel; to passers-by they give shade and a resting place; to birds they give shelter; with their leaves, roots and bark they give medicines (*Varaha Purana*).
- Everything rests on me as pearls are strung on a thread. I am the original fragrance of the earth ... the taste in water ... the heat in fire and the sound in space ... the light of the sun and moon and the life of all that lives (*Bhagavad Gita* 7:7).

All life is seen as interdependent, including animals and plants. All life depends on the environment, so everyone needs to protect and look after it. Hindus believe all souls will be reborn into more lifetimes on earth, so we have to look after the earth for our own future sakes. God is seen as part of nature, so protection and worship are important.

Organisation website www.fov.org.uk.

Christian attitudes to the environment

Christians believe that God created the world and gave humankind stewardship - the responsibility to look after the world. Christians in modern times especially have seen the need to work to *heal the world*, and look after the environment.

Christianity teaches:

- God made the world, and gave the duty of stewardship to humans (*Genesis*).
- The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it (*Psalms*).
- Respect for life extends to the rest of creation (Pope John Paul II).
- More than ever, individually and collectively, people are responsible for the future of the planet (Pope John Paul II).
- I want to awake in you a deep admiration for creation, until anywhere thinking of plants and flowers, you are overcome by thoughts of the Creator (St Basil).

Clearly, Christians believe that humans have a special role on earth, which is to look after the earth and animals. Since humans must face God on the Day of Judgement, all must carry out their given duties. If humans did not look after the world, or did nothing to stop its destruction, they should expect to be punished by God. Many Christians are motivated to do environmental work because of this belief.

Looking after the world - International efforts

Every ten years since 1972, there have been Earth Summits. Stockholm was the first. Governments of countries everywhere attend these summits, and discuss issues affecting the world. These issues are directly or indirectly about the environment. In 1972, the meeting discussed the global environment and development needs of the world. These two things conflicted. Immediately, the governments began to seek solutions. The Stockholm Declaration and Action Plan set out principles for helping the natural environment, and needing to support nations through this process.

In the 1980s, 'Our Common Future' recognised that humans needed to find ways to meet the needs of all people and countries today, whilst not messing things up for people in the future. In 1992, at Rio de Janeiro, agreements were reached on Biodiversity and Climate Change. These led to the formation of the Commission for Sustainable Development. This said that we had to look for ways in which we could develop technologies which would keep going, for example, replacing fossil fuels with renewable energies.

Overall, these summits try to build agreements between nations. They try to help nations face the problems they have, whilst not heaping up problems for others or for the future. They try to stop the biggest nations from just doing their own thing at the expense of the smaller nations. They recognise that developing countries can't do the things that developed countries can - because they simply aren't rich enough. They try to encourage the sharing of the problems, and the solutions. Most of all, they are designed to put these issues on to the highest, most powerful agenda of the world leaders.

Kyoto agreements (2002 Summit)
In 2002, 83 governments plus the European Union signed up to these agreements. Countries signing up agreed to set targets for the future.

- 1 Cleaner fuels - use of gas, rather than fossil fuels; using fuel-cell technology; using renewable fuels, such as solar, wind and wave energies; and use of nuclear technologies.
- 2 Reducing the amount of carbon dioxide emissions.
  - The USA and Australia later withdrew from these agreements, feeling they were not in the interests of their nations. They have set up their own targets.

If countries can stick to these targets, then the results will have a positive impact on reducing global warming. If we can do that, the ice caps will melt less quickly, the life forms in those areas will be less endangered and perhaps even saved, the increasingly freak weather we have seen will be reduced, the deserts may stay where they are, and so on, and so on. It really is a big deal for the world to solve.
Sustainable development
This is the heart of the Earth Summits and all the agreements. It is the idea that new technological developments should all be infinite, or very long lasting, as well as within the reach of nations. It would be no use swapping coal as a fuel for something else which will quickly run out. Similarly, it would be no good finding a new technology that was simply too expensive for anyone to use.

Conservation
You must have heard the term conservation. It means when we try to protect an area or species. Sometimes it involves doing a whole load of repair and rebuild jobs somewhere, for example, to maintain the environment for an endangered species. It might include planting trees to protect an area from landslides. It might be declaring an area a nature reserve in order to protect wildlife and the environment there - this has happened in Borneo to protect orang-utans.
It is becoming more common for people to take holidays which are based around conservation either of animals, like working on a lion reserve for a few weeks in Kenya, or environmental, like rebuilding dry stone walls in Scotland to protect vegetation in fields beyond these pathways.

What about you - what can you do?
Check out the ideas below. Are there any you do already? Are there any you could do? Every little helps!

For the exam, you need to be able to write about how all people, whether religious or not, can help the environment. The exam wants you to know about international efforts - what governments and big organisations are doing.
Exam practice

How do you revise? Do you read page after page, and hope it soaks in? If you do, I've got bad news for you. That is one of the most inefficient ways to revise - sorry!

Would you like to be able to write everything about one topic on to one sheet?

You can learn how here.
  o Some people like to use this method at the start of their revision - an overview of what they have to learn.
  o Others use it as a checklist at the end. I'd recommend both ways.

You will need - A3 paper, lots of different coloured pens, and your own notes (just in case!).

Look at the chart on the next page - we'll call it a thought map.

In the centre, in big letters is the topic name. It needs to stand out, so you know what the page is about.

Here, it is PLANET EARTH, it could be any topic you choose IN ANY SUBJECT (not just RE).

Around it at the first level are the chunks which make up that topic. These are the general issues that the exam questions will be based on, for example, questions about how we look after our world. Each chunk has its own colour. When you try to remember the bits of the chart, those colours will help your brain to organise the ideas.

Around each element are the relevant sections. They continue the colour of their element. These make up the different focus points of the questions, for example, saying we look after our world by conservation efforts.

You can add the details for each of those sections. They are what your answers will include. For example, issues to do with looking after our world might include - God created everything; stewardship means looking after it, and so on. Use the same colour for the rest of that bit of the chart.

This chart isn't finished, loads more can be added try to do that for yourself.

Don't forget this though: the exam will want you to show that you know the key words and what they mean; it wants you to be able to give examples of them; to know why they are an issue/why they happened; and, it wants to see that you know what the religions think. Make sure you get all that on to your thought map.

Do this for any topic. Use a sheet of A3 sized paper. Stick it on your bedroom wall- you'll read it both deliberately and by accident there. What details you don't remember, check back in your notes. Add any that won't stick.

Happy revising!
How to answer question 2 - Religion and Planet Earth

Give two examples of pollution.
**Target: Knowledge of examples of pollution**
Oil pollution / litter / waste / gases / factory pollution / vehicle pollution / acid rain / toxic chemicals / pesticides, etc. Accept types of pollution, e.g. air pollution / land pollution / water pollution / noise pollution / light pollution / visual pollution. One mark for each correct example. Accept two examples of the same type of pollution e.g. cars and lorries. Do not accept deforestation or global warming.

Explain religious views about sustainable development. Refer to religious beliefs and teachings in your answer.
**Target: Understanding of religious views about sustainable development**
Planet created by God / stewards or caretakers / need to consider future generations, e.g. love your neighbour (implies future as well as present) / current lifestyles placing increasing burdens on the planet / development needs to consider impact on resources, e.g. religions encourage use of renewable energy / interdependence / harmony with nature / need to reduce carbon emissions/ support environmental groups/ idea of dominion may be interpreted in two ways and may be used to oppose sustainable development etc. N.B. max L3 if no religious teachings or beliefs.

'Religious believers have not done enough to support earth summits.' What do you think? Explain your opinion.
**Target: Evaluation of whether or not protecting the environment is a religious issue**
Candidates may include some of the following points:
God created the world (environment) and put humans in charge of looking after the environment, e.g. Genesis / so believers should totally support earth summits and protect the world / responsible to God for our actions / global warming and climate change great threat to existence of life on earth / only have one planet which cannot be replaced so earth summits are vital / religious believers have been concerned about many other issues but could have contributed more to earth summits/ think globally, act locally/ responsibility to stand up against injustice. It is an issue for everyone – not just religious believers / religious leaders at the earth summits in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, Kyoto in 1997 and Johannesburg in 2002/ little an individual can do. N.B. two sided evaluation is not required but is acceptable.

Explain what religious believers can do to help reduce global warming.
**Target: Understanding of actions believers may take to help prevent global warming**
Candidates may include some of the following points:
Personally be careful about their carbon footprint / recycle / reuse / use renewable energy / turn off lights / walk, cycle or use public transport where possible / plant trees / reduce need for landfill sites that produce methane / ask God’s help through prayer. Campaign to persuade others to take action / petitions / letters to media / M.P.’s / tell others what their religion says/ joining a campaigning organisation, e.g. Friends of the Earth. Max L2 for a list.

'People are too selfish to protect the environment.' Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to religious arguments in your answer.
**Target: To evaluate whether people are too selfish to wish to protect the environment**
Candidates may include some of the following points:
Agree Greed / live for today – forget tomorrow philosophy / want to make money – protecting the environment can be expensive / laziness – use car rather than walk or cycle / think of oneself and not others / what does it matter what one person does idea / jobs and convenience come before the environment / way some interpret teaching of dominion/ human nature/ environment not as important as people.
Other views A lot being done by those who are not selfish / governments making laws and leading the way / earth summits / implementation of sustainable development / recycling increasing / targets set to reduce carbon emissions / religions encourage protection, e.g. Assisi Declarations / Golden Rules of the religions / realization that the future of the human race is at stake/ personal responses/ environmental organisations/ some are too poor.

Explain why some religious believers support conservation.
**Target: Understanding of why religious people support tree planting and conservation**
Candidates may include some of the following points:
Idea of stewardship / looking after God's world – Genesis 1 / trees important lungs for the world / trees have a positive affect on the climate / stops soil erosion / need to prevent animal and plant extinct and deforestation / interdependence / consideration for future generations, etc.
No marks for 'what' rather than 'why'.

Give two examples of how global warming is damaging the world.
Target: Knowledge of how global warming is damaging the planet
Candidates may include some of the following points:
Causes climate change / increased flooding / droughts in some areas / more violent storms and extremes of weather / plants and animals have difficulty in surviving changes / increased heat / melting polar ice caps / rising sea levels / coastal erosion, etc.

Target: Evaluation of whether or not God created the world
Candidates may include some of the following points:
Creation stories, e.g. Genesis 1 shared by Christians and Jews / similarly by Muslims / would not have just come about by accident / nothing doesn't become something without a reason / the first cause argument / design argument, etc.
It could have been an accident / came about by chance / most creation stories are just myths / is there a god? / if god created the world who created god / evolution / big bang theory, etc.

Explain religious attitudes to pollution.
Target: Knowledge and understanding of religious peoples’ attitudes to pollution
General points
Bad thing because it ruins the environment / kills wildlife and harms humans / concern for future generations. Accept examples as development of points being made.
Christianity
Stewardship (Genesis 1) / need to look after the planet / ruins God's creation.
Hinduism
World is sacred / dharma to look after it / principle of ahimsa.
Islam
Allah's world which needs looking after / khalifahs (guardians) / Surah 6165 / will be held accountable on judgement day.

‘The world’s natural resources are for people to use as they wish.’
Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to religious arguments in your answer.
Target: Evaluation of the use of the world's natural resources
Candidates may include some of the following points:
Agree
God gave us the authority to do what we want / resources are there to be used / if we don't use them someone else will / scientists will develop other materials to use / dominion idea / freewill / God will replenish, etc.
Other views
Need to be concerned for future generations / good stewardship / God put humans in charge to look after the world not to exploit it (Genesis 128) / once resources used up they will never be replaced / need to be responsible and not selfish and greedy / need to recycle and reuse / Assisi Declarations / Ohito Declarations, etc.

What is conservation?
Target: Knowledge of the term conservation
Candidates may include any of the following points:
Preservation / protection / looking after the natural environment.

Give two reasons why many religious believers are against deforestation.
Target: Understanding why many believers are against deforestation
Candidates may include some of the following points:
Loss of natural habitat / extinction of varieties of animals and plants / climate change / less oxygen more carbon dioxide in atmosphere / more storms and floods / drought in other areas / increase in global warming / erosion of soil / stewardship, etc.

‘Recycling is good stewardship.’ What do you think? Explain your opinion.
**Target: Evaluation of whether recycling is good stewardship**

Candidates may include some of the following points:
- Enables item to be reused / prevents using vital resources / good stewardship as it is looking after God’s creation / shows concern for future generation. Other things are more important, e.g. not using up all the oil / preventing global warming / sometimes it is not worth recycling / sometimes in plentiful supply.

Explain the attitudes of religious people to global warming. Refer to religious teaching in your answer.
**Target: Understanding of the attitudes of religious people towards global warming**

Candidates may include some of the following points:

**Christianity** World is a gift to humans Genesis – God made the world / humans were put in charge / Stewardship / humans have to take responsibility for the world / Deuteronomy 20 19: when attacking a town do not destroy trees / put in charge, i.e. stewardship, therefore responsible for the environment – Genesis 1 / Deuteronomy 20 19 do not destroy trees cf. rainforests today / don’t disobey God like Adam and Eve / there is freedom of choice and often the wrong choices have been made / Assisi Declarations / Ohito Declaration.

**Hinduism** Hindu saying ‘The Earth is our mother and we are her children’ / Gandhi ‘The Earth has enough for everyone’s need, but not for everyone’s greed.’ / Hindus believe that everything in nature is an expression of God / Hindus love and see God in everything, therefore the environment should not be exploited / it is something to be identified with and loved / Assisi Declarations / Ohito Declaration.

**Islam** Surah 16.67 ‘And it is God who sends down out of heaven water.’ / Surah 6.165: ‘He has given you the earth for your heritage.’ / Surah 30.30: Establish Allah’s handiwork according to the pattern on which he has made mankind: no change let there be in the work wrought by Allah / Sayings in the Hadith promote harmony with the environment / Allah made the world and everything in it / humans are Khalifahs (guardians) to look after and care for the environment / Surah 30.30 – there is a balance and pattern in the Universe which should not be changed / Muslims will be held to account on Judgment Day/ Assisi Declarations / Ohito Declaration.

‘The Earth is ours; we can do what we want with it.’ Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to religious arguments in your answer.
**Target: Evaluation of whether the earth is ours and if we can treat it as we want**

Candidates may include some of the following points:

**Agree**
- We live here / we are at the top of creation / environment / no one else to tell us what to do / we have the power to do what we want / humans been given dominion – Genesis 1 28.

**Other views**
- It’s God’s world / we are here only temporarily / what we do will affect ourselves and others / should not be selfish and greedy / need to think about future generations / sustainable development / problems will arise such as pollution / climate change / famines, etc.
2. Religion and Planet Earth

Look at the picture below.

**ICEBERGS COLLAPSE: YET MORE EVIDENCE OF GLOBAL WARMING**

For this "Explain briefly..." question you'll have to make three points about climate change. Use examples to strengthen what you say.

(2.1) Explain briefly what is meant by climate change.  

You'll need to give some religious arguments. You can't just list reasons, you need to explain them too.

(2.2) Explain, using examples, why religious people think they should protect the environment.  

Give at least four reasons why and an explanation of two or three.

(2.3) 'God can be seen in nature.' 

What do you think? Explain your opinion.  

Is it? You need to say yes, because... What other problems? What problems might religious people say? Is pollution a bigger problem for some than others?

(2.4) 'Pollution is the biggest problem in today's world.' 

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to religious arguments in your answer.