

# 104 年度全國科學班試辦聯合學科資格考英文科試題卷

## 第一部份：選擇題

### I. 文意字彙 (佔 10 分)

說明：第1題至第10題，每題有4個選項，其中只有一個是正確或最適當的選項，請畫記在答案卡之「選擇題答案區」。各題答對者，得1分；答錯、未作答或畫記多於一個選項者，該題以零分計算。

- The Picasso Museum in Paris \_\_\_\_\_ a large collection of the artist's works.  
(A) absorbs (B) composes (C) emerges (D) boasts
- Many \_\_\_\_\_ scholars were invited to the conference to offer their expertise and insights on how to combat terrorism.  
(A) fundamental (B) distinguished (C) informative (D) indifferent
- For most allergies, the best treatment is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the irritating substance from the sensitive person's environment.  
(A) cooperation (B) interpretation (C) elimination (D) demonstration
- It is estimated that every year each household in the United States \_\_\_\_\_ approximately a ton of trash.  
(A) discards (B) fetches (C) investigates (D) subtracts
- I don't know the actual cause, but I guess the sense of frustration was what \_\_\_\_\_ him to leave the meeting so suddenly.  
(A) ceased (B) persisted (C) confused (D) prompted
- Instead of punishing me, my mother wrote me a letter of grave \_\_\_\_\_, asking me to reflect on my misbehavior.  
(A) possession (B) admonition (C) indicator (D) garment
- When the police tried to disperse the crowd, the protesters put up a strong \_\_\_\_\_ by locking their arms and chanting, "Equal pay! Equal pay!"  
(A) assistance (B) accuracy (C) resistance (D) residence
- Keep the soil in the garden \_\_\_\_\_ but not too wet, or the roots of the flowers might start to rot.  
(A) vicious (B) moist (C) dense (D) stiff
- In your report, present all the facts in \_\_\_\_\_ order. In other words, list them according to the sequence in which they happened.  
(A) antibacterial (B) philosophical (C) analytical (D) chronological
- A safe and effective vaccine, still in trial stages, is hoped for by the end of 2015 to \_\_\_\_\_ the spread of Ebola virus.  
(A) curb (B) brew (C) flip (D) mute

### II. 綜合測驗 (佔 20 分)

說明：第11題至第30題，每題一個空格，請依文意選出最適當的一個選項，請畫記在答案卡之「選擇題答案區」。各題答對者，得1分；答錯、未作答或畫記多於一個選項者，該題以零分計算。

#### 第 11 至 15 題為題組

One of the most frequent concerns and complaints of people today is that they don't have enough time to do all that needs to be done. Here are some tips for better time management so that you can reduce the stress and improve your overall wellness.

To start with, use time thoughtfully. Make a list of what you have to do, then \_\_11\_\_ them, and write down how long you plan to spend on each item. This way, it will be easier for you to choose which tasks to focus on \_\_12\_\_ which ones not to. Also, ask yourself whether you are a morning person or you do your best thinking in the night. You can \_\_13\_\_ mark out your most productive time for the important task. In addition, you need time to deal with unexpected events that occur. One \_\_14\_\_ is to limit scheduled time to about 75% of your day. Figure out how much time you want to set aside for work, and how much time you have for other activities.

Last but not least, you must set reasonable goals that you can reach within the time that you have to complete certain activities. Much stress can be avoided \_\_15\_\_ you can be careful with commitments and time management.

- (A) dismiss (B) persist (C) illustrate (D) prioritize
- (A) as well as (B) in spite of (C) other than (D) far from
- (A) relatively (B) accordingly (C) essentially (D) conventionally
- (A) heart of gold (B) apple of the eye (C) rule of thumb (D) slip of the tongue
- (A) unless (B) before (C) though (D) if

第 16 至 20 題為題組

A longstanding wedding tradition in the United States tells brides to wear “something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue” when they walk down the aisle. Most brides follow the \_\_16\_\_ in a similar way, with a blue garter, some borrowed, old jewelry, and a new wedding gown. But this shouldn’t \_\_17\_\_ you \_\_17\_\_ being creative. For something old, your favorite pair of heels (newly polished, of course) can work just fine. They’ve been broken in, and will make sure you stand comfortably \_\_18\_\_ the ceremony. As for something new, well, a new penny minted in the year of the wedding can do \_\_19\_\_ good a job as any new item. Something borrowed from a friend who’s had a long and successful marriage is believed to be able to pass on the happiness to you. Finally, \_\_20\_\_ the saying “Marry in blue, always be true,” a blue-tinted veil over the bride’s head and face is the latest fashion in many American weddings. Give these ideas a try when you’re planning for your big day in America!

16. (A) bouquet (B) consent (C) practice (D) trade  
17. (A) stop...from (B) talk...into (C) devote...to (D) lead...to  
18. (A) beside (B) across (C) underneath (D) throughout  
19. (A) such (B) as (C) much (D) more  
20. (A) in place of (B) in case of (C) in terms of (D) in response to

第 21 至 25 題為題組

Just as lipstick contains fish scales, and bird droppings are in spa facials, cosmetics manufacturers are now including snail slime as the latest odd ingredient to rejuvenate skin cells. They claim snail slime is the perfect thing if anyone wants to \_\_21\_\_ the aging process to a snail’s pace.

The use of snail slime to improve skin dates back to ancient Greece, where Hippocrates, the famous physician, reportedly \_\_22\_\_ crushed snails and sour milk as a way to rid the skin of inflammation. In more recent times, it was rediscovered when Chilean farmers who handled snails noticed their skin was visibly smoother. Nowadays, it is the secreted slime discovered by these farmers that \_\_23\_\_ harvested to produce snail cream, not crushed-up snails.

When a snail is agitated, it releases a sticky fluid as a means to protect itself or its shell. It may sound \_\_24\_\_ to use something slimy like that on your skin. But remember humans also release oils as a way to protect skin. As a snail protects itself, the slime from its body is packed with nutrients tested magical to restore skin cells. And now all of these nutrients are already tentatively added to beauty products. \_\_25\_\_ more testimonials from celebrities and superstars, these slime-based products are forecast to be the newest fad in the field of skin care.

21. (A) gear up (B) cut off (C) slow down (D) take over  
22. (A) furnished (B) prescribed (C) expressed (D) substituted  
23. (A) are (B) have (C) is (D) has  
24. (A) weird (B) feasible (C) cautious (D) sensible  
25. (A) Among (B) With (C) As (D) For

第 26 至 30 題為題組

It is estimated that children in the U.S. are subjected to at least eight hours of media every day, including computers, video games, television, etc. This \_\_26\_\_ has experts wondering what impact this amount of media is having on children’s minds and their ability to communicate, learn, remember, and concentrate.

Many teachers have come forward with the idea that the tremendous amount of media children are on each day has begun to \_\_27\_\_ their schoolwork and more importantly, their ability to concentrate. Some feel it has become \_\_28\_\_ harder to capture and maintain kids’ attention in class. Some school psychologists claim that kids today cannot or will not sit still without some form of entertainment. They also say that nowadays children’s attention spans are shorter than \_\_29\_\_ of children in the past. With the shorter attention spans come classwork of poorer quality and an inability to study for exams. As time passes and more research is done, school authorities will have a better idea of the impact media is having on children and then they can begin to really \_\_30\_\_ the problem.

26. (A) search (B) section (C) sample (D) situation  
27. (A) resume (B) affect (C) infect (D) improve  
28. (A) increasingly (B) adequately (C) digitally (D) economically  
29. (A) that (B) which (C) those (D) they  
30. (A) ignore (B) digest (C) cause (D) tackle

### III. 文意選填 (佔 20 分)

說明：第31題至第50題，每題一個空格，請依文意在文章後所提供的 (A) 到 (BC) 選項中分別選出最適當者，並將其英文字母代號畫記在答案卡之「選擇題答案區」。各題答對者，得1分；答錯或未作答者，該題以零分計算。

#### 第 31 至 40 題為題組

Rajendra Singh, known as “the water man of India,” will be presented on August 26, 2015, with the Stockholm Water Prize for his \_\_31\_\_ to solving water problems. Trained as a medic, Singh \_\_32\_\_ set out to build health clinics. But as he started a medical \_\_33\_\_ in a rural village in arid Rajasthan, he soon realized that the greatest need of the local population was not health care \_\_34\_\_ drinking water. Years of deforestation and mining, \_\_35\_\_ local farmers’ abandonment of traditional ways to conserve water, left the groundwater table dwindling. When the groundwater was eventually \_\_36\_\_, crops withered, forests and wildlife vanished, and people left their villages. To restore these poor, helpless villages, Singh revived and modernized a traditional Indian rainwater harvesting technique, \_\_37\_\_ johads, or rainwater tanks, and small earthen check dams. When the monsoon arrived, the johads and check dams held back the flow of water and allowed water to seep into the ground for future use, \_\_38\_\_ to improved percolation and groundwater recharge. Not \_\_39\_\_ did Singh’s methods bring water back to India’s driest state, reviving five rivers and a great number of villages, but this rainwater pioneer had also demonstrated to the world that learning how to harvest rainwater would be a crucial key to \_\_40\_\_ both floods and droughts globally.

- |           |                |               |                |                |
|-----------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| (A) dried | (B) practice   | (C) leading   | (D) dedication | (E) only       |
| (AB) plus | (AC) relieving | (AD) building | (AE) but       | (BC) initially |

#### 第 41 至 50 題為題組

Cliff divers, also known as high divers, dive from a height of 89 feet. In the sport, Steven Lobue is a fan favorite, attracting \_\_41\_\_ as large as 70,000 on his every tour. In Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula at the Red Bull Cliff Diving World Series finale, Lobue leaped into a 90-foot-deep sinkhole and locked up the No. 3 ranking in 2014. According to him, landing feet first is necessary to minimize bone-jarring \_\_42\_\_. The divers are judged on form, difficulty, and entry. Compare that to Olympic-style diving, \_\_43\_\_ the highest dives are off the 33-foot tower and divers hit the water at a speed of about 35 mph.

Lobue typically takes a moment to savor the scenery when he is perched on the edge of a cliff, preparing to \_\_44\_\_ nine stories while flipping through five summersaults before hitting the water at 60 mph. “Rather than feel scared of my vantage point, I try to \_\_45\_\_ some calm from the beauty of it.” The view can be absolutely breathtaking for high diver Lobue, who has propelled himself from the side of a volcano, the \_\_46\_\_ of a canyon, the top of a medieval fortress and the roof of an opera house in competitions around the world. But not too breathtaking. Lobue must not let his mind race into \_\_47\_\_ mode when he’s standing on the 89-foot-high platform, controlling his heartbeat and visualizing the perfect dive.

Lobue’s wife, Lindsay Lowell, who was a diver in college, marvels at the skill, spatial awareness and \_\_48\_\_ strength of high divers. “I put my hands over my eyes and crack my fingers when I watch,” she said. “It’s one of the toughest sports you can do \_\_49\_\_, and they have to overcome anxiety on every dive. I’m a daredevil—I’ve been skydiving and I love rollercoasters—but I was petrified when I stood on a platform in Italy. I wanted to film Steven’s practice dives, but my hands were shaking and sweating so \_\_50\_\_ that I had to give the camera to someone else.”

- |             |                |            |            |             |
|-------------|----------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| (A) plunge  | (B) physically | (C) mental | (D) rim    | (E) badly   |
| (AB) crowds | (AC) in which  | (AD) risks | (AE) panic | (BC) absorb |

## VI. 閱讀測驗 (佔 40 分)

說明：第51題至第70題，每題請分別根據各篇文章之文意選出最適當的一個選項，請畫記在答案卡之「選擇題答案區」。各題答對者，得2分；答錯、未作答或畫記多於一個選項者，該題以零分計算。

### 第 51 至 54 題為題組

Raising a happy, healthy, and well-behaved kid is the highly challenging expectation of every parent in modern times. In fact, the secret to being a great parent is to create a closer connection with your child.

To our surprise, it isn't enough that we tell our children we love them. We need to put our love into action every day for them to feel it. And when we do that, our kids need a lot less discipline! Mostly, *putting our love into action* means making that connection with our child our highest priority. Love in action means paying thoughtful attention to what goes on between us, seeing things from our child's point of view, and always remembering that this child, who sometimes may drive us crazy, is still that precious baby we welcomed into our arms with such hope.

Without doubt, it takes a lot of effort to fully attend to another human being, but when we are really present with our child, we often find that it energizes us and makes us feel more alive. Being close to another human takes work. But 90% of people on their deathbed say that their biggest regret is that they didn't get closer to the people in their lives. And almost all parents whose children are grown say they wish they had spent more time with their kids.

According to some psychological experts, being present just means paying attention. Like a marriage or a friendship, your relationship with your child needs positive attention to thrive. Attention = Love. Like your garden, your car, or your work, they are what you attend to flourish. And, of course, that kind of attentiveness takes time. Therefore, you can multi-task while you're making dinner, but the secret to a great relationship is some focused time every day attending only to that child.

51. What is the best title for this article?

- (A) How to Build a Great Relationship with Your Kid
- (B) How to Make a Relationship Thrive
- (C) How to Feel No Regret When One Is on the Deathbed
- (D) How to Communicate with Your Children

52. According to this article, what is the greatest regret of most people in their last course of life?

- (A) They didn't make enough effort to attend to their children.
- (B) They didn't spend more focused time with their own children.
- (C) They weren't on intimate terms with the people in their lives.
- (D) They didn't have less discipline for their children.

53. Which of the following statements is true according to this article?

- (A) It's most important to tell our kids how much we love them.
- (B) Being fully present with our kids can make us feel more energetic.
- (C) When we put more of our love into action, our kids need a lot more discipline.
- (D) 90% of the parents say they had spent much time with their kids in their childhood.

54. According to this article, what is the secret to a great relationship between parents and children?

- (A) To get dinner on the table for their kids every day.
- (B) To see things from their children's points of view.
- (C) To build a home where there is much less discipline.
- (D) To spare time to attend to their children every day.

第 55 至 58 題為題組

Suntali Thami grew up in a tiny village set in the foothills of the Himalayas. Her family did not have the money to send her to school. So when she was about the age of 13, they sent her down to the capital, Kathmandu, to earn money washing dishes at a hotel. Within a few months, the much older hotel manager took a liking to the pretty young girl with a sweet smile and decided to marry her. Suntali did not feel any affection for him, but she felt she had no option.

Suntali is far from an exception in Nepal, where 41% of girls are married before their eighteenth birthday. In certain ethnic groups, the rate of marriage before 15 can reach 80%. Some of these marriages are business transactions and the young girls are mere commodities delivered to clear family debts. Females have very limited educational and employment opportunities in the impoverished nation, and the only way out of the economic difficulty for these girls and their families is marriage.

Girls who get married off early rarely have access to education, as they are expected to drop out of school, move to their husband's home and perform domestic chores. But lack of access to education is not the only challenge child brides encounter. They are twice as likely to become victims of domestic and sexual violence. Also, early pregnancy endangers their lives. It is estimated that girls under fifteen are five times more likely to die in childbirth than women in their twenties.

For many years the issue of child marriage was neglected because of its sensitive nature. Local traditions and culture, which are often used to justify child marriage, can be difficult to change. Fortunately, the veil of silence is slowly lifting. In only two years, the United States government passed the International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act. Also, many NGOs in Nepal now provide scholarships for girls and conduct girls' empowerment programs. These efforts have led to some progress, with a recent survey indicating the average age of marriage is increasing.

55. What is the purpose of the passage?

- (A) To warn the public of a new threat and propose a solution.
- (B) To explain how a traditional wedding ceremony is carried out.
- (C) To describe a problem and what has been done.
- (D) To criticize gender inequality in society.

56. What is likely to happen to Suntali Thami?

- (A) She is likely to receive training in the hotel business.
- (B) She is likely to become a young mother.
- (C) She is likely to finish her education.
- (D) She is likely to be the breadwinner in her family.

57. Which of the following is NOT a problem created by child marriage?

- (A) The young girls will suffer severe financial hardship.
- (B) The young girls might not have a chance to return to school.
- (C) The young girls have to endure beatings from their husbands.
- (D) The young girls' lives might be at risk in the process of childbirth.

58. Why did the issue of child marriage fail to receive much attention from the international community until recently?

- (A) The international community did not understand the seriousness of the situation.
- (B) Because of its location, Nepal was cut off from the rest of the world.
- (C) It was a more delicate issue that involved local customs.
- (D) The Nepalese government had been covering it up.

第 59 至 62 題為題組

For an incurable disease like Alzheimer's, an ounce of prevention is worth much more than a pound of cure—it's priceless. Fortunately, a healthy dose of preventive medicine is as near as your local farmers' market. Fresh fruits and vegetables are proven winners in the fight to stave off dementia, and some research even suggests that these powerful plant foods may turn back the cognitive clock.

Here are some of the best fruits and vegetables when it comes to feeding your brain.

Spinach and other leafy greens are among the richest sources of folate. Folate may also play a role in reducing the risk of Alzheimer's disease by helping the body break down homocysteine, which is toxic to nerve cells.

According to neuroscientist James Joseph, Ph.D., at Tufts University, "Inflammation and oxidative stress are the evil Gemini twins of aging." In tests of antioxidant power, blueberries take the blue ribbon. They also combat inflammation.

Your brain is about 60 percent fat, so when it comes to feeding your head, go a little nuts. Yes, nuts are high in fat, but it's the right kind of fat—cholesterol-lowering, artery-protecting, inflammation-fighting fat. Other smart choices for a healthy brain include monounsaturated oils like olive and canola oils.

Moderate alcohol consumption is known to help the heart and benefit the brain as well. Fruit and vegetable juice may be just as protective. Some researchers reported that older adults who drank at least three glasses of juice a week had a 75 percent lower risk of Alzheimer's disease compared to those who drank juice less than once a week.

59. With "an ounce of prevention is worth much more than a pound of cure," the author tries to emphasize the importance of \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) prosecution
- (B) precaution
- (C) punctuality
- (D) presumption

60. What is the top choice for fighting inflammation and oxidative stress at the same time?

- (A) Blueberries.
- (B) Spinach.
- (C) Canola.
- (D) Alcohol.

61. According to the passage, which of the following is true as to our diet?

- (A) To stay healthy, we have to eat all kinds of fat.
- (B) To lower the risk of Alzheimer's, we have to drink at least 3 glasses of juice on a daily basis.
- (C) Consuming some alcohol from time to time is beneficial to our health.
- (D) Folate in many leafy greens is poisonous to our nerve cells.

62. Which of the following may be inferred about those who eat sufficient fresh fruits and vegetables?

- (A) They may regain memories that they used to have.
- (B) They may be cured of Alzheimer's disease completely.
- (C) They may suffer from malnutrition in the long run.
- (D) They may consume a lot of cholesterol in the short run.

第 63 至 66 題為題組

Roll clouds are a rare type of arcus cloud, which is a category of low cloud formations; hence, they can be found at elevations of about 6,000 feet above the Earth's surface. As the name suggests, roll clouds are clouds that look like long tubes rolling in the atmosphere without changing speed or shape. They roll horizontally, contain a solitary wave, or a soliton, with a single crest, and are completely separated from the base thunderstorm cloud. Despite being shaped like a horizontal tornado, roll clouds never produce tornadoes. They aren't dangerous and generally form in relatively calm weather conditions as a result of sea breezes. Still, in some cases, they may be linked with thunderstorms and thus become a strong indication of microburst activity, or the process of rapidly descending cold air from the thunderstorm.

The Morning Glory Cloud is one type of roll clouds and is very popular in Queensland, Australia. This cloud is a very long roll cloud that can stretch as long as 1,000 kilometers, 1 to 2 kilometers high, usually only 100 to 200 meters above the ground, and has a speed of about 60 km/hr. What makes this cloud remarkable is that it is an unusual occurrence in other parts of the globe but frequently crops up in the Gulf of Carpentaria in Australia, up to four out of ten days in October. The Morning Glory Cloud develops mainly due to mesoscale circulation coupled with the sea breeze that forms over the Gulf of Carpentaria and Cape York Peninsula. Locals have noted that the Morning Glory is likely to occur when the humidity in the area is high, which provides moisture for the cloud to form, and when strong sea breezes have blown the preceding day. Nevertheless, similar features can be created by thunderstorm downdraft and are not exclusively associated with coastal regions.

63. Based on the passage, what fact can we know about arcus cloud?
- (A) Arcus cloud never occurs in coastal regions.
  - (B) Arcus cloud has nothing to do with the Morning Glory Cloud.
  - (C) Arcus cloud may be found six hundred feet above the Earth's surface.
  - (D) Arcus cloud is categorized as a low cloud formation.
64. Which of the following statements about roll clouds is wrong?
- (A) Roll clouds don't change their shape and neither do they change their speed.
  - (B) Roll clouds look like tornadoes, but they are not tornadoes.
  - (C) Roll clouds usually roll horizontally, but a few of them roll vertically.
  - (D) Some roll clouds may be connected with thunderstorms.
65. Which of the following statements about the Morning Glory Cloud is true?
- (A) It only occurs in Australia.
  - (B) It only occurs in the summer season.
  - (C) It usually stays static, not moving for hours.
  - (D) Mesoscale circulation may lead to its occurrence.
66. What can be a sign that tells the locals the Morning Glory is to form?
- (A) The air is very wet.
  - (B) The wind is violently blowing and turning.
  - (C) Frequent lightning is seen in coastal regions.
  - (D) The sky turns brightly red.

第 67 至 70 題為題組

The Galapagos archipelago is located about 1,000 km from continental Ecuador and is composed of 127 islands, islets and rocks, of which 19 are large and 4 are inhabited. 97% of the total emerged surface was declared National Park in 1959. Human settlements are restricted to the remaining 3% in specifically zoned rural and urban areas on four islands. A fifth island only has an airport, tourism dock, fuel containment, and military facilities. The islands are surrounded by the Galapagos Marine Reserve, which was created in 1986 and extended to its current area in 1998, making it one of the largest marine reserves in the world. The marine reserve includes inland waters of the archipelago in addition to all those contained within 40 nautical miles, measured from the outermost coastal islands. Airports on two islands (Baltra and San Cristobal) receive traffic from continental Ecuador with another airport on Isabela mostly limited to inter-island traffic. All the inhabited islands have ports to receive merchandise. The other uninhabited islands are strictly controlled with carefully planned tourist itineraries limiting visitation. Around 30,000 people live on the islands, and approximately 170,000 tourists visit the islands each year.

The main threats to the Galapagos are the introduction of invasive species, increased tourism, demographic growth, illegal fishing and governance issues. These issues are constantly analyzed and monitored to adequately manage them and reinforce strategies to minimize their impact.

67. How many islands can people be allowed to settle in?  
(A) 3                      (B) 4                      (C) 5                      (D) 6
68. Which of the following is NOT true?  
(A) The Galapagos is composed of 19 large islands.  
(B) About thirty thousand people live on the islands.  
(C) The Galapagos is protected to diminish possible threats.  
(D) The National Park encompasses most of the Galapagos Islands.
69. What is true about the Galapagos Marine Reserve?  
(A) It was first established in 1959.  
(B) It surrounds all the inhabited islands.  
(C) There are only ports for vessels and no airports within the reserve.  
(D) The whole area measures 40 nautical kilometers.
70. According to the article, which of the following is not a threat to the islands?  
(A) Airports.  
(B) Illegal fishing.  
(C) Invasive species.  
(D) Increasing visitors.

## 第二部份：非選擇題

### 閱讀摘要寫作（佔 10 分）

說明：請閱讀以下文章，針對其內容重點，寫一篇約120~150個字的摘要。注意事項如下：

- 1) 請以客觀立場書寫，勿加入個人意見或心得。
- 2) 請以改寫之方式作答，切勿抄襲原文原句。

Despite how uncommon it may sound, a green consumer is not some rare, newly discovered species. Being a green consumer simply means making choices about purchases so as to minimize one's environmental impact. As we all know, consumers have a significant influence upon driving environmental policies, since the pattern of consumption determines what will be produced in the future, and thus, what resources will be used. Hence, as a consumer, there are many issues to consider and ponder upon when buying products. By becoming more aware of what choices underlie sustainable environmental practices, you can invest your dollars toward positive change.

First, understand that minimizing the distance food and other products must travel from their origin to your home can significantly reduce the carbon emissions produced in this process. By looking out for local produce at supermarkets, buying your food from farmers' markets, and by purchasing produce that is in season, you can reduce the mileage needed to transport all that you purchase. Moreover, changes in your diet can also provide significant environmental benefits. Vegetarianism and veganism contribute much more to environmental change than many people could imagine. In addition to saving animals, vegetarians and vegans support a food production system that uses much less land than the food production system of meat. The production of meat requires the rangeland for livestock (which is less efficiently used than cropland, since animals cannot be packed in tightly on the land), as well as the land required to grow the food for the livestock. If the land used for livestock food were used directly as food for humans, we would not require all this excess grazing land for livestock raised purely for meat production. Land use is a major environmental issue, with desertification occurring as a result of overgrazing. Fertile land is in severe shortage, and this fact will likely become increasingly foreboding as we encounter increasing instances of global food shortage. Another production system to support is organic agriculture. When you purchase food and clothing, seek available organic products in order to support a system that produces without causing soil and water contamination. Although these products are sometimes more expensive due to the decreased productivity in the early years of farms becoming organic, costs should decrease once organic products are in increased demand.

As you go about in your role as a consumer, keep in mind the issue of waste. Avoid over-packaged goods, buy bulk food items, and bring your own bags. Use tap water where possible instead of bottled water. Remember the mantra "reduce, reuse, recycle." That is, avoid unnecessary material in the first place, try to reuse what you do purchase, then recycle it if possible. At every step, try to maximize the use of all material before it reaches the landfill. Since every product has some kind of environmental or ethical impact, an excellent way to decrease your impact as a consumer is to buy clothing and other products second hand. In this way, you do not influence the demand for products of any kind. You are merely making more use of something that someone else is no longer using.

As a greener consumer, armed with the knowledge of the environmental impacts of your consumer choices, you will now be able to tread more carefully and with more awareness down the aisles of life. For that, the planet, as well as the entire mankind, will forever be indebted to you. (572 words)

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