

閱讀寫作測驗 試題

(限用答案本作答)

**Reading and Writing**

\*Please read the following article and then write an essay (about 150-200 words) based on the article and the guiding questions.

Is the world overpopulated? How many people can the earth support? Should countries try to limit their populations? These are serious questions that governments, international organizations, and individuals must think about.

The population of the world has been increasing faster and faster. In 10,000 B.C., there were probably only 10 million people. In A.D. 1, there were 300 million. It took 1750 years for the population to reach 625 million, a little more than double the A.D.1 figure. In 1850, only 100 years later, the population had nearly doubled again, with a figure of 1130 million. In 1950, the figure had more than doubled to reach 2510million. In 1990, there were 5300 million people. By the year 2000, the world's population is expected to be over 6 billion, and by 2050, 10 billion.

In addition, most of these people will live in the poor areas of big cities. Now 95 percent of the world's population lives in poorer countries. This means that most people on earth are poor. World population is growing faster in cities. In 1950, only one Third World city had a population of 5 million. By the year 2000, there will be 46. So most of the world's people will live in cities.

Does the earth have enough natural resources to support this many people? Different scientists give different answers to this question. Some say that there are enough resources to support more than 6 billion people. However, the richest countries, with a small percentage of the world's population, use most of the resources. If these resources could be distributed more equally around the world, there would be enough for everyone.

Other scientists say that we must limit population growth because our resources are limited. Only 10 percent of the earth's land can be used for farming and another 20 percent for raising animals. It is possible to increase the amount of farmland, but only a little. Some land in developing countries can be more productive if people start using modern farming methods, but this will not increase worldwide production very much.

閱讀寫作測驗 試題

(限用答案本作答)

We all know that there is a limited amount of petroleum. There are also limits of to the amount of iron, silver, gold, and other metals. There is a limit to the water we can use, and most of the fresh water is frozen at the North and South Poles.

It is difficult to say how many people the earth can support, but it will help everyone if we can limit population growth before serious shortages develop. The problem is how to do it.

Each individual must decide to help limit population. Each person must decide how many children to have. But there are many reasons that people want to have several children. The research has shown that the average Third World woman had more children than she wants. Among the women who do not think they have too many children, half of them do not want any more. However, although millions of women in the world want to limit the size of their families, they can't always find a safe way to have fewer children. Safe birth-control methods for family planning are not available to everyone.

Governments and international organizations can provide safe, inexpensive birth-control methods. Individuals can decide to use them. Then the world population growth can decrease instead of continuing to increase.

\*Guiding questions:

Do you think we have population problem in Taiwan? Why are scientists worried about population problem? Is it so easy that we can solve the problem by just decreasing the population growth? Try to write an essay on this article and discuss the situation in Taiwan.

本試題兩面印刷

試題完