

Global Issues

Ještě nevíš, co budeš dělat po úspěšném složení zkoušky? Přijď se za námi bavit a studuj jazyk se **statusem studenta**. U PELICANA navíc získáš ISIC a druhý jazyk zdarma. Více informací i přihlášku k **pomaturitnímu studiu** najdeš na stránkách www.skolapelican.com.

Environmental Problems

Environmental problems affect every country in the world and are predominantly caused by human activity. Global warming is an example of one of these problems. Global warming, also known as climate change, describes the rise of average global temperatures caused by the burning of fossil fuels which leads to greenhouse gas emissions being released into the atmosphere. This has caused a hole to form in the ozone layer. Rising global temperatures have already had catastrophic consequences, including extreme weather conditions leading to floods and drought, crops being ruined, the melting of glaciers and sea ice in Antarctica and Greenland leading to rising sea levels and animal extinction. Burning fossil fuels has also led to water and air pollution. Consequently, it is important to invest in carbon-neutral means of energy production. This is called renewable or green energy and includes wind, solar and wave power.



Although global warming is caused by human activity, it also has an impact on biodiversity, meaning that animals are also affected. The destruction of ecosystems such as the Amazon Rainforest has led to the extinction of certain species. Animals can also become endangered or extinct due to hunting and poaching for commercial gain, trophies or simply the thrill of killing. The activity has been criminalised in many countries but people still hunt illegally. If a species is endangered it means there are a few of them left in the world but if it is extinct it means there are none left in the world. Examples of endangered species include the snow leopard, the blue whale and the Asian elephant.



In the Czech Republic, there are several animal species that are endangered. For example, the eurasian beaver, the grey wolf and the fire salamander. There are global charities and organisations like Greenpeace and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) that work to protect animals and the environment. DUHA, Brontosaurus and Children of the Earth are organisations that do this in the Czech Republic. In countries around the world, Green political parties campaign for environmental issues to be addressed. The Green Party in the Czech Republic has no seats in the Chamber of Deputies and only one seat in the Senate.

Social Problems

Poverty: Many people around the world are living in poverty, in both developing and developed countries. Those who live in poverty do not have access to essential things in life like food, money and clothes but also education and suitable living conditions. Charity organisations and shelters provide support to those living in poverty.

Homelessness: There are various reasons why people do not have a fixed abode but the main reason is simply that they cannot afford to pay rent. Many people become homeless after leaving the army, prison and care or having escaped from an abusive relationship. Homeless people do not always sleep on the streets but might sofa surf, stay with relatives or live in temporary accommodation such as hostels or shelters.



Famine: Famine is an issue that predominantly affects developing countries. There are 2 billion people suffering from famine worldwide. Charities in developed countries step in to try and support countries where there is extreme hunger.

Drugs & Smoking: Smoking is addictive and extremely dangerous as it can cause medical conditions such as lung cancer. Drugs can be seen as light/recreational (marijuana, ecstasy, LSD) or hard (heroin, cocaine). It is illegal to sell or use most drugs. However, smoking weed is legal in the Netherlands. Heroin users are in danger of contracting HIV through the sharing of needles.



Increasing population: There are currently over 7 billion people on the planet and this figure is expected to reach 10 billion by 2050. The countries in the world with the highest population are China and India. In China, a "one-child policy" meaning families could have only one child, was introduced to prevent the country's population from rising further. In developing countries, there is limited access to contraception and birth control.

Diseases: Diseases can be curable, incurable or terminal. In developed countries, lifestyle choices mean that many people suffer from heart disease and type-2 diabetes. In developing countries, leprosy, tuberculosis, cholera and HIV/AIDS cause many people to suffer. Cancer affects people worldwide. Alzheimer disease is traumatic and incurable. It causes old people to lose their memory.

Human Rights: All across the world, human rights are being violated. The UN states that everyone should have the right to life, education, free speech, voting, a fair trial and to live without fear of discrimination.



Racism: Racism describes discrimination based on the colour of your skin. Racism may come in the form of apartheid, such as in South Africa, where there is widespread segregation based on skin colour.



Unemployment: Unemployment may affect people of all ages but particularly disabled people and young people who have recently graduated and do not have experience. In many countries, job centres exist to help unemployed people to find work. The problem is rife in post-industrial areas where factories have shut down or mines have closed. Around the world, unemployment has increased as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.