

## APPENDIX B

### THREE MODEL ESSAYS

1. The responsibility for the environment rests with the individual and not only with the government. Do you agree?

*Everyone is becoming aware that the environment is a serious issue. There is bad air and water pollution everywhere and we also know that the greenhouse effect is changing our weather and that the hole in the ozone layer is causing skin cancer. However, not enough is being done to solve these problems, because most people seem to be waiting for governments to make the decisions. In fact, the responsibility for protecting the environment must be shared by everyone. Individuals can and should do many things to help to solve the problem.*

*First of all people can make sure that they are responsible in the way that they dispose of waste. If people throw rubbish like plastic into rivers and oceans, it always stays there, and causes fish and sea-birds to die. It is also important to make sure that we do not buy goods that have too much wrapping on them, especially plastic wrapping, because if we do, we are adding to the huge amounts of waste.*

*People also need to be responsible in the way that they use water. In some countries, like Australia, an enormous amount of water is wasted for swimming pools, washing cars and so on. Most countries are running out of fresh water.*

*If people used their cars less, this would help to prevent the greenhouse effect. Everyone can try to use public transport more, or use bicycles, or even walk, instead of using their cars for even short trips.*

*Finally, the most important thing that individuals can do is to let their governments know that they want something to be done about the environment. It is obvious that the governments will not do anything unless the people force them to.*

*It is therefore clear that individuals must take responsibility for the environment, otherwise it will soon be too late, and we and the next generation will suffer serious consequences.*

2. It is sometimes argued that because tertiary education is of greater benefit to the individual than to the society, all students should pay full fees. What is your opinion?

*As the modern world is becoming increasingly complex and knowledge is becoming more and more specialised, there is no doubt that tertiary education is necessary both for the whole society and for individuals who want to ensure that they have a good profession. The question of who benefits more is important to societies and governments in deciding who should be expected to pay for the costs involved. This is a difficult question.*

*There is no doubt that the whole society benefits. In all developing countries there has been a strong effort to raise the educational level of the society by putting as much money as possible into providing educational institutions. Universities and colleges are, however, expensive to run. Because of this, it is felt that such countries are held back in all forms of development. Without enough educated professionals such as doctors, teachers, scientists and engineers, developing countries cannot move ahead. Governments in such countries provide scholarships, or free education, to as many students as they can afford, because they realise that the whole country will benefit. Many developed countries also try to offer free tertiary education because they want a highly educated population.*

*However, there is also a strong argument that individuals benefit so much from tertiary education that they should be expected to pay for it. Doctors, lawyers, accountants and engineers have some of the highest incomes in most societies. People argue that the government, and therefore the tax payers, should not pay for students who will later earn more than anyone else. Moreover, most students come from the middle classes, and their parents can afford to pay for their fees. There are, of course, some students who cannot afford to pay. This problem can be overcome by a system like the one being used in Australia, for example. The government gives the students a loan to pay for their fees, and later, when they are earning a good salary, they repay the loan.*

*It is probably impossible to decide whether the individual or the society benefits more from tertiary education, but since both benefit, the costs should probably be paid for by both equally.*

3. The Internet has provided great benefits, but at the same time it has also created new dangers and inequalities. Is it possible to control some of these problems?

*No-one can deny that the Internet has revolutionised much of society. Individuals benefit from access to almost endless amounts of information on the World Wide Web, as well as being able to communicate easily and cheaply with friends and strangers. For the business world the impact has been even more dramatic. Vast sums of money are constantly being instantly transferred around the world by electronic means. Banks and other businesses now totally depend on the Internet.*

*There are, however, significant dangers in this development. The first problem that most people think of is the danger of hackers invading the system and either obtaining secret information or introducing viruses that cause immense damage. It is unlikely that this problem can ever be completely solved. As soon as the technology is developed to overcome one hacker, another one produces some new method.*

*Apart from this technical problem, however, there is a much deeper one, and that is the inequality between individuals and societies, which the Internet is making worse. The gap between the rich and the poor is growing rapidly in the world, and access to the Internet is a significant part of the problem. Developing countries where schools cannot afford computers, and small businesses which do not have Internet access are being left further and further behind.*

*Some people believe that if computers are widely distributed in poor societies that this would be an important way to reduce the inequalities. Others feel that the problem is much deeper, and needs to be dealt with by bodies such as the World Trade Organisation.*

*The answer is probably that all possible methods should be used to break down the inequalities, including access to the Internet, to ensure that the world does not become more and more unstable.*