

The Balance Between Economic Growth and Sustainability

Writing Lesson, Examples & Practice Questions

How to Write a Discursive Essay: The Balance Between Economic Growth and Sustainability

A discursive essay requires you to explore two competing perspectives on a complex issue, evaluate the merits and limitations of each, and arrive at a nuanced, justified conclusion. At C1 level, this means moving well beyond simply listing arguments — you are expected to critically analyse, concede points where appropriate, and demonstrate sophisticated control of academic register and cohesive structure.

The topic of economic growth versus environmental sustainability is a rich and highly relevant area for advanced academic writing. It appears in university entrance examinations, Cambridge C1 Advanced (CAE) Paper 2, and professional contexts such as policy papers and broadsheet commentary. Mastering this genre will equip you to write persuasively and precisely on almost any complex contemporary issue.

Essential Writing Rules & Sentence Structure

1. Thesis-Driven Structure

A C1 discursive essay must open with a clear, arguable thesis — a position that your body paragraphs will substantiate and defend. Avoid vague openings such as *"This essay will discuss..."* and instead establish your stance with precision from the outset.

2. Complex Sentence Architecture

C1 writers are expected to deploy a variety of syntactic structures to demonstrate range and control:

- **Non-finite participle clauses:** *"Having examined the long-term consequences of unchecked industrialisation, one must acknowledge..."*
- **Inversion for emphasis:** *"Seldom has the tension between profit and planet been more acutely felt..."*
- **Cleft sentences:** *"What remains incontrovertible is that unsustainable growth carries catastrophic long-term costs."*
- **Nominalisation:** Use noun forms of verbs and adjectives to achieve academic formality — e.g. *"the acceleration of industrialisation"* rather than *"how quickly industry grew."*

3. Paragraph Organisation (PEEL Model)

- **Point** — State your argument clearly.
- **Evidence** — Support with examples, data, or reasoning.
- **Evaluation** — Critically assess the strength of the point.
- **Link** — Connect back to the thesis or transition to the next paragraph.

4. Nominalisation & Impersonal Constructions

Formal academic writing favours impersonal constructions and heavy nominalisation. Compare the following:

- *Informal*: "A lot of people think that companies don't care about the environment."
- *C1 formal*: "It is widely contended that corporate prioritisation of short-term profitability is fundamentally incompatible with long-term ecological stewardship."

5. Punctuation Precision

- Use a **semicolon** to join two closely related independent clauses: "*Economic expansion generates employment; however, its environmental toll is frequently underestimated.*"
- Use **commas after sentence adverbs** and introductory discourse markers: "*Notwithstanding this, the evidence suggests...*"
- Use **parenthetical commas** around non-essential information: "*The Green New Deal, widely regarded as a landmark proposal, has nonetheless attracted significant opposition.*"

Useful Linking Words (Connectors)

Connector	Function / Use	Example Sentence
Notwithstanding	Conceding a point whilst maintaining a contrasting position	Notwithstanding the economic benefits of large-scale manufacturing, the environmental degradation it precipitates cannot be disregarded.
Albeit	Introducing a concession within the same clause	Green technology offers a viable alternative, albeit one that demands substantial upfront investment.
Inasmuch as	Expressing degree or extent of cause	The policy is commendable inasmuch as it prioritises renewable energy, yet it falls short of addressing industrial emissions.
In light of the prevailing evidence	Introducing a conclusion supported by evidence	In light of the prevailing evidence, a transition to a circular economy appears both necessary and overdue.
Be that as it may	Acknowledging a point before dismissing or qualifying it	Be that as it may, economic growth cannot continue to be pursued at the expense of ecological stability.
To substantiate this contention	Introducing supporting evidence or elaboration	To substantiate this contention, one need only examine the rapidly deteriorating air quality indices across industrialised nations.
While this may superficially appear sound	Refuting an argument that seems logical on the surface	While this may superficially appear sound, closer scrutiny reveals significant methodological flaws in the pro-growth argument.

Connector	Function / Use	Example Sentence
Upon rigorous evaluation	Introducing a carefully considered conclusion	Upon rigorous evaluation, it becomes evident that the two objectives need not be mutually exclusive.
A compelling case can be made for	Introducing a nuanced or qualified recommendation	A compelling case can be made for embedding sustainability targets within national economic frameworks.
In spite of the foregoing	Contrasting with what has already been stated	In spite of the foregoing, proponents of unrestricted growth continue to resist regulatory intervention.

Model Writing Sample: Economic Growth and Sustainability — Can We Have Both?

The following model essay is annotated to highlight key structural and stylistic features at C1 level. Word count: 248 words.

[Opening — Contextualisation & Thesis]

Seldom has the tension between economic prosperity and environmental responsibility been more acutely felt than in the present era of accelerating climate crisis. While proponents of unrestricted growth argue that expanding markets ultimately generate the resources necessary for environmental remediation, critics contend that such reasoning constitutes a dangerous deferral of action. Upon rigorous evaluation, it becomes evident that genuine sustainability and economic ambition need not be mutually exclusive — provided that robust, enforceable policy frameworks are established.

[Body Paragraph 1 — The Pro-Growth Perspective, with Critical Evaluation]

Advocates of continued economic expansion frequently invoke the Environmental Kuznets Curve, which posits that ecological damage initially intensifies with growth before declining as nations accrue sufficient wealth to invest in cleaner technologies. To substantiate this contention, proponents cite the marked improvements in air quality achieved by several Northern European economies following industrialisation. Notwithstanding these advances, this trajectory has demonstrably failed to materialise across much of the developing world, where rapid industrialisation has precipitated catastrophic deforestation and resource depletion with little sign of abatement.

[Body Paragraph 2 — The Sustainability Perspective, with Concession]

Conversely, a compelling case can be made for the wholesale reorientation of economic models towards circularity and renewable energy. Inasmuch as the green economy already generates millions of employment opportunities globally, it challenges the entrenched assumption that environmental regulation necessarily stifles growth. Be that as it may, the transition demands significant short-term investment — a burden that developing economies are frequently ill-equipped to absorb without international financial support.

[Conclusion — Synthesis & Qualified Recommendation]

All things considered, the framing of economic growth and sustainability as diametrically opposed forces reflects a false dichotomy. What is incontrovertibly required is the embedding of ecological accountability within national fiscal policy — not as an impediment to prosperity, but as its most rational and enduring foundation.

Key Phrases & Sentence Starters

Introducing Your Thesis & Framing the Debate

- *"Seldom has the question of [X] been more urgently debated than in the present climate of..."*
- *"The intersection of [X] and [Y] has long been a source of considerable academic and political controversy."*
- *"It is widely contended that [X]; however, a more nuanced examination reveals..."*
- *"Upon rigorous evaluation, it becomes evident that..."*
- *"The prevailing debate surrounding [X] centres on whether..."*

Presenting Arguments & Evidence

- *"To substantiate this contention, one need only examine..."*
- *"The findings are purported to demonstrate that..."*
- *"In light of the prevailing evidence, it would appear that..."*
- *"Preliminary data suggests that..."*
- *"A compelling case can be made for [X] on the grounds that..."*
- *"It is well-documented that [X] exerts a profound influence on..."*

Contrasting, Conceding & Qualifying Points

- *"Notwithstanding the considerable merits of this position, one must acknowledge..."*
- *"While this may superficially appear sound, closer scrutiny reveals..."*
- *"Be that as it may, the broader implications cannot be overlooked."*
- *"Albeit a persuasive argument, this perspective fails to account for..."*
- *"In spite of the foregoing, advocates of [X] continue to maintain that..."*
- *"Having weighed the contradictory evidence, one must concede that..."*

Concluding, Recommending & Synthesising

- *"All things considered, it would appear that [X] represents the more tenable position."*
- *"What remains incontrovertible is that [X] demands immediate, coordinated action."*
- *"To recapitulate, the evidence overwhelmingly supports the contention that..."*
- *"It would be highly advantageous to embed [X] within existing policy frameworks."*
- *"Far from being incompatible, [X] and [Y] are most productively understood as..."*
- *"The adoption of [X] would not only address [Y], but would simultaneously..."*

Common Writing Mistakes to Avoid

✗ *Despite of the economic benefits, pollution continues to increase.*

✓ **Despite the economic benefits, pollution continues to increase.** — "Despite" is a preposition and is never followed by "of." Use either *"Despite + noun phrase"* or *"In spite of + noun phrase."* The form "despite of" does not exist in standard English.

✗ *The government should do more about climate change, they need to act faster.*

✓ **The government should do more about climate change; indeed, the urgency for decisive legislative action has rarely been greater.** — The original sentence contains a comma splice — two independent

clauses incorrectly joined by a comma alone. Use a semicolon, a coordinating conjunction, or restructure as a complex sentence.

✗ *It's pretty obvious that economic growth and sustainability can't really go together without loads of investment.*

✓ **It is widely acknowledged that reconciling economic expansion with environmental sustainability necessitates considerable financial commitment.** — Colloquial contractions (*it's, can't*), informal intensifiers (*pretty, loads of*), and vague quantifiers are wholly inappropriate in formal academic writing. Maintain impersonal, nominalised register throughout.

✗ *Notwithstanding, the policy has been successful, many critics argue it does not go far enough.*

✓ **Notwithstanding the policy's relative success, many critics argue that it falls considerably short of what is required.** — "Notwithstanding" must be followed directly by the noun phrase it qualifies. When used as a sentence adverb (meaning "nevertheless"), it should not be followed by a comma before a new clause; restructure the sentence to make its syntactic role unambiguous.

✗ *The rapidly implement of new regulations caused a disruption in the market.*

✓ **The rapid implementation of new regulations precipitated considerable market disruption.** — Use nominalised forms correctly: the noun is *implementation*, not *implement*. The adverb *rapidly* should be converted to the adjective *rapid* to modify the noun. This exemplifies the principle of nominalisation central to C1 academic register.

Writing Checklist & Practice Task

C1 Discursive Essay — Pre-Submission Checklist

- ☐ Have I opened with a clear, arguable thesis rather than a vague general statement?
- ☐ Have I presented and critically evaluated at least two competing perspectives?
- ☐ Have I conceded the merits of the opposing viewpoint before refuting or qualifying it?
- ☐ Have I used a range of complex syntactic structures (inversion, non-finite clauses, cleft sentences)?
- ☐ Have I maintained a consistently formal, impersonal register throughout (no contractions, no colloquialisms)?
- ☐ Have I employed nominalisation to achieve academic density and precision?
- ☐ Have I used a variety of cohesive devices beyond simple connectors (e.g. *notwithstanding, albeit, inasmuch as*)?
- ☐ Have I punctuated parenthetical clauses, semicolons, and sentence adverbs correctly?
- ☐ Does my conclusion synthesise both perspectives and offer a qualified, reasoned judgement?
- ☐ Is my essay within the 220–260 word target range for Cambridge C1 Advanced?

Your Practice Writing Task

Read the following Cambridge C1 Advanced-style writing prompt and write your discursive essay in **220–260 words**.

"Economic growth and environmental sustainability are fundamentally incompatible goals. A nation cannot pursue both simultaneously without significant compromise to one or the other."

Write a discursive essay for your university environmental studies journal in which you:

- evaluate the argument that economic growth and sustainability are irreconcilable
- present the case for an integrated approach that accommodates both objectives
- justify your own reasoned position on which approach is more tenable

Use the model essay, key phrase bank, and connector table above to guide your writing. Pay particular attention to register, nominalisation, and the critical evaluation of both perspectives before reaching your conclusion.

Now test your writing mechanics and sentence skills in the exercises below.

The Balance Between Economic Growth and Sustainability – Practice Test

C1 | Practice Exercises: Multiple Choice, Fill-in-the-Gap, Fill-in-the-Blank, Matrix Matching & Sorting

Part 1: Multiple Choice (Questions 1–10)

1 Which sentence demonstrates correct punctuation and capitalization for a C1 formal essay on economic growth and sustainability?

- A** notwithstanding the short-term economic gains, many economists contend that unsustainable practices ultimately undermine long-term prosperity.
- B** Notwithstanding the short-term economic gains, many economists contend that unsustainable practices ultimately undermine long-term prosperity.
- C** Notwithstanding the short-term economic gains, many economists contend that unsustainable practices ultimately undermine long-term prosperity
- D** Notwithstanding the short-term economic gains; many economists contend that unsustainable practices ultimately undermine long-term prosperity.

2 Identify the sentence with the correct use of an advanced cohesive device in a formal essay about balancing economic development and environmental responsibility.

- A** The government pursued aggressive industrial expansion; albeit, environmental degradation accelerated at an alarming rate.
- B** The government pursued aggressive industrial expansion, albeit one that accelerated environmental degradation at an alarming rate.
- C** The government pursued aggressive industrial expansion albeit environmental degradation accelerated at an alarming rate.
- D** The government pursued aggressive industrial expansion, although however environmental degradation accelerated at an alarming rate.

3 Which sentence contains a correctly placed semicolon in the context of a C1 discursive essay on sustainability?

- A** Renewable energy investment has surged in recent decades; nevertheless, fossil fuel dependency remains deeply entrenched in many economies.
- B** Renewable energy investment has surged in recent decades, nevertheless; fossil fuel dependency remains deeply entrenched in many economies.
- C** Renewable energy investment has surged in recent decades; nevertheless fossil fuel dependency remains deeply entrenched in many economies.
- D** Renewable energy investment has surged in recent decades nevertheless; fossil fuel dependency remains deeply entrenched in many economies.

4 A student writes the following in a formal proposal on green economic policy. Which version corrects all errors in word order and punctuation?

- A** It would be highly advantageous to, implement carbon-neutral policies before 2030 is reached by the nation.
- B** It would be highly advantageous to implement carbon-neutral policies before the nation reaches 2030.
- C** It would be highly advantageous implementing carbon-neutral policies before 2030 the nation reaches.
- D** Highly advantageous it would be to implement carbon-neutral policies, before the nation reaches 2030.

5 Which sentence correctly uses nominalisation, a key feature of C1 academic writing on economic sustainability?

- A** When governments rapidly implement environmental regulations, it often disrupts established industrial sectors significantly.
- B** The rapid implementation of environmental regulations frequently results in significant disruption to established industrial sectors.
- C** Governments, when they implement environmental regulations rapidly, are significantly disrupting established industrial sectors.
- D** Implementing rapidly environmental regulations by governments disrupts significantly established industrial sectors.

6 Which sentence correctly applies inversion for emphasis in a C1 essay arguing for sustainable economic reform?

- A** Seldom the necessity for comprehensive environmental reform has been more urgent than it is today.
- B** Seldom has the necessity for comprehensive environmental reform been more urgent than it is today.
- C** Seldom has the necessity for comprehensive environmental reform been more urgent than today it is.
- D** The necessity for comprehensive environmental reform has seldom been more urgent, than it is today.

7 A student drafting an analytical report on GDP growth versus carbon emissions writes the following. Which version is free of punctuation and register errors?

- A** The findings are purported to demonstrate a clear correlation between unchecked industrial output and long-term ecological deterioration.
- B** The findings are purported to demonstrate a clear correlation between unchecked industrial output, and long-term ecological deterioration.
- C** the findings are purported to demonstrate a clear correlation between unchecked industrial output and long-term ecological deterioration.
- D** The findings are purported to demonstrate, a clear correlation between unchecked industrial output and long-term ecological deterioration.

8 Which sentence contains a correctly used cleft structure appropriate for a C1 formal essay on sustainability policy?

- A** What remains incontrovertible is that economic growth achieved without environmental safeguards is ultimately self-defeating.
- B** What remains incontrovertible are that economic growth achieved without environmental safeguards is ultimately self-defeating.
- C** What remains incontrovertible is, that economic growth achieved without environmental safeguards is ultimately self-defeating.
- D** That economic growth achieved without environmental safeguards is ultimately self-defeating remains what is incontrovertible.

9 Which sentence demonstrates the correct use of a non-finite participle clause in a C1 essay evaluating economic and environmental trade-offs?

- A** Having weighed the contradictory evidence, one must conclude that a purely growth-oriented model is no longer tenable.
- B** Having weighed the contradictory evidence one must conclude, that a purely growth-oriented model is no longer tenable.
- C** Having been weighed the contradictory evidence, one must conclude that a purely growth-oriented model is no longer tenable.
- D** Weighting the contradictory evidence, one must conclude that a purely growth-oriented model is no longer tenable.

10 A student writes a concluding sentence for a C1 essay on balancing growth and sustainability. Which version is correctly punctuated, capitalised, and stylistically appropriate?

- A** All things considered, a compelling case can be made for the adoption of an integrated economic model — one that reconciles fiscal ambition with ecological responsibility.
- B** All things considered a compelling case can be made for the adoption of an integrated economic model — one that reconciles fiscal ambition with ecological responsibility.
- C** All things considered, a compelling case can be made for the adoption of an integrated economic model, one that reconciles fiscal ambition with ecological responsibility.
- D** all things considered, a compelling case can be made for the adoption of an integrated economic model — one that reconciles fiscal ambition with ecological responsibility.

Part 2: Fill in the Gap (Questions 11–20)

11 Economic growth and environmental sustainability are frequently portrayed as mutually exclusive goals; ____, a growing body of evidence suggests that they can be pursued in tandem.

- A** nonetheless
- B** therefore
- C** consequently

12 ____ the short-term profitability that fossil fuels offer, many governments are now redirecting investment towards renewable energy infrastructure.

- A** Notwithstanding
- B** Owing to
- C** In addition to

13 Unchecked industrial expansion has the capacity to wreak havoc on fragile ecosystems; ____, regulatory frameworks must be strengthened considerably.

- A** accordingly
- B** alternatively
- C** albeit

14 Seldom ____ the tension between profit margins and ecological responsibility been more acutely felt than in today's global manufacturing sector.

- A** has
- B** have
- C** is

15 It was the persistent undervaluation of natural resources ____ enabled decades of unsustainable exploitation to go largely unchallenged.

- A** that
- B** which
- C** what

16 Many corporations have begun adopting circular economy models; ____, some critics argue that such measures remain largely cosmetic without binding legislation.

- A** be that as it may
- B** inasmuch as
- C** on the premise that

17 ____ having pledged ambitious carbon neutrality targets, several industrialised nations have demonstrably failed to implement the structural reforms required.

- A** Despite
- B** Apart from
- C** Provided that

- 18** The rapid depletion of biodiversity poses an existential threat not only to the natural world ____ to the long-term viability of the global economy itself.
- A** but also
 - B** and also
 - C** as well as

- 19** In light of the prevailing evidence, ____ that a purely market-driven approach is insufficient to address the complexities of climate change.
- A** it is widely contended
 - B** it is broadly expected
 - C** it is commonly assumed

- 20** Upon rigorous evaluation, ____ the integration of sustainability metrics into corporate governance frameworks offers the most credible pathway to reconciling growth with ecological responsibility.
- A** one must conclude that
 - B** it seems like
 - C** we can say that

Part 3: Fill in the Blank (Questions 21–30)

- 21** It is widely _____ that unfettered economic expansion inevitably compromises long-term environmental sustainability, leaving policymakers with an extraordinarily complex set of trade-offs to navigate.
- 22** Notwithstanding the remarkable gains in industrial output recorded over the past decade, serious doubt has been _____ upon the capacity of current models to deliver equitable and environmentally responsible growth.
- 23** What remains _____ is that the wholesale prioritisation of GDP growth at the expense of ecological integrity represents a fundamentally short-sighted and ultimately self-defeating strategy.
- 24** Seldom _____ the urgency of transitioning towards a circular economy been articulated with such compelling force as it has in the wake of recent landmark climate agreements.

25 The rapid _____ of green taxation policies, albeit politically contentious, is purported to represent the most effective mechanism for decoupling economic activity from carbon-intensive processes.

26 It was the lack of long-term strategic _____ that precipitated the catastrophic collapse of several emerging economies which had over-exploited their natural resource bases without adequate regulatory oversight.

27 In light of the prevailing evidence, a compelling case can be made _____ the adoption of mandatory corporate sustainability reporting as a prerequisite for market participation in advanced economies.

28 Inasmuch _____ sustainable development frameworks seek to reconcile economic imperatives with ecological preservation, they inevitably require a fundamental reorientation of both corporate governance and consumer behaviour.

29 Having _____ the contradictory empirical evidence, one must conclude that neither unrestrained growth nor rigid degrowth advocacy offers a fully viable pathway to sustainable global prosperity.

30 Upon rigorous _____, it becomes evident that voluntary corporate commitments to carbon neutrality, while commendable in principle, frequently lack the binding mechanisms necessary to effect meaningful and measurable environmental change.

Part 4: Matrix / Match Values (Questions 31–40)

- 31** Match each advanced C1 vocabulary word related to economic growth and sustainability with its correct definition.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- A** The process of reducing carbon dioxide emissions from an economy
- B** A cost or benefit affecting a party not directly involved in an economic transaction
- C** A planned reduction in economic output to achieve ecological sustainability
- D** Caused or produced by human activity

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Anthropogenic	[]
Decarbonisation	[]
Externality	[]
Degrowth	[]

- 32** Match each sentence opening on the left with the correct sentence completion on the right to form a coherent C1-level academic sentence about sustainability.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- A** been so acutely felt as in the post-pandemic era of rapid recovery.
- B** did corporations begin to internalise the true environmental cost of their operations.
- C** unchecked economic growth exerts irreversible pressure on finite natural resources.

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Seldom has the tension between industrial expansion and ecological preservation	[]
What remains incontrovertible is that	[]
Not until carbon pricing was introduced	[]

- 33** Match each C1 discourse marker or linking phrase on the left with its correct communicative function on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- | | |
|---|--|
| A Introducing a concession while maintaining the main argument | B Acknowledging a point before firmly returning to one's position |
| C Signalling a formal summary of arguments presented | D Expressing a reason or degree of causality in formal writing |

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Notwithstanding	[]
Inasmuch as	[]
Be that as it may	[]
To recapitulate	[]

- 34** Match each formal writing genre on the left with the feature or example phrase that best characterises it in the context of sustainability writing.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- | | |
|---|--|
| A Distinct sub-headings such as 'Actionable Recommendations' and persuasive modal language | B A nuanced evaluation of two competing perspectives concluding with a justified stance |
| C An impersonal, evidence-based synthesis employing heavy nominalisation | |

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Discursive Essay	[]
Formal Proposal	[]
Analytical Report	[]

- 35** Match each collocational phrase on the left with the word or phrase it most precisely collocates with in formal sustainability writing.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- | | |
|---|--|
| A Havoc on fragile ecosystems and biodiversity | B Serious doubt upon the viability of green growth models |
| C Considerable controversy among policymakers and economists | D Considerable influence on environmental policy |

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Exert	[]
Wreak	[]
Cast	[]
Spark	[]

- 36** Match each underlined word or phrase in the left-hand sentence with the correct register label on the right, as it would be assessed in C1 formal writing on economic sustainability.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- | | |
|--|---|
| A Appropriately formal — nominalised, precise, and academic in register | B Mixed register — idiomatic phrase undermines formal gravitas |
| C Inappropriately colloquial — unsuitable for formal academic writing | |

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
'The government totally messed up its green targets.'	[]
'The administration's failure to meet its decarbonisation benchmarks precipitated widespread criticism.'	[]
'It is, at the end of the day, a matter of balancing profit and planet.'	[]

37 Match each passive reporting structure on the left with its correct paraphrase or function on the right, as used in C1 sustainability essays.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>A Expressing cautious or sceptical distance from a claim being reported</p> <p>C Reporting a broadly held academic viewpoint without attributing it to a specific source</p> | <p>B Presenting a debated position in an objective, academically distanced manner</p> |
|---|--|

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
It is widely contended that GDP alone is an inadequate measure of societal progress.	[]
The findings are purported to demonstrate a direct correlation between deforestation and economic instability.	[]
It has been argued that sustainable investment yields superior long-term returns.	[]

38 Match each formal proposal section heading on the left with the type of content it should contain in a C1-level sustainability proposal.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>A An evaluation of existing obstacles hindering sustainable economic transition</p> <p>C A forward-looking analysis of the social, environmental, and economic gains anticipated</p> | <p>B Specific, costed measures proposed with modal qualification and justification</p> <p>D A concise overview of the problem's context and the rationale for the proposal</p> |
|---|--|

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Purpose and Background	[]
Assessment of Current Impediments	[]
Actionable Recommendations	[]
Projected Long-Term Benefits	[]

- 39** Match each C1-level non-finite clause opening on the left with the correct sentence completion on the right to form a grammatically accurate and stylistically sophisticated sentence.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- A** multinational corporations have begun to embed environmental accountability into their core strategies.
- B** one must conclude that conventional metrics inadequately capture ecological degradation.
- C** governments are under increasing pressure to prioritise sustainability over short-term fiscal gains.

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Having weighed the contradictory evidence on green GDP models,	[]
Recognising the irreversibility of climate tipping points,	[]
Driven by mounting public pressure and legislative reform,	[]

- 40** Match each concluding sentence strategy on the left with the correct example sentence on the right, as used in C1 discursive essays on economic growth and sustainability.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- A** It is incumbent upon both governmental bodies and private enterprise to adopt an integrated approach that reconciles fiscal imperatives with ecological responsibility.
- B** Upon rigorous evaluation, a compelling case can be made for green growth, albeit one that demands substantial institutional reform and cross-sectoral collaboration.
- C** All things considered, while economic expansion remains a legitimate societal aspiration, its long-term viability is contingent upon a fundamental reorientation towards sustainable practice.

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Synthesising both perspectives into a nuanced overall conclusion	[]
Issuing a call to action with formal urgency	[]
Qualifying the argument with academic caution	[]

Part 5: Sort the Values (Questions 41–50)

- 41** Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

sustainability environmental economic tension between acutely Seldom growth
felt. been more has the and

42 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

incontrovertible

ecosystems.

industrial

inevitably

unchecked

expansion

remains

fragile

wreak

havoc

What

that

will

is

on

43 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

indispensable.

preservation,

priorities

ecological

compromise

competing

expansion

conclude

weighed

Having

fiscal

must

that

the

and

one

of

is

a

44 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

environmental

short-term

frequently

stability.

contended

long-term

economic

expense

widely

gains

that

come

the

It

is

at

of

45 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

industrialisation,

Notwithstanding

considerable

biodiversity

detrimental

overlooked.

economic

benefits

impact

cannot

rapid

the

its

of

on

be

46 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

precipitated

degradation

regulatory

frameworks

widespread

resources.

coherent

natural

lack

that

was

the

the

It

of

of

47 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

carbon-neutral

governments

prevailing

scientific

consensus,

implement

strongly

policies

without

further

delay.

light

urged

the

are

In

of

to

48 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

conservation. productivity compelling reconciles adoption circular inasmuch
resource economy model, case made with can for the be of as
it A a

49 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

environmental policymakers exploitation sustainable destructive investment genuinely
broken. commit until cycle will Not the to of be

50 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

considered, safeguards ecological integrity. actively prudent things course
action pursue growth model most that All the of is to of a

Answer Key & Explanations

The Balance Between Economic Growth and Sustainability | C1

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. **B** **Correct Answer:** Notwithstanding the short-term economic gains, many economists contend that unsustainable practices ultimately undermine long-term prosperity.

✓ **Explanation:** A sentence must begin with a **capital letter** and end with a **full stop**. The introductory phrase *Notwithstanding the short-term economic gains* is correctly followed by a **comma**, not a semicolon. Option A lacks a capital letter; Option C lacks a full stop; Option D incorrectly replaces the comma with a semicolon after the introductory phrase.
2. **B** **Correct Answer:** The government pursued aggressive industrial expansion, albeit one that accelerated environmental degradation at an alarming rate.

✓ **Explanation:** **Albeit** is a subordinating conjunction meaning *although* and must introduce a reduced clause or phrase, not a full independent clause with a subject and finite verb. Option A incorrectly follows *albeit* with a comma and a full clause. Option C omits the necessary comma. Option D redundantly combines *although* and *however*, which is a **connector clash**.
3. **A** **Correct Answer:** Renewable energy investment has surged in recent decades; nevertheless, fossil fuel dependency remains deeply entrenched in many economies.

✓ **Explanation:** A **semicolon** correctly separates two independent clauses when followed by a **conjunctive adverb** such as *nevertheless*. The conjunctive adverb must then be followed by a **comma**. Options B and D misplace the semicolon after the conjunctive adverb. Option C omits the essential comma after *nevertheless*.
4. **B** **Correct Answer:** It would be highly advantageous to implement carbon-neutral policies before the nation reaches 2030.

✓ **Explanation:** The modal structure **It would be + adjective + to-infinitive** is the correct formal construction for proposals. Option A incorrectly inserts a comma between *to* and *implement*, splitting the infinitive with punctuation. Option C has awkward inverted word order in the subordinate clause. Option D is a non-standard, stylistically jarring inversion inappropriate for this context.
5. **B** **Correct Answer:** The rapid implementation of environmental regulations frequently results in significant disruption to established industrial sectors.

✓ **Explanation:** **Nominalisation** involves converting verbs and adjectives into noun phrases, producing an impersonal, academic tone. Here, *implement* becomes **implementation** and *disrupts* becomes **disruption**. Options A and C retain verb-heavy, informal constructions. Option D has incorrect adverb placement, making it grammatically awkward.
6. **B** **Correct Answer:** Seldom has the necessity for comprehensive environmental reform been more urgent than it is today.

✓ **Explanation:** When a **negative adverb** such as *Seldom* begins a sentence for emphasis, **subject-auxiliary inversion** is required: *Seldom + has + subject + past participle*. Option A incorrectly maintains normal word order after *Seldom*. Option C misplaces *today it is*. Option D retains standard word order and adds an erroneous comma before *than*.

7. **A** **Correct Answer: The findings are purported to demonstrate a clear correlation between unchecked industrial output and long-term ecological deterioration.**
 ✓ **Explanation:** The **passive reporting verb** construction *are purported to demonstrate* is correct C1 academic register. No comma is needed before *and* when it joins two noun phrases (not two independent clauses) in a **correlative structure**. Option B incorrectly inserts a comma before *and*. Option C lacks a capital letter at the start. Option D incorrectly places a comma after *demonstrate*.
8. **A** **Correct Answer: What remains incontrovertible is that economic growth achieved without environmental safeguards is ultimately self-defeating.**
 ✓ **Explanation:** A **cleft sentence** beginning with *What...* takes a **singular verb** (*is*) because the *what*-clause acts as a singular subject. Option B incorrectly uses the plural *are*. Option C inserts an erroneous comma between *is* and the *that*-clause. Option D is an awkward, non-idiomatic reordering that loses the rhetorical focus of the cleft structure.
9. **A** **Correct Answer: Having weighed the contradictory evidence, one must conclude that a purely growth-oriented model is no longer tenable.**
 ✓ **Explanation:** The **perfect participle clause** *Having weighed...* correctly indicates an action completed before the main clause, with a **comma** separating it from the main clause. Option B omits the comma after the participial phrase and incorrectly places one before *that*. Option C incorrectly uses the passive *Having been weighed* when the subject *one* is the agent. Option D uses *Weighting*, a collocation error — the correct form is **weighed**.
10. **A** **Correct Answer: All things considered, a compelling case can be made for the adoption of an integrated economic model — one that reconciles fiscal ambition with ecological responsibility.**
 ✓ **Explanation:** The concluding phrase **All things considered** must be followed by a **comma**. The **em dash (—)** effectively introduces an appositive clarifying phrase, which is stylistically superior to a comma in this context as it adds rhetorical emphasis. Option B omits the comma after the introductory phrase. Option C uses a comma in place of the em dash, which weakens clarity. Option D fails to capitalise the first word of the sentence.

Part 2: Fill in the Gap

11. **A** **Correct Answer: nonetheless**
 ✓ **Explanation:** **Nonetheless** introduces a **concessive contrast**, acknowledging the prior claim while asserting a contradictory finding. *The two goals seem incompatible; nonetheless, evidence proves otherwise.* 'Therefore' and 'consequently' signal result, not contrast.
12. **A** **Correct Answer: Notwithstanding**
 ✓ **Explanation:** **Notwithstanding** is a formal **concessive preposition** meaning 'despite,' signalling that the action continues in spite of the obstacle mentioned. *Notwithstanding the financial risks, the policy was adopted.* 'Owing to' expresses cause, and 'In addition to' expresses addition.
13. **A** **Correct Answer: accordingly**
 ✓ **Explanation:** **Accordingly** signals a **logical consequence** or necessary response drawn from the preceding statement. *The data was alarming; accordingly, new policies were introduced.* 'Alternatively' offers a substitute option, and 'albeit' introduces a concession.

14. **A** **Correct Answer: has**
✓ **Explanation:** After the **fronted negative adverb** *Seldom*, **subject-auxiliary inversion** is required. The subject 'the tension' is singular, so the correct auxiliary is **has**. *Seldom has such urgency been demonstrated*. 'Have' and 'is' violate either agreement or inversion rules.
15. **A** **Correct Answer: that**
✓ **Explanation:** This is a **cleft sentence** used for emphasis, structured as *It was + noun phrase + that + clause*. *It was the policy failure that triggered the crisis*. 'Which' is used in relative clauses but not cleft constructions, and 'what' would distort the grammatical structure entirely.
16. **A** **Correct Answer: be that as it may**
✓ **Explanation:** **Be that as it may** is a formal **concessive discourse marker** that acknowledges a point before introducing a counter-argument. *Progress has been made; be that as it may, systemic change is still lacking*. 'Inasmuch as' introduces a reason, and 'on the premise that' introduces a condition.
17. **A** **Correct Answer: Despite**
✓ **Explanation:** **Despite** followed by a **gerund phrase** ('having pledged') expresses concession in a non-finite clause, a hallmark of C1 formal writing. *Despite having signed the agreement, no action followed*. 'Apart from' denotes exclusion, and 'Provided that' introduces a conditional clause.
18. **A** **Correct Answer: but also**
✓ **Explanation:** The correlative conjunction **not only ... but also** is a fixed C1 structure used to **extend and emphasise** a parallel point. *It affects not only the environment but also the economy*. 'And also' lacks the required correlative pairing, and 'as well as' cannot complete this construction grammatically.
19. **A** **Correct Answer: it is widely contended**
✓ **Explanation:** **It is widely contended** is a **passive reporting structure** used in formal academic writing to present a contested yet substantiated claim without attributing it to a single source. *It is widely contended that reform is overdue*. 'Expected' implies anticipation and 'assumed' implies conjecture without evidence, making them weaker collocations in this analytical context.
20. **A** **Correct Answer: one must conclude that**
✓ **Explanation:** **One must conclude that** is a **formal impersonal concluding device** appropriate for C1 discursive and analytical writing, conveying logical inevitability after careful deliberation. *Upon rigorous evaluation, one must conclude that reform is essential*. 'It seems like' is informal, and 'we can say that' is too vague and colloquial for this register.

Part 3: Fill in the Blank

21. **contended** **Correct Answer: contended**
✓ **Explanation:** The passive reporting verb **contended** is the precise C1 collocation used with *it is widely...* to introduce a contested academic claim. *'It is widely contended that growth and sustainability are mutually exclusive.'*

22. **cast** Correct Answer: cast

✓ **Explanation:** The fixed C1 collocation is **cast doubt upon**, meaning to cause something to seem uncertain or questionable. *'New research has cast doubt upon the validity of earlier projections.'*

23. **incontrovertible** Correct Answer: incontrovertible

✓ **Explanation:** The cleft sentence structure **What remains ... is that** requires a formal C1 adjective meaning impossible to dispute. **Incontrovertible** precisely fulfils this function. *'What remains incontrovertible is that carbon emissions must be reduced.'*

24. **has** Correct Answer: has

✓ **Explanation:** Fronting **Seldom** triggers subject-auxiliary inversion, requiring **has** before the subject. *'Seldom has such widespread consensus been achieved.'* This is a hallmark of advanced C1 emphatic syntax.

25. **implementation** Correct Answer: implementation

✓ **Explanation:** **Nominalisation** is a key C1 stylistic feature. **Implementation** (noun) replaces a weaker verbal phrase like 'implementing', creating a more formal, academic register. *'The implementation of the directive proved challenging.'*

26. **foresight** Correct Answer: foresight

✓ **Explanation:** The cleft structure **It was ... that** focuses blame on a specific cause. **Foresight** collocates precisely with *strategic* and is the C1 lexical item meaning the ability to predict and plan for future consequences. *'A lack of foresight led to environmental degradation.'*

27. **for** Correct Answer: for

✓ **Explanation:** The fixed C1 discourse phrase **a compelling case can be made for** requires the preposition **for** to introduce the advocated position. *'A compelling case can be made for stricter emissions targets.'*

28. **as** Correct Answer: as

✓ **Explanation:** **Inasmuch as** is a formal C1 subordinating conjunction meaning 'to the extent that' or 'given that'. It must be followed by **as** to complete the connective phrase. *'Inasmuch as the data supports this claim, we must act accordingly.'*

29. **weighed** Correct Answer: weighed

✓ **Explanation:** The non-finite participle clause **Having [past participle]** expresses a completed action before the main clause. **Weighed** is the precise C1 verb meaning to carefully consider and evaluate competing evidence. *'Having weighed the options, the board reached a decision.'*

30. **evaluation** Correct Answer: evaluation

✓ **Explanation:** **Upon rigorous evaluation** is a formal C1 concluding discourse marker used to introduce a carefully reasoned judgement. **Evaluation** (a nominalisation) maintains the required academic register. *'Upon rigorous evaluation, the proposal was deemed insufficiently robust.'*

31. Anthropogenic: D • Decarbonisation: A • Externality: B • Degrowth: C

Correct Matches:

- **Anthropogenic** → Caused or produced by human activity
- **Decarbonisation** → The process of reducing carbon dioxide emissions from an economy
- **Externality** → A cost or benefit affecting a party not directly involved in an economic transaction
- **Degrowth** → A planned reduction in economic output to achieve ecological sustainability

✅ **Explanation:** These are key C1-level terms in sustainability discourse. **Anthropogenic** is frequently used in academic writing ('*anthropogenic climate change*'), while **externality** is an economics term often applied when industries impose environmental costs on society without bearing them directly.

32. Seldom has the tension between industrial expansion and ecological preservation: A •
What remains incontrovertible is that: C • Not until carbon pricing was introduced: B

Correct

Matches:

• **Seldom has the tension between industrial expansion and ecological preservation →**

been so acutely felt as in the post-pandemic era of rapid recovery.

• **What remains incontrovertible is that →**

unchecked economic growth exerts irreversible pressure on finite natural resources.

• **Not until carbon pricing was introduced**

→ did

corporations begin to internalise the true environmental cost of their operations.

 Explanation:

These sentences demonstrate C1 structural devices:

inversion

(*'Seldom has...'* and *'Not until... did...'*) and a

cleft sentence

(*'What remains incontrovertible is that...'*). Each structure adds formal emphasis appropriate to

33. Notwithstanding: A • Inasmuch as: D • Be that as it may: B • To recapitulate: C

Correct Matches:

• **Notwithstanding** →

Introducing a concession while maintaining the main argument

• **Inasmuch as** → Expressing a reason or degree of causality in formal writing

• **Be that as it may** →

Acknowledging a point before firmly returning to one's position

• **To recapitulate** →

Signalling a formal summary of arguments presented

✓ **Explanation:** These are advanced cohesive devices central to C1 discursive writing. **Notwithstanding** and **Be that as it may** both signal contrast, but the latter is more conversational in tone, making each subtly distinct in register. *'Inasmuch as renewable investment is costly, its long-term returns are undeniable.'*

34. Discursive Essay: B • Formal Proposal: A • Analytical Report: C

Correct Matches:

• **Discursive Essay** → A nuanced evaluation of two competing perspectives concluding with a justified stance

• **Formal Proposal** → Distinct sub-headings such as 'Actionable Recommendations' and persuasive modal language

• **Analytical Report** → An impersonal, evidence-based synthesis employing heavy nominalisation

✓ **Explanation:** Each C1 genre has a distinct purpose and stylistic identity. **Proposals** use modal hedging (*'It would be highly advantageous to...'*), while **reports** favour nominalisation, e.g. *'the acceleration of renewable deployment'* rather than *'how fast renewables are being deployed'*.

35. Exert: D • Wreak: A • Cast: B • Spark: C

Correct Matches:

- **Exert** → Considerable influence on environmental policy
- **Wreak** → Havoc on fragile ecosystems and biodiversity
- **Cast** → Serious doubt upon the viability of green growth models
- **Spark** → Considerable controversy among policymakers and economists

✓ **Explanation:** Collocational precision is a hallmark of C1 writing.

Wreak havoc, cast doubt upon, exert influence, and spark controversy are fixed high-register collocations. Substituting them with weaker alternatives (*'make havoc', 'throw doubt'*) would signal a lower proficiency level.

36. 'The government totally messed up its green targets.': C • 'The administration's failure to meet its decarbonisation benchmarks precipitated widespread criticism.': A • 'It is, at the end of the day, a matter of balancing profit and planet.': B

Correct Matches:

- 'The government totally messed up its green targets.' → Inappropriately colloquial — unsuitable for formal academic writing
- 'The administration's failure to meet its decarbonisation benchmarks precipitated widespread criticism.' → Appropriately formal — nominalised, precise, and academic in register
- 'It is, at the end of the day, a matter of balancing profit and planet.' → Mixed register — idiomatic phrase undermines formal gravitas

 Explanation:

C1 candidates must maintain consistent **formal register**. Phrases like *'totally messed up'* or *'at the end of the day'* are colloquial and idiomatic, undermining academic tone. The model sentence uses

nominalisation
(*'failure to meet'*)
and a
sophisticated
verb
(*'precipitated'*).

37. It is widely contended that GDP alone is an inadequate measure of societal progress.: C • The findings are purported to demonstrate a direct correlation between deforestation and economic instability.: A • It has been argued that sustainable investment yields superior long-term returns.: B

Correct

Matches:

• **It is widely contended that GDP alone is an inadequate measure of societal progress. →**

Reporting a broadly held academic viewpoint without attributing it to a specific source

• **The findings are purported to demonstrate a direct correlation between deforestation and economic instability. →**

Expressing cautious or sceptical distance from a claim being reported

• **It has been argued that sustainable investment yields superior long-term returns. →**

Presenting a debated position in an objective, academically distanced manner



Explanation:**Passive****reporting****verbs** are

essential for
C1 academic
impersonality.

'Purported to'

uniquely

implies

scepticism

about the

claim's

validity,

distinguishing

it from the

more neutral

'it has been

argued' or the

consensus-

signalling *'it is*

widely

contended'.

38. Purpose and Background: D • Assessment of Current Impediments: A • Actionable Recommendations: B • Projected Long-Term Benefits: C

Correct Matches:

• **Purpose and Background** → A concise overview of the problem's context and the rationale for the proposal

• **Assessment of Current Impediments** → An evaluation of existing obstacles hindering sustainable economic transition

• **Actionable Recommendations** → Specific, costed measures proposed with modal qualification and justification

• **Projected Long-Term Benefits** → A forward-looking analysis of the social, environmental, and economic gains anticipated

✓ **Explanation:** A well-structured C1 **formal proposal** follows a logical progression. Recommendations should use hedged modals: *'It would be highly advantageous to introduce carbon offset incentives at municipal level.'*

The **Projected Benefits** section reinforces persuasive intent through evidence-based optimism.

39. Having weighed the contradictory evidence on green GDP models,: B • Recognising the irreversibility of climate tipping points,: C • Driven by mounting public pressure and legislative reform,: A

Correct

Matches:

• **Having weighed the contradictory evidence on green GDP models, →** one must conclude that conventional metrics inadequately capture ecological degradation.

• **Recognising the irreversibility of climate tipping points, →**

governments are under increasing pressure to prioritise sustainability over short-term fiscal gains.

• **Driven by mounting public pressure and legislative reform, →** multinational corporations have begun to embed environmental accountability into their core strategies.



Explanation:
Non-finite participle clauses are a

defining
feature of C1
writing
sophistication.
*'Having
weighed'*
(perfect
participle)
implies prior
deliberation;
'Recognising'
(present
participle)
signals
simultaneous
awareness;
'Driven by'
(passive
participle)
attributes
external
causation —
each is
grammatically
tied to the
subject of the
main clause.

40. **Synthesising both perspectives into a nuanced overall conclusion: C • Issuing a call to action with formal urgency: A • Qualifying the argument with academic caution: B**

Correct Matches:

- **Synthesising both perspectives into a nuanced overall conclusion** → All things considered, while economic expansion remains a legitimate societal aspiration, its long-term viability is contingent upon a fundamental reorientation towards sustainable practice.
- **Issuing a call to action with formal urgency** → It is incumbent upon both governmental bodies and private enterprise to adopt an integrated approach that reconciles fiscal imperatives with ecological responsibility.
- **Qualifying the argument**

**with
academic
caution →**

Upon
rigorous
evaluation, a
compelling
case can be
made for
green
growth, albeit
one that
demands
substantial
institutional
reform and
cross-
sectoral
collaboration.



Explanation:

Each
conclusion
type serves a
distinct
rhetorical
purpose. *'All
things
considered'*
signals
balanced
synthesis; *'It
is incumbent
upon'*
conveys
moral
obligation
and urgency;
'albeit' and
*'Upon
rigorous
evaluation'*
introduce
measured
qualification
— all
hallmarks of
**C1
discursive
essay**
conclusions.

Part 5: Sort the Values

41. Correct Answer: Seldom has the tension between economic growth and environmental sustainability been more acutely felt.

✓ **Explanation:** This sentence uses **negative inversion for emphasis**. When a negative adverb such as *Seldom* opens the sentence, the auxiliary verb **has** moves before the subject **the tension**, followed by the past participle **been** and the adverb-adjective phrase *more acutely felt*.

42. Correct Answer: What remains incontrovertible is that unchecked industrial expansion will inevitably wreak havoc on fragile ecosystems.

✓ **Explanation:** This is a **cleft sentence** used for focus and rhetorical emphasis. The structure begins with *What remains incontrovertible* as the nominal clause subject, followed by the linking verb **is** and the *that*-clause complement. The collocation **wreak havoc on** is a precise C1 expression placed before the prepositional phrase *on fragile ecosystems*.

43. Correct Answer: Having weighed the competing priorities of fiscal expansion and ecological preservation, one must conclude that a compromise is indispensable.

✓ **Explanation:** This sentence opens with a **perfect participle clause** (*Having weighed...*), which indicates an action completed before the main clause. The subject of the participle clause is the same as the main clause subject **one**. A comma separates the subordinate participial phrase from the main clause *one must conclude that a compromise is indispensable*.

44. Correct Answer: It is widely contended that short-term economic gains frequently come at the expense of long-term environmental stability.

✓ **Explanation:** This sentence employs a **passive reporting verb structure** (*It is widely contended that...*), which is characteristic of formal academic writing. The impersonal subject **It** introduces the passive verb phrase **is widely contended**, followed by a *that*-clause stating the reported claim. The adverb *frequently* is correctly positioned before the main verb *come*.

45. Correct Answer: Notwithstanding the considerable economic benefits of rapid industrialisation, its detrimental impact on biodiversity cannot be overlooked.

✓ **Explanation:** **Notwithstanding** is an advanced concessive preposition meaning 'despite', used here to open the sentence with a prepositional phrase *Notwithstanding the considerable economic benefits of rapid industrialisation*. A comma then separates this from the main clause, where **its** refers back to *industrialisation* and the passive modal construction *cannot be overlooked* emphasises urgency.

46. Correct Answer: It was the lack of coherent regulatory frameworks that precipitated the widespread degradation of natural resources.

✓ **Explanation:** This is a **cleft sentence** using the structure *It was [noun phrase] that [verb]...* to place strong emphasis on the cause. **It was** introduces the focused element *the lack of coherent regulatory frameworks*, and **that** links it to the consequence *precipitated the widespread degradation of natural resources*. The verb *precipitated* is a precise C1 collocation meaning 'caused suddenly'.

47. Correct Answer: In light of the prevailing scientific consensus, governments are strongly urged to implement carbon-neutral policies without further delay.

✓ **Explanation:** The sentence begins with the **discourse marker** *In light of*, introducing the justifying context. A comma follows the introductory prepositional phrase before the main clause. The main clause uses a **passive infinitive construction** (*are strongly urged to implement*), placing the adverb **strongly** between the auxiliary *are* and the past participle *urged*, which is standard formal written register.

48. Correct Answer: A compelling case can be made for the adoption of a circular economy model, inasmuch as it reconciles productivity with resource conservation.

✓ **Explanation:** The main clause opens with the C1 evaluative phrase *A compelling case can be made for*, using a **passive modal construction**. The noun **adoption** is an example of **nominalisation** (from 'to adopt'). The subordinating conjunction **inasmuch as** introduces the causal clause, separated by a comma, explaining the reasoning behind the recommendation.

49. Correct Answer: Not until policymakers genuinely commit to sustainable investment will the destructive cycle of environmental exploitation be broken.

✓ **Explanation:** This sentence uses **negative inversion** with *Not until* to create formal emphasis. The negative time expression *Not until policymakers genuinely commit to sustainable investment* forces subject-auxiliary inversion in the main clause: **will** precedes the subject *the destructive cycle*, followed by the passive infinitive *be broken*. The adverb **genuinely** is correctly placed before the main verb *commit* in the subordinate clause.

50. Correct Answer: All things considered, the most prudent course of action is to pursue a model of growth that actively safeguards ecological integrity.

✓ **Explanation:** The sentence opens with the **concluding discourse marker** *All things considered*, which is set off by a comma and signals a balanced final judgement, typical of C1 discursive essays. The main clause follows the pattern **Subject + linking verb + to-infinitive complement**: *the most prudent course of action* is the subject, **is** the linking verb, and *to pursue...* is the infinitive complement. The relative clause *that actively safeguards ecological integrity* post-modifies *a model of growth*.

Score Guide

45–50 Correct	Excellent! You have mastered this topic.
38–44 Correct	Very good! Review the rules you missed.
30–37 Correct	Good start. Re-read the lesson and examples.
0–29 Correct	Study the lesson again before retaking the test.