Space Exploration: Scientific Necessity or Wasted Resource?

Humanity has always gazed at the stars with curiosity and ambition. Over the past few decades, national governments and private corporations have poured billions of dollars into launching satellites, exploring Mars, and constructing space stations. However, as our planet faces severe economic crises, poverty, and environmental degradation, many citizens question whether spending massive public funds on space missions is morally justifiable.

Supporters of space exploration argue that scientific discovery beyond Earth drives critical technological innovation. Many tools that we rely on daily, such as satellite GPS navigation, advanced water purification filters, and modern weather forecasting systems, were initially developed for space programs. Furthermore, studying other celestial bodies provides vital insights into Earth's climate history and helps scientists prepare for long-term cosmic hazards like asteroid impacts. In this sense, space exploration is an investment in the long-term survival of human civilization.

On the contrary, critics contend that urgent terrestrial problems must take priority over space missions. Millions of people around the world still suffer from malnutrition, inadequate healthcare, and clean water shortages. Investing enormous financial resources in Mars expeditions while basic human needs remain unmet on Earth seems irresponsible. Critics maintain that if these astronomical budgets were redirected into renewable energy and poverty reduction, society would see immediate and meaningful improvements in global living standards.

In conclusion, while space research yields impressive technological advances and expands scientific knowledge, balancing these ambitions with urgent problems on Earth is essential. Governments should prioritize solving domestic and environmental crises before allocating vast budgets to deep space missions.

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Part A: Match the words with their definitions.

Word	Definition
1. **Degradation** (n)	a) Connected with planet Earth rather than space
2. **Justifiable** (adj)	b) The process of something becoming worse in quality or condition
3. **Terrestrial** (adj)	c) Extremely large, massive, or immense
4. **Astronomical** (adj)	d) Able to be explained or shown to be right and reasonable
5. **Allocate** (v)	e) To officially give or decide to use money, time, or resources for a purpose

Part B: Complete the sentences with words from the box.

degradation | *justifiable* | *terrestrial* | *astronomical* | *allocate*

1. Building luxury projects while schools lack basic books is hardly _____to the public.
2. Industrial pollution has caused serious environmental _____in many river basins.
3. Developing new space rockets requires an _____amount of financial investment.

4. Governments should _____more budget to public education and healthcare facilities.
5. Climate change threatens countless _____ecosystems and animal habitats on Earth.

Bridging the Academic Gap: Should Internships Be Mandatory?

University education has traditionally focused on theoretical knowledge delivered through lectures, textbooks, and academic examinations. However, upon graduation, many young engineers, diplomats, and social scientists discover that employers expect practical workplace experience. To bridge this gap, an increasing number of educational institutions are considering making corporate internships a compulsory requirement for graduation.

Making internships mandatory offers clear advantages for students' professional development. Completing an internship allows undergraduates to apply abstract academic theories to genuine workplace problems. For example, an engineering student can see how theoretical design formulas are used on real manufacturing lines, while an international relations student learns how diplomatic correspondence is drafted in embassies. Additionally, internships provide students with early networking opportunities, enabling them to build connections with industry professionals and secure job offers prior to graduation.

Conversely, imposing compulsory internships can create significant logistical and financial burdens for many students. Not all university students have equal access to prestigious companies, especially those studying in smaller provincial cities. Finding a placement often depends on personal contacts rather than academic merit. Furthermore, many corporate internships are unpaid, forcing students from low-income families to work without compensation while struggling to pay for accommodation, meals, and transportation.

In conclusion, while mandatory internships equip students with practical skills and enhance career readiness, universities must ensure that all students have equal access to fair opportunities. Establishing paid partnerships between universities and certified industries is crucial to make internship programs fair and effective for everyone.

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Part A: Match the words with their definitions.

Word	Definition
1. **Compulsory** (adj)	a) That must be done because of a law or a rule; mandatory
2. **Correspondence** (n)	b) Connected with the practical organization of a complex plan
3. **Logistical** (adj)	c) Payment or money received for work done
4. **Merit** (n)	d) Official letters or emails exchanged between individuals or organizations
5. **Compensation** (n)	e) The quality of being good and deserving praise, reward, or success

Part B: Complete the sentences with words from the box.

compulsory | *correspondence* | *logistical* | *merit* | *compensation*

1. English language prep courses are _____for all first-year engineering students.
2. Interns should receive fair financial _____for the full-time work they perform.
3. Managing large group travel arrangements involves solving numerous _____challenges.

4. Job promotions should be awarded based on professional _____, not personal connections.
5. Diplomats spend hours every day analyzing official international _____.

Combating Plastic Waste: Is a Complete Ban Necessary?

Plastic has been an indispensable part of modern consumer packaging for decades due to its light weight, durability, and low manufacturing cost. However, the convenience of single-use plastic bags, bottles, and food containers has resulted in an alarming environmental catastrophe. Because synthetic plastics take hundreds of years to break down, governments worldwide are debating whether to enforce an absolute ban on all single-use plastic products.

Supporters of a complete plastic ban argue that aggressive legal measures are the only realistic way to protect terrestrial and marine ecosystems. Billions of discarded plastic items wash into oceans annually, entangling wildlife and fragmenting into hazardous microplastics that contaminate marine food chains. Furthermore, bans encourage industries to innovate and transition toward biodegradable alternatives, such as packaging made from cornstarch, bamboo, or recycled paper. When single-use plastic is eliminated, consumer habits adapt quickly toward reusable cloth bags and glass bottles.

However, opponents argue that a sudden, complete ban places severe economic strain on manufacturing businesses and lower-income families. Biodegradable packaging materials are currently more expensive to produce, which raises the retail price of everyday consumer groceries. Moreover, in healthcare and food sanitation, sterile single-use plastic wraps remain essential to prevent bacterial contamination and food spoilage. Instead of total bans, some suggest that investing heavily in advanced mechanical recycling systems and consumer education is a more realistic policy.

To sum up, while plastic bans drastically curb environmental pollution and encourage eco-friendly packaging, economic feasibility and hygiene needs must be considered. A gradual phase-out supported by subsidies for green alternatives offers the most sustainable pathway forward.

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Part A: Match the words with their definitions.

Word	Definition
1. **Indispensable** (adj)	a) Completely clean and free from harmful bacteria
2. **Entangle** (v)	b) To catch or twist someone or something in a net, wire, or trap
3. **Sterile** (adj)	c) So good or important that you could not manage without it
4. **Feasibility** (n)	d) A step-by-step process of stopping something over a period of time
5. **Phase-out** (n)	e) The possibility and practical likelihood of something being achieved

Part B: Complete the sentences with words from the box.

indispensable | *entangle* | *sterile* | *feasibility* | *phase-out*

1. Discarded fishing lines can easily _____ dolphins and sea turtles.
2. Computers and internet access have become _____ tools for academic research.
3. The municipality ordered a gradual _____of old diesel buses over the next three years.
4. Medical instruments must remain in _____plastic packaging until surgery begins.

5. Engineers conducted a study to determine the economic _____of the solar power plant.

Smart Cities: Modern Utopia or Privacy Nightmare?

The concept of the "smart city" is rapidly moving from engineering blueprints into modern urban realities. By installing millions of digital sensors, automated surveillance cameras, and artificial intelligence grids, municipalities can optimize traffic flow, manage energy distribution, and monitor public safety in real time. Nevertheless, this extensive integration of digital tracking raises profound ethical concerns regarding the destruction of personal privacy and civil liberties.

Advocates claim that smart cities provide unprecedented levels of safety, efficiency, and environmental sustainability. Intelligent traffic networks can dynamically adjust traffic lights to eliminate bottlenecks, reducing carbon emissions and daily commute times. Furthermore, facial recognition technology and automated security cameras help police forces deter crime, locate missing persons, and respond to emergencies within seconds. For many urban planners, these safety and efficiency gains far outweigh theoretical privacy concerns.

In contrast, civil rights defenders maintain that constant surveillance strips citizens of their fundamental anonymity. In a smart city, every step an individual takes—from taking the subway to buying groceries—is recorded, analyzed, and stored in massive government or corporate databases. If these centralized systems are hacked or abused by authorities, citizens could face illegal profiling, commercial tracking, or political suppression. Critics argue that people should not have to sacrifice their privacy and personal freedom simply to live in a clean and efficient city.

In conclusion, while smart city infrastructure improves civic efficiency and public safety, it creates serious risks for personal privacy. Strict legal regulations and transparent data protection laws are vital to ensure that smart technology serves citizens rather than controlling them.

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Part A: Match the words with their definitions.

Word	Definition
1. **Surveillance** (n)	a) The state of remaining unknown or unrecognized by others
2. **Unprecedented** (adj)	b) The close observation of a person, group, or area by authorities
3. **Deter** (v)	c) Never done, known, or experienced before
4. **Anonymity** (n)	d) Open, clear, and easy for people to see or understand
5. **Transparent** (adj)	e) To make someone decide not to do something by making them fear the consequences

Part B: Complete the sentences with words from the box.

surveillance | *unprecedented* | *deter* | *anonymity* | *transparent*

1. Installing security cameras in public squares helps _____vandalism and theft.
2. The rapid expansion of artificial intelligence represents an _____technological revolution.
3. Citizens often use encrypted messaging services to preserve their _____online.

4. Government agencies must maintain _____data policies to build public trust.
5. High-tech _____systems are now monitoring major transport hubs around the clock.

Sugar Taxes: Protecting Public Health or Punishing Consumers?

Non-communicable diseases, particularly obesity, type-2 diabetes, and cardiovascular problems, have reached epidemic proportions worldwide. In an effort to curb the excessive consumption of processed sugars, several nations have implemented special taxes on sugary beverages, candies, and junk food. While health organizations applaud these fiscal policies as a vital step in safeguarding public health, critics argue that they place an unfair financial burden on average consumers and infringe upon personal choice.

Supporters of healthy lifestyle taxes assert that increasing the price of harmful items is an effective mechanism to change consumer behavior. When soda and energy drinks become significantly more expensive, price-sensitive consumers, especially teenagers and young adults, naturally reduce their purchases or switch to healthier options like bottled water and natural juices. Furthermore, the substantial tax revenue generated from these measures can be directly reinvested into public hospitals, subsidized sports facilities, and school nutrition programs, creating long-term societal benefits.

On the other hand, opponents contend that sugar taxes are regressive and economically unjust. Because low-income families spend a larger percentage of their budget on food, they are disproportionately affected by increased grocery costs. Furthermore, critics argue that personal dietary choices are an individual responsibility rather than a matter for government control. Instead of imposing financial penalties on citizens, opponents suggest that authorities should focus on mandatory nutrition labeling and positive public awareness campaigns in schools.

All in all, while sugar taxes can effectively discourage the purchase of unhealthy foods and generate public healthcare funding, they must be implemented with social fairness in mind. Combining moderate taxes with educational campaigns and subsidies on fresh fruits and vegetables is the most constructive approach.

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Part A: Match the words with their definitions.

Word	Definition
1. **Fiscal** (adj)	a) To actively limit, violate, or break a rule or someone's rights
2. **Infringe** (v)	b) Connected with government finances, taxation, or public money
3. **Revenue** (n)	c) In a way that is too large or too small in comparison to something else
4. **Disproportionately** (adv)	d) Money that a government or organization receives regularly from taxes
5. **Subsidize** (v)	e) To pay part of the cost of something to keep the selling price low

Part B: Complete the sentences with words from the box.

fiscal | *infringe* | *revenue* | *disproportionately* | *subsidize*

1. The state should _____fresh organic produce to make healthy eating affordable.
2. Higher sales taxes on basic goods affect lower-income households _____.

3. Governments use tax _____to maintain roads, schools, and hospitals.
4. Critics argue that mandatory dietary laws _____upon personal freedom of choice.
5. The finance ministry introduced new _____policies to reduce national debt.

The Deadly Fog: The Severe Effects of Urban Air Pollution

Air pollution in major metropolitan centers has evolved from a seasonal inconvenience into an acute global health emergency. Millions of urban citizens breathe air contaminated with fine particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, and toxic nitrogen oxides every single day. While the factories and vehicles that generate these emissions drive economic activity, the resulting degradation of air quality produces devastating consequences for public health and urban living conditions.

The most alarming consequence of toxic air is its profound damage to human respiratory and cardiovascular systems. Microscopic particulate matter penetrates deep into lung tissues and enters the bloodstream. Consequently, urban residents suffer from elevated rates of asthma, chronic bronchitis, and premature heart attacks. Vulnerable groups, particularly young children and elderly citizens, face severe health complications and reduced life expectancies. Medical studies indicate that living in a heavily polluted city can be as damaging to human lungs as smoking a pack of cigarettes daily.

Beyond immediate medical emergencies, chronic air pollution imposes enormous economic costs on society. When workers suffer from respiratory illnesses, workplace productivity declines due to frequent sick leaves and hospitalization. Healthcare systems must spend billions of dollars treating preventable chronic conditions rather than investing in medical research. Furthermore, toxic airborne chemicals form acid rain, which corrodes historical monuments, degrades municipal buildings, and poisons surrounding agricultural soils and freshwater reservoirs.

In conclusion, urban air pollution causes severe respiratory diseases, reduces life expectancy, and places heavy financial strains on public healthcare systems. Resolving this crisis requires rapid transitions to zero-emission public transport, strict industrial emission filters, and expanded urban green belts.

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Part A: Match the words with their definitions.

Word	Definition
1. **Acute** (adj)	a) To pass into or through something, often with difficulty
2. **Penetrate** (v)	b) Very serious, severe, or extreme
3. **Elevated** (adj)	c) To destroy, damage, or wear away slowly by chemical action
4. **Corrode** (v)	d) Higher or greater than normal
5. **Reservoir** (n)	e) A natural or artificial lake where water is stored for use

Part B: Complete the sentences with words from the box.

acute | *penetrate* | *elevated* | *corrode* | *reservoir*

1. Harmful microscopic particles can easily _____deep into the respiratory tract.
2. Factory emissions caused an _____shortage of clean air in the industrial valley.
3. Acid rain can rapidly _____stone statues and metal bridges over time.
4. City doctors reported _____rates of lung infections during the winter months.

5. The municipal _____provides fresh drinking water to the entire metropolitan area.

The Unemployment Puzzle: Why University Graduates Struggle for Jobs

Completing a university degree was once an almost guaranteed ticket to stable, well-paying white-collar employment. Today, however, thousands of bright, ambitious graduates worldwide face prolonged periods of unemployment after completing their academic studies. This widespread joblessness among educated youth stems from a combination of curriculum misalignment, rapid economic shifts, and an oversupply of diploma holders in specific fields.

A primary factor causing youth unemployment is the serious disconnect between university curricula and contemporary job market demands. Academic programs in many universities remain heavily theoretical, failing to teach the modern digital and practical skills that modern corporations require. For example, business or engineering students may memorize historic case studies or manual calculation methods but receive zero training in current industry software or project management tools. Consequently, employers often reject recent graduates due to a lack of immediate practical competence.

Another major cause is the saturation of the labor market in traditional professions. Over the past two decades, universities have expanded their capacities massively, producing more graduates in law, business administration, and humanities than the economy can absorb. At the same time, technological automation and artificial intelligence have eliminated many entry-level administrative positions that were previously occupied by new graduates. This structural imbalance forces qualified young people to compete fiercely for a shrinking pool of entry-level positions.

To sum up, youth unemployment is driven by outdated academic curricula, labor market saturation, and rapid workplace automation. Remedying this crisis requires universities to modernize their educational programs and collaborate closely with industry leaders to align student skills with real economic opportunities.

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Part A: Match the words with their definitions.

Word	Definition
1. **Prolonged** (adj)	a) Continuing for a long time; extended
2. **Misalignment** (n)	b) The state when a market is full and cannot take more of something
3. **Saturation** (n)	c) A situation where things are not correctly matched or adjusted
4. **Absorb** (v)	d) To take in, accept, or deal with people or things successfully
5. **Remedy** (v)	e) To correct, cure, or put right an undesirable situation

Part B: Complete the sentences with words from the box.

prolonged | *misalignment* | *saturation* | *absorb* | *remedy*

1. The local economy was too small to _____hundreds of new law graduates every year.
2. There is a clear _____between academic courses and the technical skills employers seek.

3. Internships and hands-on workshops can help _____the youth unemployment problem.
4. Due to market _____, finding a banking position in the capital city has become difficult.
5. Facing _____unemployment after college causes great psychological distress for young adults.

The Dry Horizon: The Alarming Causes of Global Water Scarcity

Water is the fundamental source of all terrestrial life and an essential resource for agriculture, manufacturing, and energy production. Yet, more than two billion people across the globe currently inhabit regions suffering from acute water stress. Rivers are drying up, underground aquifers are depleting rapidly, and major cities face annual drought crises. Understanding the principal drivers behind this global freshwater crisis is essential for safeguarding human survival.

The primary driver of freshwater scarcity is the unsustainable overuse of water in commercial agriculture and industry. Traditional irrigation methods, such as flood irrigation, waste enormous amounts of water through evaporation and soil runoff before it ever reaches crop roots. In addition, water-intensive industries like textile manufacturing, chemical processing, and paper production consume millions of cubic meters of fresh water daily. In many agricultural regions, farmers drill unregulated deep wells, pumping underground water reserves much faster than natural rainfall can replenish them.

Another major contributing factor is global climate change and the destruction of natural water basins. Rising global temperatures alter seasonal rainfall patterns, creating unpredictable droughts in agricultural heartlands while causing catastrophic flash floods in others. Mountain glaciers, which serve as natural water towers for millions of people by releasing meltwater slowly throughout the dry season, are retreating at unprecedented rates. Combined with the pollution of rivers by untreated municipal sewage, available freshwater supplies are shrinking rapidly.

In conclusion, global water scarcity is caused by inefficient agricultural irrigation, industrial overconsumption, and climate-induced disruptions to the natural water cycle. Securing our water future demands smart drip-irrigation systems, wastewater recycling, and aggressive climate action.

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Part A: Match the words with their definitions.

Word	Definition
1. **Aquifer** (n)	a) An underground layer of rock or sand that holds water
2. **Deplete** (v)	b) To reduce something by a large amount so that there is not enough left
3. **Irrigation** (n)	c) To fill something up again; to restore
4. **Replenish** (v)	d) The practice of supplying land or crops with water through pipes or channels
5. **Retreat** (v)	e) To move back, recede, or decrease in size over time

Part B: Complete the sentences with words from the box.

aquifer | *deplete* | *irrigation* | *replenish* | *retreat*

1. Modern farmers are switching to efficient drip _____to conserve valuable water.
2. Overusing deep underground wells will rapidly _____regional water supplies.

3. Due to rising temperatures, mountain glaciers continue to _____every summer.
4. Winter rainfall is essential to _____dry dams and underground water reserves.
5. Contamination of a single regional _____can ruin drinking water for entire cities.

Vanishing Forests: The Severe Consequences of Deforestation

Tropical rainforests and ancient woodlands are often described as the "lungs of the Earth" because of their crucial role in regulating global climate and absorbing atmospheric carbon. Despite their vital ecological importance, vast areas of pristine forest are clear-cut and burned every single day to make room for industrial cattle ranching, soybean farming, and commercial timber production. This widespread destruction of forest ecosystems produces catastrophic environmental consequences worldwide.

The most immediate effect of deforestation is the accelerated pace of global climate change. Living trees absorb colossal quantities of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through photosynthesis. When millions of trees are cut down and burned, this stored carbon is released back into the atmosphere as greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, the loss of dense forest canopies alters regional weather patterns, decreasing local rainfall and turning once-fertile tropical zones into dry, arid wastelands.

Another devastating consequence is the rapid mass extinction of wildlife species and severe soil erosion. Forests host over eighty percent of the world's terrestrial biodiversity. When their habitats are destroyed, countless animal, plant, and insect species lose their shelter and food sources, leading to irreversible extinctions. Without tree root systems to anchor the topsoil, heavy seasonal rains wash away nutrient-rich soil into rivers, causing catastrophic landslides and choking river ecosystems with sediment.

To sum up, deforestation accelerates global warming, destroys irreplaceable biological diversity, and causes catastrophic soil degradation. Protecting our remaining forests requires strict international bans on illegal logging, sustainable agricultural practices, and massive global reforestation projects.

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Part A: Match the words with their definitions.

Word	Definition
1. **Pristine** (adj)	a) Fresh, clean, and completely undamaged in its original natural state
2. **Canopy** (n)	b) The high, roof-like layer of branches and leaves formed by trees
3. **Arid** (adj)	c) Having little or no rain; very dry and barren
4. **Anchor** (v)	d) To hold something firmly in position so that it cannot move
5. **Sediment** (n)	e) Solid material, such as sand or soil, that settles at the bottom of a liquid

Part B: Complete the sentences with words from the box.

pristine | *canopy* | *arid* | *anchor* | *sediment*

1. Deforestation can transform rich tropical zones into barren and _____landscapes.
2. The national park preserves thousands of hectares of _____ancient forest.
3. Tree roots help _____the topsoil and prevent dangerous mudslides during storms.
4. Heavy soil erosion caused thick _____to build up at the base of the river dam.

5. Many exotic bird species live exclusively in the high jungle _____.

The Invisible Intruder: The Effects of Urban Noise Pollution

In the bustling modern city, silence has become an increasingly rare luxury. From the blaring horns of vehicles in traffic gridlocks and the rumbling engines of heavy trucks to the continuous roar of construction machinery, urban citizens are exposed to constant acoustic disturbances. Although noise pollution does not leave visible waste like plastic or smog, scientific research confirms that chronic environmental noise has serious physiological and psychological effects on human health.

The primary consequence of prolonged exposure to noise pollution is chronic sleep disruption and elevated stress levels. The human ear and nervous system remain sensitive to sounds even during deep sleep. Constant background traffic or construction sounds prevent the brain from entering restorative sleep stages. As a result, city dwellers wake up feeling fatigued and irritable. Over time, continuous noise triggers the body to produce elevated amounts of stress hormones like cortisol, significantly raising the risk of high blood pressure and cardiovascular disorders.

Furthermore, noise pollution negatively impacts cognitive development and workplace performance. In noisy environments, employees struggle to maintain deep concentration, making frequent errors in complex engineering calculations or analytical writing tasks. In schools situated near busy highways or airports, children display measurable delays in reading comprehension, memory retention, and speech development. The constant barrage of unwanted sound degrades both academic performance and quality of life.

In conclusion, noise pollution causes chronic sleep deprivation, increases cardiovascular stress, and impairs cognitive functioning in both workers and students. Creating quieter, healthier cities demands acoustic building insulation, noise barriers along highways, and strict municipal limits on night-time construction.

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Part A: Match the words with their definitions.

Word	Definition
1. **Acoustic** (adj)	a) Able to bring back health, strength, or a feeling of well-being
2. **Restorative** (adj)	b) Related to sound, hearing, or the science of noise
3. **Cardiovascular** (adj)	c) A continuous, overwhelming flow or attack of sounds or things
4. **Barrage** (n)	d) Connected with the heart and blood vessels
5. **Insulation** (n)	e) Material used to prevent the passage of sound, heat, or electricity

Part B: Complete the sentences with words from the box.

acoustic | *restorative* | *cardiovascular* | *barrage* | *insulation*

1. High-quality double-glazed windows provide excellent sound _____for modern apartments.
2. A quiet bedroom is essential to achieve deep, _____sleep after a long study day.
3. Chronic stress and poor sleep significantly increase the risk of serious _____disease.
4. Students studying near the train station faced a continuous _____of engine noise.

5. Engineers installed special _____panels on the walls to absorb echoes in the lecture hall.

Answer Key - Set 2

Reading 11: Space Exploration
Part A: 1-b, 2-d, 3-a, 4-c, 5-e
Part B: 1. justifiable, 2. degradation, 3. astronomical, 4. allocate, 5. terrestrial

Reading 12: Internships
Part A: 1-a, 2-d, 3-b, 4-e, 5-c
Part B: 1. compulsory, 2. compensation, 3. logistical, 4. merit, 5. correspondence

Reading 13: Plastic Bans
Part A: 1-c, 2-b, 3-a, 4-e, 5-d
Part B: 1. entangle, 2. indispensable, 3. phase-out, 4. sterile, 5. feasibility

Reading 14: Smart Cities
Part A: 1-b, 2-c, 3-e, 4-a, 5-d
Part B: 1. deter, 2. unprecedented, 3. anonymity, 4. transparent, 5. surveillance

Reading 15: Sugar Taxes
Part A: 1-b, 2-a, 3-d, 4-c, 5-e
Part B: 1. subsidize, 2. disproportionately, 3. revenue, 4. infringe, 5. fiscal

Reading 16: Air Pollution
Part A: 1-b, 2-a, 3-d, 4-c, 5-e
Part B: 1. penetrate, 2. acute, 3. corrode, 4. elevated, 5. reservoir

Reading 17: Youth Unemployment
Part A: 1-a, 2-c, 3-b, 4-d, 5-e
Part B: 1. absorb, 2. misalignment, 3. remedy, 4. saturation, 5. prolonged

Reading 18: Water Scarcity
Part A: 1-a, 2-b, 3-d, 4-c, 5-e
Part B: 1. irrigation, 2. deplete, 3. retreat, 4. replenish, 5. aquifer

Reading 19: Deforestation
Part A: 1-a, 2-b, 3-c, 4-d, 5-e
Part B: 1. arid, 2. pristine, 3. anchor, 4. sediment, 5. canopy

Reading 20: Noise Pollution
Part A: 1-b, 2-a, 3-d, 4-c, 5-e
Part B: 1. insulation, 2. restorative, 3. cardiovascular, 4. barrage, 5. acoustic