

COMPUTERS FOR A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

Computers were born in the military and raised by the consumer society. Today, their greatest value may be neither military nor commercial but environmental. Coming to grips with the great task of the 21st century – to reconcile hopes for global prosperity with the need for a healthy environment- will require a far more detailed understanding of both. It is in this pursuit that the computer may find its greatest application. And in addition to applying information technology to environmental management, computer manufacturers are themselves serving as model corporate citizens when it comes to the environment, taking the lead on initiatives in areas like energy conservation of ozone-depleting substances.

Computers and information technology are already providing a wide range of solutions to local, national and global environmental problems. Companies have realized that successful management of the environment requires successful management of information. To protect the quality of water and air, monitor radiation and perform meteorological forecasting, huge amounts of data must be analyzed. In such areas new minicomputer families enable users to take advantage of processing power previously available only in supercomputers: this is good news for scientists working on macroenvironmental problems, such as satellite remote sensing global modeling, transborder pollution tracking and computer-based mapping.

The Massachusetts Office of Environmental Affairs, for example, faces the enormous task of analyzing watershed areas in 26 towns, reporting to and involving local citizens, while providing immediate solutions to water pollution in affected areas. Its newly acquired geographical information system provides it with statewide data for environmental planning, monitoring and enforcement. With less duplications of data, better communications and utilization of resources, it can display information graphically in public forums and implement data quality standards.

“It is the visual breakthrough that allows the average citizen to better understand why environmental protection is necessary,” says Walter Bickford, former commissioner, Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Enforcement, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Computer companies have also been pioneers in recycling end-of-life computer equipment. Much of this now finds a second life in automobile bumpers, ceramics and building materials. Formerly, it would probably have gone directly to the waste dump.

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A. ΚΑΤΑΝΟΗΣΗ ΓΡΑΠΤΟΥ ΛΟΓΟΥ

A1. Answer questions 1-3 using information from the article (up to 20 words each)
(3 x 4 points = 12 points)

1. What seems to be the purpose of the writer of this article?
2. Why is computer technology likely to contribute to providing solutions to environmental problems?
3. How can computers help common people better understand the necessity of environmental protection?

A2. Choose the correct answer (A, B, or C) for items 4-9 using information from the article.

(6 x 3 points = 18 points)

4. The most important contribution of computers today concerns
A. the army **B.** commerce **C.** the environment
5. Computer technology can help communities combine
A. effective health systems with rich natural resources **B.** successful recycling practices with information assessment **C.** an undamaged environment with good living worldwide
6. Computer manufacturers are concerned with
A. energy conservation **B.** global prosperity **C.** creation of zone-depleting substances
7. The protection of the environment requires
A. using supercomputers **B.** carrying out a lot of data analysis **C.** consuming huge amounts of power
8. The Massachusetts Office of Environment Affairs
A. estimates atmospheric pollution **B.** analyses polluted areas in 26 towns **C.** provides solutions to water pollution
9. No longer functioning computer parts
A. are thrown to a waste dump **B.** may be used for the production of ceramics **C.** are repaired and used as second hand computers

B1. ΓΛΩΣΣΙΚΗ ΕΠΙΓΝΩΣΗ

B1. Use the correct form of the following words (A-H) to complete the sentences 10-14, as in the example. There are TWO words you do not need. (5x2 points = 10 points)

A. commit	B. comment	C. benefit	D. cancel
E. reveal	F. recognize	G. imply	H. accuse

Example: He stated that the accusations against him were not true.

10. My father was given a silver plate in of his services.
11. Individual to preserving nature will improve the quality of life.
12. Swimming during your summer holidays could have effects on your health.
13. The air company apologized for the of our flight.
14. John has found a job as a on basketball matches for radio station.

B2. ΓΛΩΣΣΙΚΗ ΕΠΙΓΝΩΣΗ

B2. Fill in the gaps with no more than two words in the statements of Column B, so that they have a similar meaning with the statements of Column A, as in the example. (5 x 2 points = 10 points)

Example: Our civilization is going through a crisis which undermines the very foundations of mankind's existence.	Our civilization is going through a crisis by which the very foundations of mankind's existence <u>are undermined</u> .
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	A.	B.
15.	If the attention of the self-indulgent audience is not aroused, they must send the work back into imprisonment the self-indulgent audience has its attention aroused, the work must be sent back into imprisonment.
16.	We wonder whether the human drama a theatre piece represents can make more sense provided that it is set in another period.	We wonder whether the human drama a theatre piece represents can make more sense in another period.
17.	Pieces of art that have entered their after-life may exist in a period their creator could not have possibly envisioned.	Pieces of art that have entered their after-life may exist in a period their creator could have possibly envisioned.
18.	Astronomers are still wary of wandering bodies from space. Nevertheless, life will more likely be destroyed by our own environmentally negligent ways. astronomers are still wary of wandering bodies from space, life will more likely be destroyed by our own environmentally negligent ways.
19.	In our consumer-oriented society the concept of learning from nature is alien indeed.	In our consumer-oriented society people are utterly getting to learn from nature.

B3. ΓΛΩΣΣΙΚΗ ΕΠΙΓΝΩΣΗ

B3. The sentences in the text of a joke have been jumbled up. Put items a-e in the correct order by writing the number of the item (20-24 and the letter corresponding to each sentence in the order in which they should appear.

Why did the chicken cross the road?

In: Jokes and Riddles, Most Amusing Questions Ever Asked on WikiAnswers

The chicken crossed the road. This fact is rarely disputed.

- a. However, the most popular reason is purely that the chicken crossed to get to the other side.
- b. But why did the chicken cross the road?
- c. Unfortunately once again, no consensus was reached.
- d. Yet, at the Fourth Chicken Crossing Conference, a team of distinguished scholars met to consider this poultry matter in depth one more time.
- e. No entirely satisfactory explanation has ever been agreed upon.

20. ----- 21. ----- 22. ----- 23. ----- 24. -----

Γ. ΠΑΡΑΓΩΓΗ ΓΡΑΠΤΟΥ ΛΟΓΟΥ

Produce a written text (40 points)

TASK: Some educationalists say that values should be taught at school. Others disagree. The term “values” could mean standards or principles, ideas or beliefs that influence the behavior and way of life (moral values, respect to the elders, etc.). An educational journal has created a blog where secondary education graduates can state their views on the matter.

WRITE a text (200 words) to be posted signed as “graduate B”.

- Say which values you consider to be important and why.
- Discuss the role of the school in the formation of these values.
- Give an example of how “values” could be integrated in school life (e.g. school subjects, debates, etc.)

That is the end of the test