

Choose one topic from the list (or think of one yourself):

- 1 Plastic: why we love it
- 2 Plastic: why it is a problem
- 3 The Great Pacific Garbage Patch
- 4 Plastic degradation: effects on marine life and humans
- 5 The Ocean Clean Up Foundation
- 6 Ban the bag: European ban on plastic bags
- 7 Ban the bead: UK ban on microbeads in cosmetics
- 8 Dirty laundry: plastic microfibres in clothes
- 9 Solutions: bioplastics, natural fibres
- 10 Solutions: prevention (& tips for everyday life)
- 11 Solutions: raising awareness
- 12 Solutions: legislation

Start by making a framework (a preparation web of keywords and ideas) for your presentation. You can use your notes from Assignment 56. Of course, you may also use information that you have just read in the article, or do some more research on the Internet.

Make sure your presentation has:

- 1 a goal Do you want to provide information, entertain, or persuade your audience?
- 2 an introduction Start your presentation in a way that grabs the attention of your listeners straight away, for example by using a funny anecdote.
- 3 an outline Try not to read out your presentation. Make a prompt card with keywords to structure your talk.
- 4 a conclusion

Practise your presentation at least once. Focus on questions that may be asked by your classmates.

Assignment 61

Speaking

15



Hold your talk in a small group. You should be able to answer questions! Alternatively, record your presentation and send it to your teacher.



Web task

Do you want to find out more about the topic of the article? Go to www.waspreporter.nl for a web task.

Life after man ★★★

pages 22-23

Reading • Exam Training • Language Organiser • Speaking

Assignment 62

Pre-reading

10



Step 1

Before reading the article 'Life after man', decide (individually)

when the following would occur if there were no more humans – after: 2 days – 7 days – 1 year – 3 years – 20 years – 300 years – 100,000 years – 10,000,000 years.

- a Bronze sculptures are still recognisable, as are the faces on Mount Rushmore. Life still thrives on Earth, but in new forms.
- b CO₂ in the atmosphere returns to pre-industrial levels. Microbes evolve to biodegrade plastic. Plutonium bombs made during the age of humans become safe to handle.
- c Fuel runs out at the emergency generators that pump coolant into nuclear power plants. Approximately 450 reactors around the world begin to melt down.
- d Human head and body lice go extinct, while cockroaches in cities at temperate latitudes freeze to death. Domestic and farm animals perish in enormous numbers.
- e Most of the world's bridges fall. Dams silt up and overflow, washing away entire cities. Suburbs become forests as endangered species rebound.
- f The Panama Canal closes, rejoining North and South America. Many crops disappear, outcompeted by wild varieties.
- g The pipes burst in colder regions, flooding cities with water. Buildings lose structural integrity as they expand and contract with temperature changes.
- h Without active maintenance and pumping, New York City's subways flood with water and become impassable.

Step 2

Now compare your findings with a partner. Try to agree on what would happen when.

Step 3

Having established this post-apocalyptic timeline as a pair, check it in a larger group.

Assignment 63

Exam Training

30



Your teacher will give you the multiple-choice questions that go with this article.

Assignment 64

Language Organiser

10



A

Below you will find a list of, possibly unfamiliar or unknown, words taken from the text. They are listed in the order in which they appear. Write down in the right-hand column whether you knew this word or not (add + or –). If it is a word you do not know the meaning of, look it up. You need to know all the meanings for assignment B.

1	epoch	
2	cataclysms	
3	magnitude	
4	vacate	

5	reclamation	
6	contaminated	
7	thriving	
8	abundant	
9	decimated	
10	evolve	
11	ancestors	
12	predators	
13	accelerate	
14	emit	
15	affect	
16	pockmarked	
17	devastating	
18	evacuation	
19	demolition	
20	reassuring	
21	legacies	
22	indistinguishable	
23	outlived	
24	launched	
25	inflating	

B

Complete the sentences, using words from the list above. You may have to change their forms in order for them to fit the sentence.

- The development of the steam engine marked an important ... in the history of industry.
- The coming of factories had already had a(n) ... effect on the lives of many.
- It not only ... the work they did, but also the private lives they led.
- ... rural communities had disappeared because people had started to work in factories more and more.
- All in all, the Industrial Revolution was a change of a(n) ... seldom seen before.
- One of its ... is that cities have grown bigger and some villages have become ghost towns.
- When the first personal computers were ... another era began.
- This process has only ... with the arrival of the Internet.
- The number of jobs in some industries has ...
- However, it is ... that nature and man are both adaptive to new circumstances.

Assignment 65

Reading

10



Below you see six possible courses of events which could lead to the demise of man. Match them with the correct title.

Catastrophic caldera
Clapped-out climate
Deadly diseases

Radiation reigns
Robots rock
Rotten resistance

- Experts estimate that we'll arrive at an Artificial Intelligence (AI) as smart as a human within the next few decades. But it

won't stop there: soon the AI will be far smarter, and we'll no more be able to comprehend its thinking than a dog can comprehend ours. The likely result? Immortality, if we can keep our digital servants focused on the right goals. Or extinction, if we can't.

- The discovery of penicillin in 1928 changed the world: an infection was no longer a death sentence but a minor inconvenience. But the overprescription of antibiotics combined with the meat industry's fondness for routine antibiotic injections into healthy animals has bred an increasing number of superbugs that are immune to our strongest medicines.
- The eruption of a supervolcano, like the one below Yellowstone, could pump out so much ash that it would block out the Sun, sending the Earth into an ice age and driving huge numbers of species extinct along the way. Without the Sun's energy driving almost every natural process, humans have little hope of holding on.
- The number of nuclear-armed countries is rising. Any significant exchange of nuclear weapons would have a similar effect to the eruption of a supervolcano, with ash blocking out the Sun. A nuclear winter, combined with the radioactive fallout, would result in a world where, as former Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev once said, 'the living will envy the dead'.
- The rate at which humans are altering Earth's atmosphere is unprecedented, and will have dire consequences unless it is slowed. As the planet heats up, vast swathes of the world will become uninhabitable, leading to mass migration and conflict. Harvests will fail and the oceans will empty of fish. With nothing to eat and nowhere to live, it's hard to see us surviving for long.
- With millions of deaths chalked up to natural viruses like smallpox, influenza, HIV, and Ebola, it's unsurprising that experts see an engineered virus as one of the key existential threats to humans. The first synthetic virus was created in 2002, and with the genomes of over 3,000 viruses available online, it may only be a matter of time until one is deliberately released.

Assignment 66

Speaking

50



Present one of the scenarios from the previous assignment as the most likely way humans will come to a sticky end. Do so in a group of five, after having done the necessary research, and do so most convincingly.

Step 1

Form a group of five.

Step 2

Each of you – individually – does research into the topic you have been assigned. Find an interesting article on it and summarise it.

Step 3

Share your findings in your group.