

How do you see the future of the World?

If you agree strongly with the statement on the left, tick 1; if you agree strongly with the statement on the right, tick 5; if you are neutral between the two statements, tick 3; etc.

Group A	1	2	3	4	5	Group B
Human beings should use nature to increase economic growth						Human beings should work with nature so that economic growth is gained which sustains the earth's life support system
Environmental problems are exaggerated and can be cured by new inventions and economic growth						Environmental problems are serious now and could become more serious unless we shift towards sustainable forms of economic growth
Population should not be controlled since only people can solve the world's problems						Population should be controlled in order to prevent disruption of local, regional and global life support systems
People should have as many children as they want						People should be free to have as many children as they want only if this freedom does not infringe on the rights of others to survive
We will not run out of renewable resources because we will learn to manage them better or find substitutes						In many areas potentially renewable resources are already seriously degraded; there are no substitutes for the earth's topsoils, grasslands, forests, fisheries and wildlife
We will not run out of non-renewable resources because we can find more, mine less concentrated deposits or find substitutes						We may not find substitutes for some non-renewable resources and substitutes may take too long to phase in without causing economic hardship
Economic growth and new technologies can reduce resource depletion, pollution and environmental degradation to acceptable levels						Because of high rates of resource use and unnecessary waste, more developed countries are causing unacceptable regional and global resource depletion, pollution and environmental degradation.
Economic growth can be achieved by nuclear power, oil, coal, and natural gas						Economic growth can be achieved through energy conservation (perpetual solar, wind and flowing water) and sustainable use of potentially renewable biomass such as wood and crop wastes
Recycling, reuse and reducing unnecessary resource waste are good ideas but should not limit economic growth						Reducing unnecessary resource waste is essential for the health of the earth and long term economic productivity; non-renewable resources will last longer, renewable resource stocks can recover and the environmental impact of resource exploitation can be minimized
The earth's plants and animals exist to serve our needs						The earth's plants and animals are potentially renewable resources that should be used only on a sustainable basis to meet vital needs, not frivolous wants
Pollution control should not interfere with economic growth which provides funds for pollution control						Inadequate pollution control damages people and other forms of life and reduces long term economic productivity
Polluters should be given government subsidies and tax breaks to install pollution control equipment						Polluters should pay for reducing pollution to acceptable levels, goods and services should include the costs of pollution control so that the customers will know the effects of what they buy and use
We should emphasise reducing pollution in the environment						We should emphasise preventing pollution from entering the environment
Waste materials should be burned, dumped or buried						Waste materials should be regarded as resources to be recycled or reused.
ADD UP THE TICKS IN EACH COLUMN						
MULTIPLY THE NUMBER OF TICKS BY THE SCORE FOR THAT COLUMN						ie. Ticks in column 1 x 1, in column 2 x 2, in column 3 x 3, column 4 x 4, column 5 x 5.
ADD UP YOUR TOTAL SCORE						WHAT IS YOUR VIEW OF THE WORLD?

How do you see the future of the World? Interpretation sheet

Less than 35:

If you scored less than 35 you tend to agree with the statements in Group A. You believe that if present trends continue, economic growth and technological advances will produce a less crowded, healthier world with less pollution and more resources. Those who disagree with you may call you, derogatively, a “Cornucopian”. The name means: “horn of plenty”.

Cornucopians think that **Neo-Malthusians** are “doom and gloom pessimists”. **Neo-Malthusians** call **Cornucopians** “unrealistic technological optimists”.

People of either view can be either optimistic or pessimistic. Optimistic Neo-Malthusians work hard towards persuading people to change their lifestyles to reduce pressure on the natural environment and to achieve greater social justice at a global scale. Optimistic Cornucopians work hard towards developing new technological solutions to global issues. Pessimists on both sides probably sit back and do nothing!

Over 49

If you scored over 49, you tend to agree with the statements in Group B. You believe that if current trends continue, the world will become more crowded and polluted, and many resources will become exhausted. This will lead to greater social and political turmoil as the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. You may be described as a “**neo-Malthusian**” after the Reverend Thomas Malthus, an 18th C. cleric and economist who believed that population would eventually outgrow food supplies and would be brought back into balance only by starvation, war and disease.

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Between 35 and 49

If you scored over between 35 and 49, you are neutral between the two extremes and will probably examine each issue on its own merits.