



# Environment and Conservation

Note-taking: urban tree planting | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0510/0511

## 1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you read.

1. Where are trees most needed in a city?
2. How can trees improve life in hot weather?
3. What problems can tree-planting projects face?
4. Should local residents help look after new trees?

### Exercise 3 at a glance

In this activity, you will read one factual text and complete notes using information from the text. In the exam, this task is usually worth 7 marks. This practice version includes extra notes to help you build confidence. Use short words or phrases from the text, not your own ideas.

## 2. Read for overall understanding

Read the text. Why do some towns plant more street trees?

### Urban Tree Planting

Some towns plant more street trees to provide shade, improve air quality and make streets more pleasant. Trees can be especially important in areas with wide roads, little green space and many hard surfaces. During hot weather, shaded pavements may feel cooler and more comfortable for pedestrians.

Tree planting can also support wildlife. Birds may use branches for shelter, while insects feed on flowers or leaves. In some streets, trees are planted near rain gardens, which collect water after heavy rain. This can reduce pressure on drains and help prevent small floods.

Choosing the right tree matters. Planners need species that can survive pollution, limited soil and dry summers. They must also avoid roots damaging pavements or blocking underground pipes. Residents may be asked to water young trees during the first few years, when the roots are still shallow.

Not everyone supports tree planting immediately. Some drivers worry about losing parking spaces, and shop owners may fear that branches will hide signs. For this reason, councils often hold public meetings and explain where trees will be planted. When communities are involved early, new trees are more likely to be protected and valued.

Tree projects often begin with a survey of the street. Planners check sunlight, underground services, traffic flow and the distance from buildings. They may also ask residents where shade is most needed during hot weather. This information helps them avoid planting trees in places where they will quickly die or cause arguments. A successful project depends on choosing the right place as much as choosing the right species.

Maintenance is just as important as planting day. Young trees may need watering, support posts and protection from damage. If they are forgotten after the first publicity event, the project can fail before the trees are large enough to provide shade.

Schools can use tree planting as a local research project. Students might map hot areas, count existing trees or interview residents about shade. This makes environmental learning connected to streets they actually use.

Residents may also be invited to name or adopt a tree. This small act can make people feel responsible for protecting it.

If residents understand these benefits, they are more likely to water young trees and report damage before a small problem becomes serious. This shared care can help the project last.

### 3. Strategy focus

#### Keep benefits and maintenance separate

Environmental texts often include benefits and care routines. Make sure a maintenance detail is not copied as a benefit.

### 4. Practice note-taking task

Complete the notes using information from the text. Use short words or phrases from the text. Do not add your own ideas.

Notes	Write short answers
Benefits of street trees	- ..... - ..... - .....
Support for wildlife and drainage	- ..... - ..... - .....
Choosing suitable trees	- ..... - ..... - .....
Concerns and community involvement	- ..... - ..... - .....

### 5. Vocabulary notebook

Underline five useful words or phrases from the text. Check their meaning, then record them in your vocabulary notebook.

### 6. Follow-up tasks

1. Discussion: Where would tree planting help most in your area?
2. Strategy: Choose three answers and explain why a nearby detail would be too broad or too specific.
3. Writing: Write a short proposal for planting trees near a school.
4. Vocabulary: Circle words and phrases connected to climate, pollution and local areas.

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## 2. Read for overall understanding

Suggested answer: to provide shade, improve air quality and make streets more pleasant.

## 4. Practice note-taking task

### Benefits of street trees

- provide shade
- improve air quality
- make streets more pleasant

### Support for wildlife and drainage

- birds may use branches for shelter
- insects feed on flowers or leaves
- reduce pressure on drains

### Choosing suitable trees

- survive pollution
- limited soil / survive limited soil
- dry summers / survive dry summers

### Concerns and community involvement

- losing parking spaces
- branches will hide signs / hide signs
- hold public meetings / public meetings

## Notes for checking

This is an extended practice version of the IGCSE ESL note-taking task. The live exam normally has fewer marks, but this version includes extra notes to build confidence and selection skills.

Accept short phrases that keep the same meaning.

Learners should avoid copying a whole sentence if a shorter note answers the heading.

Some answers need more than one or two words, especially when the key detail is a phrase.