

91279R



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

QUALIFY FOR THE FUTURE WORLD
KIA NOHO TAKATŪ KI TŌ ĀMUA AO!

Level 2 Social Studies 2022

91279 Demonstrate understanding of conflict(s) arising from different cultural beliefs and ideas

Credits: Four

RESOURCE BOOKLET

Refer to this booklet to answer the questions for Social Studies 91279.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–10 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

YOU MAY KEEP THIS BOOKLET AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

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THE NATURE AND CAUSE OF THE CONFLICT SURROUNDING THE SPACE TOURISM INDUSTRY

INTRODUCTION

Space travel has long been a source of fascination and pride in the achievements of humans. Until recently, it's been funded by governments. However, 2021 saw a huge increase in private space travel by amateur astronauts – what once had been the field of highly trained professionals is now within the reach of billionaires.

The emergence of space tourism for the extremely wealthy has led some to question whether humanity would be better served using the funds for these flights to solve some of the current environmental and humanitarian issues facing planet Earth.

Others, however, can see large profits and business opportunities arising from developing space travel. They argue that the 'resource wars' that cause humanitarian and ecological conflicts can be solved by accessing the resources and technology that the development of space exploration will afford.

RESOURCE A: The quest to make space the next tourist destination

Until now, only very few humans had made it to the upper reaches of Earth's atmosphere and beyond. Now it seems that anyone who is wealthy enough to buy tickets can do it.

The arguments for space travel are broadly that:

- The view from space gives a new perspective on Earth and may make people more supportive of protecting it.
- [REDACTED]
- The resources found in space and exporting heavy industry into space may lessen competition for resources and pollution on Earth.

The arguments against space travel are broadly that:

- We already have images of Earth from space – we don't need to go to space to appreciate Earth's uniqueness.
- [REDACTED]
- If humanity cannot resolve ecological and humanitarian issues on Earth, why export those same problems elsewhere?

POINTS OF VIEW, VALUES, AND PERSPECTIVES OF THE INDIVIDUALS/GROUPS INVOLVED IN THE CONFLICT

Relevant social studies perspectives

Economics	A branch of knowledge concerned with the production, consumption, and transfer of wealth.
Environmentalist	A person who believes in looking after and protecting the environment, and wants to find ways of living sustainably for the future of the planet.
Humanitarian	A person who believes in supporting the welfare of all people, and wants to improve the living conditions of those living in poverty.

RESOURCE B: Who is involved?

Billionaires blasted

The competition between billionaires with a lust for space travel and a desire to win the space race has left Warren Gunnels, Senior Policy Advisor for US Senator Bernie Sanders, distinctly unimpressed.



Climate sacrifices undermined by space tourism

Dr Eloise Marais, Associate Professor of Physical Geography at University College London, studies the impact of fossil fuels and industries on the atmosphere. She and a research fellow in her group have been running a decade-long simulation to figure out if emissions from rockets could compete with traditional sources.



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

“There really needs to be an international effort to develop regulation to at least mitigate the impact this nascent [emerging] industry could have on the atmosphere.”

Could space launches have a positive impact on the environment?

Jeff Bezos has said the experience of shooting himself into space in 2021 brought a newfound appreciation for tackling the climate crisis here on Earth, and suggested sending “all polluting industry” into orbit following his rocket trip.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

“We have to build a road to space so that our kids and their kids can build a future,” he said.

Space tourism is a great way for billionaires to spend their money

Dale Skran, Senior Vice President / Chief Operating Officer of the US National Space Society (NSS), is a strong advocate for space tourism, stating in a 2021 opinion piece: “Those people with their hair on fire over Richard Branson’s ride to space often claim that there is something particularly pointless and even evil about space tourism as a way to spend money. In fact, the truth is quite the opposite. Space tourism has all the real benefits of any other industry that caters mainly to the rich, such as yacht construction and operation. These industries employ large numbers doing real, well paid, honest work, e.g. building yachts. Space tourism holds out the same promise, but more so, since as space tourism drives down launch costs, all space resources become more potentially available to a mass market. The real benefit of space tourism comes when it has driven down launch costs to the point that inexpensive clean energy from space is available pollution-free everywhere on Earth”.

SOCIAL FORCES THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE CONFLICT, AND THEIR EFFECTS

RESOURCE C: Economics of business interests

The next big adventure

Space tourism has come a long way since 1967 when Barron Hilton, then president of Hilton Hotels, described his vision for a hotel on the moon.




That's because tourists have always pushed boundaries, seeking new places and experiences. You see this playing out in how people are choosing to travel. According to the book *Leisure and Aging*, "Adventure tourism is one of the fastest-growing segments of the tourism market. It has become so popular that approximately 100 million adults have chosen vacations that are classified as soft adventure." Space tourism is a logical next step for this growing trend.



The commercial space age is here.

In addition to adding another outlet for thrill seekers, space tourism offers a new way to boost the world's economy. According to a report conducted by the World Travel & Tourism Council, tourism generated \$7.2 trillion (9.8 per cent of the global gross domestic product) and provided 284 million jobs – for a total of one out of every 11 jobs on the planet in 2015. There's every reason to believe that commercial space travel will have a similar impact on the economy.



While risks remain, it is fair to assume that space tourism has further to travel before it becomes the affordable domain of the middle class. But once it does, be ready for a stellar adventure.



RESOURCE D: Environmentalism and public opinion

A terrible time to leave Earth



Space billionaires, please read the room – no one cares who you beat to space.

After Jeff Bezos announced that he would join the first crewed flight by his rocket company, Blue Origin, in 2021, Richard Branson just couldn't let himself be outdone. So Branson joined the crew of his next Virgin Galactic flight, nine days before Bezos went vertical.



To their credit, Branson has proposed a climate dividend, while Bezos has pledged to spend \$10 billion on climate efforts. But given what humanity has been through in the past couple of years, what are they thinking?

A publicity disaster

A handful of billionaires spent 2021 blasting into space. But a growing public backlash against their extravagance could curb the future of space tourism. More than three quarters of people in the UK think wealthy individuals, such as Jeff Bezos, Elon Musk, and Richard Branson, “should focus their resources on problems facing Earth, like climate change, before space travel”, according to a new study.



Public opinion has raised questions about space tourism. Is it morally acceptable? Is it simply too damaging to the environment? These questions may or may not harm space tourism in the long run, but they have encouraged rocket companies to consider ways to address these concerns.

Saving Earth should come before space tourism

Speaking about the current space race and the drive to promote space tourism, Prince William said: “We need some of the world’s greatest brains and minds fixed on trying to repair this planet, not trying to find the next place to go and live.”



William told the BBC’s Adam Fleming in an interview on the Newscast podcast that he had “absolutely no interest” in going as high as space, adding there was a “fundamental question” over the carbon cost of space flights.



The BBC’s Adam Fleming interviews Prince William.

Acknowledgements

Material from the following sources has been adapted for use in this examination (accessed 25 March 2022).

Resource A

Page 3: <https://theconversation.com/space-travel-for-billionaires-is-the-surprise-topic-with-bipartisan-american-support-but-not-from-gen-z-165309>
<https://www.oxfam.org.nz/news-media/billionaires-blast-into-space-as-billions-suffer-on-planet-earth/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RrQcVHzU1h4>

Resource B

Pages 4 and 5: <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2021/jul/20/bezos-space-travel-blue-origin-amazon-criticism> (text and image)
<https://www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/news-events/news/climate-sacrifices-undermined-by-space-tourism-says-dr-eloise-marais> (text)
<https://news.knowledia.com/GB/en/articles/jeff-bezos-calls-for-moving-all-polluting-industry-into-space-after-e9f02b6b99f16132706fc90a665c09391eb1175f> (text)
<https://www.independent.co.uk/climate-change/jeff-bezos-space-pollution-amazon-b1887510.html> (text)
<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/21/business/space-tourism-climate-change.html> (text)
<https://space.nss.org/why-space-tourism/> (text)

Resource C

Pages 6 and 7: <https://www.ucf.edu/pegasus/space-tourism/> (text)
<https://hbr.org/2021/02/the-commercial-space-age-is-here> (image)

Resource D

Pages 7, 8, and 9: <https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2021/07/space-billionaires-jeff-bezos-richard-branson/619383/> (text and image)
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/oliverwilliams1/2021/12/21/billionaire-space-race-turns-into-a-publicity-disaster/?sh=16a93de45e4d> (text)
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-58903078> (text and image)

