Save the Earth—Buy Less
English 79 Practice Mastery Exam

You have 90 minutes to plan, write, and proofread an essay in response to one of the following prompts. Take some time to make a plan of what you want to say BEFORE you start writing by completing the outline on the back of this sheet. Leave some time at the end of the period to proofread. Your essay should introduce the subject and answer the question with specifics and examples. You may cross out and add information as necessary. Although what you say is more important than how much you say, you will want to write a complete essay rather than a few short paragraphs. Use ink, double space, and write as legibly as possible. Good luck!

Answer one of these two prompts. Format your paper as follows:

Mastery Topic #___

Your name

Your Title

Prompt #1

Jared Blumenfeld points out, “China will overtake the United States next year to become the world’s largest producer of greenhouse gases. China and the United States together emit 40 percent of the planet’s carbon dioxide, according to the International Energy Agency.” The fact of two huge countries producing so much of the world’s polluting gases naturally leads people to be concerned about our responsibility to future generations to leave the world in a livable, sustainable condition. Some believe the responsibility for a better planet lies with individual action. Others believe that the responsibility lies with the government, specifically the President, Congress, and agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency. Still others believe all must work together if our planet is to survive.

The problem of global warming is a giant one, and many believe it is too great a problem for an individual to have any effect on it for the better. However, some people believe that one person can make a difference. In a complete essay, name three actions that an individual might take to make a difference. Then tell why these actions can contribute to making our planet a “greener” place to live.

Prompt #2

“Americans have become deeply addicted to consuming. If it’s cool, if it’s trendy, if it’s shiny, we buy it,” according to Jared Blumenfeld. As a result, we Americans live in a disposable culture. We replace our phones, our televisions, our computers, and our music systems with different types and kinds as soon as they become available. And many of us buy a new or newer car long before our old one wears out without giving much thought to how our consumer culture contributes to the destruction of the environment.

In a complete essay, using reasons and examples, name the kind of unnecessary products that you or someone you know buys, explain why you or someone you know buys these products, and then discuss what kind of lifestyle change regarding these consumer goods could be made for the sake of a better future environment.
Prompt # _____

___________________________________________________________

My thesis

Major supporting details:

1. ____________________________________________________________

2. ____________________________________________________________

3. ____________________________________________________________