Year 9 Geography Essay: National Parks

Introduction:
Description of a National Park and it's Purpose
National Parks are huge area of country land, which are found in many countries around the world. They are well protected and usually consist of animals, wildlife and landscapes. National Parks have spectacular landscapes with mountains, moor land and woodland but mostly farmed landscapes in which many people live and work. Also they contain traditional industries including forestry, quarrying and water catchments. They aim to let people go there, at a price, and observe the natural beauty and maybe have a nice peaceful holiday, used for sports and maybe hobbies. On there holidays they may go camping, riding on bikes or just walk and relax to see the beautiful site. There are school parties that come over and observe the wildlife and it's animals as an educational course.
National Parks were built or introduced by Bill in the House of Commons in 1949. They were built, so the uninhabited and urban areas of natural scenery could be protected. They were to be a park of countryside for people to visit and to preserve the natural beauty of the countryside, it's landscapes with mountains, moor land, woodland, towns or villages, and jobs. They were also built for people to observe the wildlife and people going there for a particular sport competition or just for a hobby and also to foster the local communities that live there and for people to work and earn money.

The Environment Act of 1995 clearly said the uses of National Parks as:
- Conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage
- Promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of their special qualities.

This table is to show the percentage of what activities people do on a day trip and on holiday:

Activity	Activities during Visit	
	Day Trip (%)	On Holiday (%)
Stroll\Short Walk	33	33
Hiking (2 hours or more)	59	86
Sightseeing (in car)	52	70
Sightseeing (on foot)	61	74
Picnic\Buy Food	81	100
Relax\Sat Around	22	20
Shopping	25	41
Visit Information Centre	19	42
Visit Historic Attraction	20	44
Nature: Study/Bird Watching	21	31
Sports/hobbies	19	29

Main Body:
Problems and Solutions that National Parks Face
Problems: There are many problems that National Parks face that make them bad and also cause problems with the wildlife and the local community. These are the main problems that National Parks face:

Soil erosion- damage to the ground so it wears away and cause the soil to be destroyed. This problem is caused from mountain bikes, walker's feet (increased numbers every year), 4x4 cars that are off the road to explore, and climbers.

Second homes (dormitory villages)- they are homes where a family would live there when they are on holiday if there not used at a particular time. They are homes to be rented out. The problem is that when they aren't used other people how are on holiday need to use it even though somebody else has rented it out when there not using it.

Littering- when people are having a snack and not depositing the trash into the bin but leave it on the ground where it can grow diseases, which sometimes animals eat, and many get sick. A lot of tourists do litter which is bad causing diseases and can cause soils and different terrain to rot.

Transport (traffic jams caused by cars)- There are many people using the car around 95%, which causes congestion in the car parks and on the motorway, and also traffic jams. There are only 5% of people that use another sort of transport to travel to a national park. Too many cars on the road and a lot of people come in to late to the park.

Noise pollution- This pollution is when people, usually tourists, speak loudly in a peaceful countryside, which disturbs other people and the animals around there. This doesn't blend in with the peaceful and quiet way of the parks and disobeying the rules (The Environment Act).

Overcrowding- This is when there are to many people come to the countryside and this causes overcrowding meaning to be full of people and extra then expected. Also it usually means when everybody stays in one position at the same time, which causes congestion.

Farmers- This problem is when tourists usually, walk around and cause conflicts with the farmers. They leave the gates open, they trample on the crops, dogs worry the sheep, and some walls are broken down. This makes the farmers upset and angry.

Mountain Biking- This problem is similar to soil erosion because it means people who ride bikes don't keep to the paths and ride of onto the crops and terrain, which causes the crops to die out and also it breaks the terrain around the paths. Also the paths and rocks get worn out because of the tyres of the bike scrap against them.

Over fishing- This is not a huge problem but it could be a huge problem in the future. The problem is when fishermen, (people who catch fish), fish too much and catch to many fish which is unnecessary and one day it may make fish extent or rare.

Dogs off leads- This problem is to do with tourists, who own dogs, let them off leads and let them roam around the place. This is bad because most dogs are not well trained and because of that they trample onto gardens people own, who live there and onto the farmers crops. Also the dogs do a lot of excrement on farmer's grounds, which causes diseases and it can course the crops to die out.

There are many more and these are the others I think are also major problems:
- ⇨ Air pollution
- ⇨ Rock climbing (damage to rock surface)
- ⇨ Oil pollution
- ⇨ Moss (damage to the wildlife)

Solutions: Here are some solutions to 5 problems that National Parks face:

Soil erosion- There are many ways to solve this problem and these ones I think could be successful:
- Stronger paths, which could be made using stone or artificial materials.
- Make hard surfaced tracks along broken or disused railway lines, which could provide another walking route as well as routes for cyclists and horse riders.
- Enlarge or build bigger car parks and visitor facilities, maybe build more around the place. This would be useful because when visitors see a car park or a visitors centre it can help them to spread there concentration over a wider area and give them a rough idea what paths to take and how to keep them safe.
- Put up boards saying 'please do not erode the soil' or 'ask people for help, usually rangers' and maybe 'please take a leaflet' for help to keep the soil clean and not eroded.
- Maybe give detail in leaflets, how to keep the soil from being eroded.
- Information signs, such as signs showing open access, where walkers can stroll off the public footpaths.

Transport (traffic jams caused by cars)- This problem is a big problem and these are my solutions to the traffic caused with people travelling by car:
- The tourists should use another sort of transport such as trains, aeroplanes (rarely), or buses. The roads then should be used only for commuter route.
- Charge more for car parks, or for some parks they should start charging so then the tourists would get annoyed to pay each time and may not take the same transport.
- Small separated car parks that can make people who travel by car separated so they come in different directions to a particular car park.
- They could band 4x4 cars to ride around the parks or even come in to the parks.
- Have restricted parking
- Make cycle access easier around the routes to a national park so more people would travel by bike.
- Have many cheap park and rides for people to travel by bus to a national park and that is a form of advertising.
- They could let all people come to parks but limit the activities they can do there.

Littering- tourists causes problems with trash by throwing it on the flour, which can grow diseases and this is bad. These are my solutions:
- Place signs up to say, 'no littering', or 'please place you trash in the bin'
- You cold charge people for littering, like they do in America and so they won't do it again.

- As animals can catch diseases, you could keep them well protected with stronger barriers to keep them away.
- Add a extra amount of money to the money tourists pay to come in because this will act as a littering fine so if they do litter you've already paid the fine before.
- Employ people to clean up the litter or if a park has some then employ more to pick the mess up and you could have rangers to see who litters and tell them to bin it.

Overcrowding- There are solutions to overcrowding and these are my solutions to the problem:
- Have more activities in the park and maybe extend on some buildings.
- Have tours around parks so then the people how are visiting can go around everywhere and not to stay in the same place for hours.
- Different or more entrances and exits so then everybody wont have to come out of the same gate.
- Make parks more organised, like to add an information centre so people would know where to go and so everybody won't stay in the same position.
- Raise the prices and so not to many people come to the park.

Dogs off leads- There are a few solutions to this problem because the dogs are not like humans, how to control yourself, and so these are my solutions:
- You could make stronger collars for dogs but that is not a good idea but the national parks could provide collars, safe and reliable ones, to keep the dogs under control.
- You could put signs up to say that 'dogs are not aloud to trespass this property' and maybe 'please keep dogs on leads'.
- They should provide poop-a-scoops and bins so then the owners can clean up the dog's excrement.

Conclusion:
What the Future Holds
I think in the future, the conflicts will still carry on because nothing will be perfect. Tourists may not obey with the rules National Parks may plan because it is only a holiday resort and you shouldn't get treated like a prisoner. A lot of problems national parks face and their solutions sometimes don't always work because tourists still don't obey. One day they could teach the people how to properly behave. The tourists don't deserve to roam around the place destroying crops and field, people throwing rocks at animals and just being very unrespectable to the beautiful landscapes. So in the future, well, they should tell people what to do and what not to do, maybe this advice in leaflets. As national parks are huge honey-pot sites, they earn a lot of money every year and this money could go to repairing the landscapes and the crops, wildlife and paths. Also the money can go into buying rangers or educators to educate people, again how to use the park safely. One day the national parks will be totally improved with the money coming every year and so maybe the conflicts and problems the national parks face could be over.