



**Concours GCN/GIN/A2GP session 2025**

**Composition : Anglais 2**

**Durée : 2 Heures**

**Consignes pour les candidats**

Merci de ne rien marquer sur le sujet.

**Small electric cars were said to be the future – but SUVs now rule the road**

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1. Across the globe more and more Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs) are being spotted on – and off – the roads. This is despite predictions from the United Nations of an inevitable pivot towards smaller and more environmentally friendly vehicles because of the urgency of the climate crisis and the rising cost of living.
2. That pivot has not materialised: globally, 54% of the cars sold in 2024 were SUVs, including petrol, diesel, hybrids and electric makes. This is an increase of three percentage points from 2023 and five percentage points from the year before, according to [GlobalData](#). Of the SUVs which are now on the road – both new and older models – 95% are burning fossil fuels, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA). Manufacturers, however, say their new fleets of such cars are increasingly becoming electric, and that not all SUVs now being sold cause an increase in emissions.
3. SUVs are hard to miss. They are heavy and larger with spacious interiors, higher ground clearance and a high driving position with a better view of the road, although smaller versions are also on the market. Environmental campaigners such as Greenpeace see SUVs as one of the villains of the climate crisis and argue that their manufacturing consumes significant resources given their size. Experts also say they require larger batteries to power their electric versions, which then further increases the demand for critical minerals, putting even more pressure on the planet.
4. Momentum was thought to be with smaller, energy-efficient electric vehicles. But the sales of standard-sized electric vehicles (EVs) has actually decreased in major markets such as Japan and Germany, and their sales growth has slowed in India. And in Europe, sales of SUVs have outpaced those of EVs despite indications more than half a decade ago of an opposite trend. In Europe in 2018, 3.27 million small hatchbacks – both those powered by fossil fuels and those by electricity – were sold while 2.13 million were sold in 2024, according to [GlobalData](#).
5. Industry experts say people's purchasing power has been improving in many fast-emerging economies, making SUVs the likelier choice of car. Automobile industry analysts also say that manufacturers are attracted to high profit margins from SUVs: they can make more money from SUVs even though they make fewer vehicles.
6. Because of the robust growth in SUVs sales, the IEA says oil consumption of these vehicles has increased by 600,000 barrels per day globally between 2022 and 2023, accounting for more than a quarter of the total annual rise in global oil demand. The IEA says that even when compared to medium-sized cars that run on petrol and diesel, SUVs burn 20% more of such fuels as they weigh up to 300 kg more on average.

7. In fact, road transport is responsible for more than 12% of global carbon emissions which is the main driver of global warming. Scientists say all sectors must rapidly decarbonise if we are to avoid a climate catastrophe. Overall, the back-gear towards SUVs, some experts say, has caused a significant setback in the decarbonisation of the transport sector.

*Adapted from BBC World Service*

### **A. Comprehension check**

*Give answers to the following question in your own words. Do not copy the text blindly. The use of three (3) words in sequence extracted from the text will be strongly penalised,*

1. What was the prediction of the United Nation about the use of cars in relation to the climate crisis?
2. Why are small cars mostly preferred by climate conscious people?
3. Explain the sentence: 'That pivot has not materialised: globally, 54% of the cars sold in 2024 were SUVs, including petrol, diesel, hybrids and electric makes'
4. What is driving this SUV growth despite being considered as 'one of the villains of the climate crisis'?
5. Why is the increase in the use of SUVs an issue for climate campaigners?

### **B. Vocabulary Check**

*I. Find words in the text that are closest in meaning to the following definitions*

- 1) Shift or change of direction in response to new information or circumstances. (Paragraph 1 line 3)
- 2) Something that happens or applies in all parts of the world (Paragraph 2 line 1)
- 3) A brand of car (Paragraph 2 line 2)
- 4) Individuals or groups of people who actively work to promote or oppose a particular cause, idea, or political agenda (Paragraph 3 line 3)
- 5) Characters who are portrayed as the antagonists or the "bad guys" and engage in actions that harm others. (Paragraph 3 line 4)
- 6) To present reasons or evidence in support of or against something (Paragraph 3 line 4)
- 7) Individuals who have a high level of knowledge, skill, or experience in a particular area or subject (Paragraph 3 line 5)
- 8) A rise or growth in quantity, size, value, or degree. (Paragraph 4 line 1)
- 9) The desire or need for a product, service, or resource, and the willingness and ability to pay for it (Paragraph 6 line 4)
- 10) An event or situation that causes a delay, problem, or obstacle in achieving progress (Paragraph 7 line 4)

*II. Each of the following sentences has one word missing. Based on exercise 2, find the missing word in the reading text and provide it in the gap to make a full sentence.*

- 1) Climate change is a problem that affects us all.....

- 2) There is a growing ..... for renewable energy sources as concerns about climate change rise.
- 3) ..... in the field of medicine are working tirelessly to find a cure for the disease.
- 4) The ..... rallied in the streets to raise awareness about environmental issues.
- 5) Despite facing ..... in their journey, they never gave up on their dreams.
- 6) There was a noticeable ..... in sales after the new product launch.
- 7) The company has finally agreed for a ..... in its strategy after the market shifted.
- 8) They often ..... about the best way to solve the problem, but eventually reach a solution.
- 9) The dusty roads once echoed with the hum of old car ..... like Plymouth, Studebaker, and DeSoto, now long forgotten and no longer in use.
- 10) In many fairy tales, the ..... are defeated by the heroes in the end.

### C. Grammar check

I. Give the comparative of the following adjectives in the text

- 1) Electric cars are ..... (harmful) to the environment than gasoline-powered vehicles.
- 2) Wind power is..... (cheap) many fossil fuels in terms of long-term environmental impact.
- 3) Renewable energy sources are ..... (green) traditional power sources like coal.
- 4) The effects of climate change are becoming ..... (severe) each year.
- 5) Methane is a ..... (potent) greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide over short periods.

II. Put the verbs between brackets in the appropriate tense in this story about Greta Thunberg

Greta Thunberg 1) ..... (start) her climate strike in August 2018 by protesting outside the Swedish parliament. She 2) ..... (hold) a sign that said "School Strike for Climate," which quickly gained attention. Over time, she 3) ..... (inspire) millions of young people to take action for the climate. Greta 4) ..... (speak) at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2019, calling for urgent action. She 5) ..... (meet) with world leaders, urging them to take stronger steps against climate change. Greta 6) ..... (has travel) across the world, spreading her message about environmental responsibility. She faced criticism from some political figures but 7) ..... (remain) determined. Greta 8) ..... (feature) in documentaries and media, sharing her story globally. Her activism 9) ..... (lead) to numerous protests and movements around the world. To this day, Greta 10) ..... (continue) to advocate for climate justice.

### D. Writing

I. Complete the following text with the relevant linking word from the box. Each one must be used only one time

On the one hand	Consequently	In addition	Nowadays	In conclusion
On the other hand	Firstly	Therefore	Nevertheless	

1)....., global warming is increasingly affecting cocoa farming worldwide 2) ..... , higher temperatures disrupt the growth cycle of cocoa trees, leading to lower yields. 3)....., erratic rainfall patterns make it difficult for farmers to maintain a steady production of cocoa. 4)....., farmers face challenges in ensuring a consistent supply of crops. 5)....., some regions are experiencing more frequent droughts, further stressing the plants. 6)....., these changes in weather patterns make it harder for farmers to predict harvest times. 7)....., warmer temperatures promote the spread of pests and diseases, which harm the cocoa plants. 8)....., some farmers are trying to adapt by growing cocoa at higher altitudes, where temperatures are cooler.9) ..... , urgent action is needed to protect cocoa farming from the effects of global warming. 10)....., sustainable farming practices must be developed to ensure the future of cocoa production.

II. In this description of the working of a hybrid engine 10 prepositions are missing. Find them and complete the text in the gaps provided

A hybrid engine works by combining an internal combustion engine 1) ....., an electric motor. The engine generates power 2) .....fuel, which is converted 3) .....energy. This energy is transferred 4) .....the wheels 5) .....a transmission system. When braking, energy is captured 6) .....the regenerative braking system and stored 7) .....the battery. The electric motor then powers the vehicle 8) .....using fuel, improving efficiency. The engine switches 9) .....the electric motor and combustion engine depending 10) .....driving conditions. This system reduces emissions and improves fuel economy.