

# UCAT Verbal Reasoning: Question Examples

## Passage 1

As one of the world's most vulnerable nations to the effects of global warming, Kiribati has been an active participant in international diplomatic efforts relating to climate change. Kiribati is a member of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), an intergovernmental organisation of low-lying coastal and small island countries. The main purpose of the alliance is to consolidate the voices of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to address global warming.

In November 2010, Kiribati hosted the Tarawa Climate Change Conference (TCCC) to support the president of Kiribati's initiative to hold a consultative forum between vulnerable states and their partners. The conference strove to create an enabling environment for multi-party negotiations on climate change policy and legislation. The ultimate objective of TCCC was to reduce the number and intensity of fault lines between political parties, explore elements of agreement between the parties and thereby to support Kiribati's and other parties' contribution to COP16, the UN summit on environmental issues, held in Cancun, Mexico, from the 29th of November to the 10th of December 2010.

In 2013, President Anote Tong of Kiribati described climate-change induced sea level rise as "inevitable", asserting that: "For our people to survive, then they will have to migrate. Either we can wait for the time when we have to move people en masse or we can prepare them—beginning from now ..." To this end, in 2014, President Tong finalized the purchase of a 20 km<sup>2</sup> stretch of land on Vanua Levu, one of the larger Fiji islands, 2,000 km away. The move was described by Tong as an "absolute necessity" should the nation be completely submerged under water.

**Adapted from Wikipedia:** <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kiribati>

### Question 1 (True/False/Can't tell)

Kiribati's political tactics have been successful in counteracting the impact of climate change on the island:

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Can't tell

**Correct Answer:** C

**Explanation:** The passage focuses on the efforts of Kiribati to counteract the impact of climate change in all three paragraphs, but never comments on the success of any policies. The answer is therefore that we cannot tell how successful their tactics have been.

**Question 2** (Incomplete statement)

The Tarawa Climate Change Conference of 2010 primarily sought to:

- A. Devise ideas for combating climate change
- B. Bolster the political unity of states vulnerable to climate change
- C. Prepare Kiribati's manifesto for the upcoming COP16 summit
- D. Promote the efforts of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)

**Correct Answer:** B

**Explanation:**

A is incorrect as there is no mention of any ideas for combating climate change at the TCCC

B is assuredly correct as the purpose of the conference "was to reduce the number and intensity of fault lines between political parties, explore elements of agreement," according to paragraph two.

C is incorrect, as the passage states in paragraph two that the TCCC aimed to foster political unity with other states in order to support Kiribati's contribution to COP16, not to determine what that contribution would be.

D is incorrect as, although it is reasonable to assume that the participants in AOSIS would also be participants in the TCCC – given that both cater to states vulnerable to climate change – no formal link between AOSIS and the TCCC is explicitly stated in the text.

**Question 3** (According to the passage)

According to the passage, which of these statements accurately describes Kiribati's purchase of a 20 km<sup>2</sup> stretch of land on Vanua Levu?

- A. It took place because Kiribati will certainly become uninhabitable
- B. It was personally spearheaded by President Anote Tong
- C. It consolidated President Anote Tong's assertions that contingencies for migration needed to be put into place
- D. It was the first step in a national campaign to relocate its citizens

**Correct Answer:** C

**Explanation:**

A is incorrect because the purchase of Fijian land is described in paragraph three as a contingency plan only, to be availed of "should [Kiribati] become completely submerged under water."

B is incorrect: it is noted in paragraph three that "President Tong finalized the purchase of a 20 km<sup>2</sup> stretch of land..." but this is the only involvement noted by the passage.

C is correct, according to paragraph three; the purchase of this land supported President Tong's rhetoric that "we [the government of Kiribati] can prepare [its citizens for migration]—beginning from now ..." The passage states that "to this end," the land was acquired.

D is incorrect; there is no mention in the passage of any further land acquisition and so this statement is unverifiable.

**Question 4** (Except)

This passage clearly outlines the purpose of each endeavour taken by Kiribati to combat the effects of climate change, except:

- A. Kiribati's participation in the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)
- B. Kiribati's agenda at UN climate change summit COP16
- C. The purchase of a 20 km<sup>2</sup> stretch of land on Vanua Levu
- D. The Tarawa Climate Change Conference (TCCC)

**Correct Answer:** B

**Explanation:**

For A, the purpose of Kiribati's participation in the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) is to "consolidate the voices of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to address global warming," according to paragraph one.

For B, no agenda was mentioned for Kiribati at COP16 within the passage; it is merely stated that they participated in it.

For C, the purpose of Kiribati's purchase of a 20 km<sup>2</sup> stretch of land on Vanua Levu was to house Kiribatian residents "should the nation be completely submerged under water," according to paragraph three.

For D, "the ultimate objective of TCCC was to reduce the number and intensity of fault lines between political parties, explore elements of agreement between the parties and thereby to support Kiribati's and other parties' contribution to COP16," according to paragraph two.