

TASK 1

The speaker talks about the situation in Antarctica, once uninhabitable, now a research-focused, highly politicized continent with increasing interest in regulated tourism despite environmental concerns.

1. Antarctica is the wildest, least visited continent
2. Previously uninhabitable until technology made it accessible
3. Despite its sensational landscapes, it's highly politicized due to the 1959 Antarctic Treaty
4. It is a neutral, non-militarized zone for scientific research.
5. This has led to 50 research bases, with scientists and support staff having exclusive access
6. Trips funded by taxpayers.
7. Mcmurdo Station, the largest settlement, is now polluted Even became a nuclear dump
8. Its scenic potential attracts tourists, but Tourist access is limited
9. But growing tourism interest may lead to more regulated tourism.
10. Future visitors will likely respect and preserve Antarctica's unique environment could be ambassadors.

How many did you get right?

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.

Antarctica Is the wildest continent on earth and the least visited. Others can be traversed, tamed, occupied but Antarctica was uninhabitable until the twentieth century and remained so until technology conquered the cold. Now there's no reason why people shouldn't enjoy the sensational landscape of mountains, glaciers, and islands here is the whitest snow the brightest sun the bluest sea and the clearest sky anyway.

Unfortunately though Antarctica is also the earth's most politicized continent in 1959 the Antarctic treaty established it as a neutral non militarized region to save it from international rivalry and preserve it for scientific research. An entire continent was in

effect donated to 1 profession for its exclusive use and enjoyment the outcome is controversial.

Antarctica is now dotted with some 50 national research bases many of them blocks on otherwise pristine landscape.

Access to these bases is highly prized by scientists. Demand is overwhelming since national taxpayers foot bills that can run to \$5000 a week. Polar research is the most expensive some might say overrated on us. The American base at the South Pole is expanding so fast this a supply road is being driven to it across the ice from the coastal base. McMurdo station or Mak city as it is more commonly known is the biggest settlement on the continent with the summer population of some 2000 supplied by regular flights from New Zealand.

Access to these flights is confined to scientists and support staff this is a shame because McMurdo sound beneath the smoking volcano of mount Erebus on Ross island might have been the most scenic and romantic spot in Antarctica and it was from here that various early twentieth century explorers set off on the missions to the South Pole Their frozen huts still survive along the shore and are Antarctica's only historic buildings.

Yet today the sound is polluted by construction sites and Jess emissions. For 10 years in the 19 sixties it was even used as a dump for waste from nuclear plant. Yet the chief inducement to the cleaning up of the continent has come from possible exposure to tourism which explains the continued hostility of polar scientists towards the idea. At present tourists must arrive by cruise ship but cannot stay overnight on land access is vast mostly to the islands and glasses of the peninsula nearest to South America which has the advantage of being cynically the most appealing parts of the continent. In time I seen the ban on non-science bases will crumble through sheer weight of visitor numbers.

Already a defined private company Adventure Network International has built as an astronaut on the camp in the patriot hills others will surely follow. There is not the remotest risk of these vast and glorious spaces becoming overcrowded another reason why properly regulated tourism should pollute them. Antarctica may have been the wilderness reserve of the privileged elite but I think those days are over.

A new generation of visitors will have no interest in polluting all developing this corner of the globe they will love it only for what it is Antarctica is for seeing.

Now play the recording again.