

STUDENT TEST BOOKLET

READING SECTION (40 questions)

Reading Passage 1

The world is drowning in plastic. Since its mass production began in the 1950s, plastic has become an inescapable part of modern life. Its durability, low cost, and versatility have made it a ubiquitous material in everything from packaging and construction to clothing and electronics. However, these same qualities have also turned it into a persistent and pervasive pollutant, creating a global environmental crisis that threatens ecosystems, wildlife, and human health. The sheer scale of the problem is staggering. Global plastic production has skyrocketed from a mere two million tonnes in 1950 to over 450 million tonnes annually today. Alarmingly, it is estimated that half of all plastics ever manufactured have been made in the last 20 years. A significant portion of this plastic is designed for single-use, with over 50% of plastic products being used just once and then thrown away. This throwaway culture has resulted in an enormous amount of waste, much of which is not properly managed.

Every year, an estimated 19-23 million tonnes of plastic waste leak into aquatic ecosystems, polluting lakes, rivers, and seas. This plastic debris is a major threat to marine life. Animals can become entangled in larger plastic items, leading to injury, drowning, or suffocation. Many species also mistake smaller plastic fragments for food. Ingesting plastic can cause internal injuries, blockages, and starvation. Over one in three fish caught for human consumption now contains plastic, and the presence of plastic has been documented in a wide range of marine organisms, from tiny plankton to large whales. The problem is not limited to the oceans. Plastic pollution also contaminates terrestrial environments, with plastic debris found in soils, freshwater sources, and even in the air we breathe. The long-term consequences of this widespread contamination are still not fully understood, but the potential risks to ecosystems and human health are a growing concern.

The vast majority of plastic, over 98%, is derived from fossil fuels such as oil, gas, and coal. The production of plastic is therefore a significant contributor to climate change. The entire lifecycle of plastic, from the extraction of raw materials to its refinement

and disposal, releases greenhouse gases. The refinement of plastics alone emits an estimated 184 to 213 million metric tons of greenhouse gases each year. Furthermore, when plastic waste is incinerated, it releases carbon dioxide and other harmful pollutants into the atmosphere. Landfills are also a source of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, as plastic waste slowly degrades. The connection between plastic pollution and climate change is a critical aspect of the environmental crisis we face, and it highlights the need for a more holistic approach to solving the problem.

Questions 1-13

Questions 1-6

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 1?

In boxes 1-6 on your answer sheet, write

- **TRUE** if the statement agrees with the information
 - **FALSE** if the statement contradicts the information
 - **NOT GIVEN** if there is no information on this*
1. The production of plastic has been declining in recent years.
 2. More than half of all plastic produced is used multiple times.
 3. Plastic pollution is exclusively a problem for marine ecosystems.
 4. Plastic ingestion is a major cause of death for marine animals.
 5. The full impact of plastic contamination on human health is not yet known.
 6. The primary raw material for plastic production is a renewable resource.

Questions 7-10

*Choose the correct letter, **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**.*

Write the correct letter in boxes 7-10 on your answer sheet.

1. What is the estimated annual amount of plastic waste that enters aquatic ecosystems? A. 2 million tonnes B. 19-23 million tonnes C. 184-213 million tonnes D. 450 million tonnes
2. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a way plastic harms marine life? A. Entanglement in plastic debris B. Ingestion of plastic fragments C. Exposure to

toxic chemicals in plastic D. Suffocation from plastic bags

3. What is the main reason why plastic production contributes to climate change? A. It requires a lot of energy. B. It is primarily based on fossil fuels. C. It releases methane during production. D. It pollutes the oceans.
4. The author of the passage is primarily concerned with... A. the economic benefits of plastic. B. the history of plastic production. C. the environmental crisis caused by plastic pollution. D. the chemical composition of plastic.

Questions 11-13

Complete the summary below.

*Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.*

Write your answers in boxes 11-13 on your answer sheet.

The global plastic pollution crisis is a result of the material's durability and our **11** _____. A significant amount of plastic is for single-use, and millions of tonnes of plastic waste enter our **12** _____ each year. This pollution is a serious threat to wildlife and potentially to human health. Furthermore, the production of plastic from **13** _____ is a major contributor to climate change.

Reading Passage 2

A

Addressing the global plastic pollution crisis requires a multi-faceted approach that involves individuals, corporations, and governments. While the scale of the problem can seem overwhelming, a growing number of innovative solutions are being developed and implemented around the world. These solutions range from grassroots community initiatives to high-tech international projects, all aimed at reducing the amount of plastic waste that ends up in our environment. The key to success lies in a combination of reducing our consumption of plastic, improving waste management systems, and developing new technologies to clean up existing pollution.

B

One of the most promising strategies for tackling plastic pollution is the concept of a circular economy. In a circular economy, materials are not simply used once and then thrown away. Instead, they are designed to be reused, repaired, and recycled, creating

a closed-loop system that minimizes waste and pollution. This approach requires a fundamental shift in how we produce and consume goods. For example, companies are exploring new business models based on refillable and reusable packaging, while designers are creating products that are easier to disassemble and recycle. The transition to a circular economy is a complex and long-term process, but it offers a powerful framework for a more sustainable future.

C

Technological innovation is also playing a crucial role in the fight against plastic pollution. One of the most well-known examples is The Ocean Cleanup, a non-profit organization that is developing advanced technologies to remove plastic from the world's oceans. Their systems use long, floating barriers to concentrate plastic debris, which can then be collected and removed. In addition to large-scale cleanup operations, new technologies are also being developed to improve recycling processes. For instance, chemical recycling techniques can break down plastics into their original molecular components, which can then be used to create new plastics of the same quality. These technologies have the potential to significantly increase recycling rates and reduce our reliance on virgin plastic production.

D

While technology offers exciting possibilities, policy and legislation are essential for driving systemic change. Governments around the world are beginning to take action by implementing bans on single-use plastics, such as plastic bags, straws, and cutlery. These bans have been shown to be effective in reducing plastic consumption and encouraging the use of alternatives. In addition to bans, governments can also use economic incentives, such as taxes on plastic packaging, to encourage businesses to reduce their plastic footprint. International cooperation is also crucial, as plastic pollution is a transboundary problem that requires a coordinated global response. The ongoing negotiations for a legally binding global plastics treaty are a significant step in this direction.

E

Community-led initiatives are another vital component of the solution. Across the globe, local groups are organizing beach cleanups, waste audits, and educational campaigns to raise awareness and promote behavior change. These grassroots efforts are not only helping to remove plastic from the environment but are also empowering communities to take ownership of the problem. By fostering a sense of collective

responsibility, these initiatives can create a ripple effect that inspires wider action and puts pressure on corporations and governments to do more.

F

Ultimately, individual actions, when multiplied across a large population, can have a significant impact. Simple changes in our daily habits, such as carrying a reusable water bottle, using cloth shopping bags, and avoiding products with excessive plastic packaging, can collectively reduce the demand for single-use plastics. By making more conscious choices as consumers, we can send a powerful message to businesses that we want more sustainable products and services. The journey to a plastic-free world is a long one, but it is a journey that we must all embark on together.

Questions 14-26

Questions 14-19

Reading Passage 2 has six paragraphs, A-F.

Choose the correct heading for each paragraph from the list of headings below.

Write the correct number, i-viii, in boxes 14-19 on your answer sheet.

List of Headings

i. The importance of individual contributions ii. The role of government and international agreements iii. The challenges of recycling plastic iv. A holistic approach to the problem v. Technological solutions for cleanup and recycling vi. The power of community action vii. The principles of a circular economy viii. The economic benefits of plastic reduction

1. Paragraph A
2. Paragraph B
3. Paragraph C
4. Paragraph D
5. Paragraph E
6. Paragraph F

Questions 20-23

Choose the correct letter, **A, B, C** or **D**.

Write the correct letter in boxes 20-23 on your answer sheet.

1. What is the main idea behind a circular economy? A. To increase the production of plastic B. To minimize waste by reusing and recycling materials C. To develop new technologies for plastic cleanup D. To ban all single-use plastics
2. The Ocean Cleanup is an example of... A. a government-led initiative. B. a community-based project. C. a high-tech solution to plastic pollution. D. a new recycling process.
3. What is one of the main goals of the global plastics treaty? A. To fund community cleanup efforts B. To promote the use of single-use plastics C. To create a coordinated international response to plastic pollution D. To develop new types of plastic
4. The author suggests that individual actions are most effective when... A. they are supported by new technologies. B. they are part of a larger, collective effort. C. they are focused on recycling. D. they are mandated by the government.

Questions 24-26

Complete the sentences below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 24-26 on your answer sheet.

1. The transition to a circular economy is described as a _____ and long-term process.
2. Chemical recycling can break down plastics into their original _____.
3. Community-led initiatives can create a _____ that inspires wider action.

Reading Passage 3

The pervasive nature of plastic pollution extends far beyond the visible debris that clutters our landscapes and oceans. Microplastics, tiny plastic particles less than five millimeters in size, have infiltrated every corner of the globe, from the deepest sea trenches to the highest mountain peaks. They are in the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat. This invisible onslaught of microplastics poses a significant

and growing threat to human health, with emerging research revealing a host of potential adverse effects. The very properties that make plastic so useful – its durability and resistance to degradation – also make it a persistent and insidious contaminant in the human body.

Microplastics can enter the human body through ingestion, inhalation, and dermal contact. Once inside, they can accumulate in various organs, including the lungs, liver, and kidneys. Studies have shown that these particles can cross the blood-brain barrier and even the placental barrier, exposing the developing fetus to potential harm. The health risks associated with microplastic exposure are multifaceted. The particles themselves can cause physical damage to tissues and trigger inflammatory responses. Furthermore, plastics often contain a cocktail of chemical additives, such as phthalates and bisphenol A (BPA), which are known endocrine disruptors. These chemicals can leach from the plastic particles and interfere with the body's hormonal systems, potentially leading to a range of health problems, including reproductive disorders, developmental issues, and an increased risk of certain cancers.

In addition to the chemicals they contain, microplastics can also act as vectors for other harmful pollutants. They can absorb and concentrate toxic substances from the surrounding environment, such as heavy metals and pesticides. When these contaminated particles are ingested or inhaled, they can deliver a concentrated dose of toxins to the body. The long-term consequences of this chronic exposure are still largely unknown, but there is growing concern among scientists that it could contribute to a wide range of chronic diseases. The ubiquity of microplastics in our environment means that everyone is exposed, but the level of risk may vary depending on factors such as geographic location, diet, and occupation.

The socio-economic dimensions of plastic pollution are also a critical aspect of the crisis. The burden of plastic waste is often disproportionately borne by marginalized communities and developing countries. Many developed nations export their plastic waste to developing countries, where it is often managed in informal and unsafe conditions. This practice not only externalizes the environmental and health costs of plastic consumption but also creates a new form of environmental injustice. Communities living near plastic waste dumps and recycling facilities are exposed to a host of toxic emissions, and workers in the informal recycling sector often face hazardous conditions with little or no protection.

The fight against plastic pollution is therefore not just an environmental issue but also a matter of social justice. It requires a systemic approach that addresses the entire

lifecycle of plastic, from production to disposal. This includes reducing our reliance on single-use plastics, investing in sustainable alternatives, and holding corporations accountable for the waste they produce. It also means supporting policies that promote a just transition to a circular economy, one that protects the health and well-being of all communities, not just the privileged few. The invisible threat of microplastics and the glaring inequalities of the plastic waste trade are two sides of the same coin, and both must be addressed if we are to create a truly sustainable and equitable future.

Questions 27-40

Questions 27-32

Do the following statements agree with the claims of the writer in Reading Passage 3?

In boxes 27-32 on your answer sheet, write

- **YES** if the statement agrees with the claims of the writer
 - **NO** if the statement contradicts the claims of the writer
 - **NOT GIVEN** if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this*
1. The durability of plastic is both a benefit and a drawback.
 2. Microplastics are too large to cross the blood-brain barrier.
 3. The chemical additives in plastic are the only source of health risks.
 4. Everyone in the world is exposed to the same level of risk from microplastics.
 5. Developed countries are the primary recipients of global plastic waste.
 6. The author believes that corporate accountability is a key part of the solution to plastic pollution.

Questions 33-36

*Choose the correct letter, **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**.*

Write the correct letter in boxes 33-36 on your answer sheet.

1. What is the main topic of Reading Passage 3? A. The benefits of plastic recycling
B. The health and social impacts of plastic pollution C. The challenges of cleaning up microplastics D. The history of plastic production

2. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a way microplastics enter the human body? A. Ingestion B. Inhalation C. Absorption through the skin D. Through contaminated food
3. What is the main reason why microplastics are a health concern? A. They are visible to the naked eye. B. They can cause physical damage and release toxic chemicals. C. They are only found in developing countries. D. They are easily removed from the body.
4. The author uses the term “environmental injustice” to describe... A. the unequal distribution of the burdens of plastic waste. B. the high cost of recycling plastic. C. the lack of international laws on plastic pollution. D. the difficulty of cleaning up microplastics.

Questions 37-40

Complete the notes below.

*Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.*

Write your answers in boxes 37-40 on your answer sheet.

The Hidden Dangers of Plastic Pollution

- Microplastics are a growing threat to **37** _____.
- They can accumulate in various organs and may contain harmful **38** _____.
- Microplastics can also act as vectors for other pollutants, such as **39** _____.
- The burden of plastic waste is often borne by **40** _____.

LISTENING SECTION (40 questions)

SECTION 1 Questions 1-10

Complete the form below.

*Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.*

Community Cleanup Initiative - Volunteer Registration

Name:	Sarah 1 _____
Contact Number:	2 _____
Email Address:	s.jones@email.com
Occupation:	3 _____
Reason for volunteering:	Concerned about plastic pollution in the 4 _____
Previous volunteer experience:	Has participated in several 5 _____
Availability:	Saturdays and 6 _____
T-shirt size:	7 _____
Dietary requirements:	8 _____
How did you hear about us?	9 _____
Emergency contact:	10 _____ (Brother)

SECTION 2 Questions 11-20

Questions 11-15

*Choose the correct letter, **A**, **B**, or **C**.*

- The speaker is addressing... A. university students. B. local residents. C. government officials.
- The main purpose of the talk is to... A. criticize the local council. B. ask for donations. C. provide information about a new recycling scheme.
- The new recycling bins are different because they... A. are a different color. B. can accept more types of plastic. C. are smaller in size.
- What item is NOT mentioned as being recyclable under the new scheme? A. Plastic bottles B. Yogurt pots C. Plastic bags
- The speaker suggests that the success of the scheme depends on... A. the government. B. the local council. C. the community.

Questions 16-20

What information does the speaker give about each of the following collection points?

*Choose **FIVE** answers from the box and write the correct letter, **A-G**, next to questions 16-20.*

Collection Points

1. Supermarket
2. Library
3. Community Centre
4. Park
5. School

Information

A. Open 24 hours B. Only accepts plastic bottles C. Has a special container for batteries
D. Is a temporary collection point E. Is the main collection point F. Has limited opening hours G. Is for residents of that area only

SECTION 3 Questions 21-30

*Choose the correct letter, **A**, **B**, or **C**.*

1. The students are discussing a project on... A. the history of plastic. B. the impact of plastic on marine life. C. the global plastic treaty.
2. What does Chloe say about the scope of the project? A. It is too broad. B. It is too narrow. C. It is just right.
3. David is most interested in... A. the economic aspects of plastic pollution. B. the social impacts of plastic waste. C. the technological solutions.
4. What does their tutor, Dr. Evans, suggest they focus on? A. A specific case study B. A global overview C. A historical analysis
5. Chloe is concerned about... A. the amount of reading required. B. finding reliable data. C. working with David.
6. Dr. Evans recommends a book by... A. Professor Jones. B. Dr. Smith. C. Professor Williams.

7. What is the main argument of the book? A. That plastic pollution is unsolvable. B. That a circular economy is the only solution. C. That individual action is more important than government policy.
8. David and Chloe decide to... A. divide the research equally. B. focus on different aspects of the topic. C. ask for an extension.
9. What is their next step? A. To write the introduction B. To create a detailed outline C. To find more sources
10. Dr. Evans reminds them to... A. include a bibliography. B. proofread their work carefully. C. be critical of their sources.

SECTION 4 Questions 31-40

Complete the notes below.

*Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** for each answer.*

Lecture on Bioplastics

Introduction

- Bioplastics are plastics derived from **31** _____ sources, such as corn starch or sugarcane.
- They are often promoted as a more **32** _____ alternative to traditional plastics.
- However, the reality is more complex.

Types of Bioplastics

- **Bio-based plastics:** made from renewable materials but not necessarily biodegradable.
- **Biodegradable plastics:** can be broken down by **33** _____.
- Some plastics are both bio-based and biodegradable.

Benefits of Bioplastics

- Reduced reliance on **34** _____.
- Lower carbon footprint in some cases.

- Potential to reduce plastic waste if properly managed.

Challenges and Criticisms

- **Land use:** growing crops for bioplastics can compete with **35** _____.
- **Biodegradability:** many bioplastics only biodegrade in specific **36** _____ conditions.
- They can contaminate **37** _____ streams if not disposed of correctly.
- The term “bioplastic” can be **38** _____ to consumers.

The Future of Bioplastics

- Need for better **39** _____ and labeling.
 - Development of new types of bioplastics from waste materials.
 - Importance of a **40** _____ approach that considers the entire lifecycle of the product.
-

LISTENING SCRIPTS

SECTION 1

Man: Hi there, I'm calling to register as a volunteer for the community cleanup initiative.

Woman: That's great! Thanks for getting in touch. I just need to take a few details from you. First of all, can I have your name?

Man: Yes, it's Sarah Jones. That's J-O-N-E-S.

Woman: Got it. And your contact number?

Man: It's 07700 900857.

Woman: 07700 900857. Great. And an email address?

Man: It's s.jones@email.com.

Woman: Perfect. Now, what do you do for a living, Sarah?

Man: I'm a student.

Woman: A student, okay. And what made you want to volunteer for the cleanup?

Man: I'm really concerned about the amount of plastic pollution in the local park. I walk my dog there every day and it just seems to be getting worse.

Woman: I know what you mean. It's a real problem. Have you done any volunteering before?

Man: Yes, I've taken part in a few beach cleanups in the past.

Woman: Excellent. So you know what to expect. Now, in terms of availability, the cleanups are held on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Are you free on either of those days?

Man: I can do Saturdays and some Sundays.

Woman: Okay, we'll put you down for Saturdays and Sundays then. We provide all our volunteers with a t-shirt. What size do you need?

Man: I'm a medium.

Woman: Medium. Got it. And do you have any dietary requirements? We provide lunch for all our volunteers.

Man: I'm a vegetarian.

Woman: No problem. We can cater for that. And how did you hear about the cleanup initiative?

Man: I saw a poster in the local library.

Woman: Great. And finally, can I take an emergency contact number?

Man: Yes, it's my brother. His name is David and his number is 07700 900858.

Woman: David, 07700 900858. Okay, that's everything. We'll be in touch soon with more details about the next cleanup. Thanks again for volunteering, Sarah.

Man: You're welcome. Bye.

SECTION 2

Good morning everyone, and thank you for coming. My name is John Carter, and I'm the head of waste management for the local council. I'm here today to talk to you about our new and improved recycling scheme, which we're launching next month. As you know, plastic pollution is a major environmental problem, and we're committed to doing our part to tackle it. That's why we're introducing a new system that will make it easier for you to recycle more of your plastic waste.

The main change is that we're introducing new, larger recycling bins. These bins will be able to hold a wider range of plastics than our current bins. In addition to plastic bottles, you'll now be able to recycle yogurt pots, margarine tubs, and food trays. However, please note that we are still unable to accept plastic bags or film. These items can cause problems at the recycling plant, so please continue to dispose of them in your general waste bin.

We believe that this new scheme has the potential to significantly increase our recycling rates, but its success ultimately depends on you, the community. We need everyone to get on board and make a conscious effort to recycle as much as possible. To help you, we've set up a number of collection points around the town. The main collection point is at the supermarket, which is open 24 hours a day. There are also collection points at the library, the community centre, the park, and the school. Please note that the collection point at the library has limited opening hours, and the one at the school is for residents of that area only. We've also set up a special container for batteries at the community centre, so please make use of that.

We're confident that with your help, we can make a real difference to our local environment. Thank you for your time, and I'm now happy to answer any questions you may have.

SECTION 3

Dr. Evans: Hi David, Chloe. Come in and take a seat. So, you're here to discuss your project on plastic pollution. How's it going?

Chloe: It's going well, Dr. Evans. We've done a lot of initial reading, but we're a bit worried that the topic is too broad.

Dr. Evans: I see. That's a common problem. What aspects of the topic are you most interested in?

David: Well, I'm particularly interested in the social impacts of plastic waste. You know, how it affects different communities around the world.

Chloe: And I'm more interested in the solutions, especially the role of technology and the concept of a circular economy.

Dr. Evans: Those are both excellent areas to focus on. I suggest you narrow your project down to a specific case study. For example, you could look at the impact of plastic pollution on a particular community and then explore the potential solutions in that context.

Chloe: That's a great idea. But I'm a bit concerned about finding reliable data for a specific case study.

Dr. Evans: That's a valid point. I recommend you start by reading the book 'The Plastic Crisis' by Professor Williams. It provides a comprehensive overview of the issue and has some excellent case studies. It argues that a circular economy is the only long-term solution, which I think you'll find interesting.

David: 'The Plastic Crisis' by Professor Williams. Got it. So, how should we divide the research?

Chloe: I think it would be best if we focus on different aspects of the topic. I can research the solutions, and you can focus on the social impacts.

David: That sounds good to me. What's our next step?

Dr. Evans: I suggest you create a detailed outline for your project. That will help you to structure your research and ensure that you cover all the key points. And remember to be critical of your sources. Don't just accept everything you read at face value.

Chloe: Okay, we'll do that. Thanks for your help, Dr. Evans.

Dr. Evans: You're welcome. I look forward to seeing your outline next week.

SECTION 4

Good morning everyone. Today, I'm going to be talking about bioplastics. Now, when we hear the term 'bioplastic', we often think of a more environmentally friendly alternative to traditional plastics. But is that really the case? Well, the reality is a bit more complex.

First of all, what are bioplastics? Broadly speaking, they are plastics derived from renewable sources, such as corn starch or sugarcane. They are often promoted as a more sustainable alternative to conventional plastics, which are made from fossil fuels. However, it's important to understand that there are different types of bioplastics. Some are bio-based, meaning they are made from renewable materials, but they are not necessarily biodegradable. Others are biodegradable, meaning they can be broken down by microorganisms, but they may be made from fossil fuels. And some plastics are both bio-based and biodegradable.

So, what are the benefits of bioplastics? Well, the main advantage is that they can reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. They can also have a lower carbon footprint than conventional plastics, although this is not always the case. And if they are properly managed, they have the potential to reduce the amount of plastic waste that ends up in our environment.

However, there are also a number of challenges and criticisms associated with bioplastics. One of the main concerns is land use. Growing crops for bioplastics can compete with food production, which could lead to higher food prices and food shortages. Another issue is biodegradability. Many bioplastics only biodegrade in specific industrial composting conditions, which are not widely available. If they end up in landfill or the open environment, they can persist for just as long as conventional plastics. They can also contaminate recycling streams if they are not disposed of correctly. And the term 'bioplastic' itself can be misleading to consumers, who may assume that all bioplastics are good for the environment.

So, what is the future of bioplastics? Well, there is a clear need for better standards and labeling to help consumers make informed choices. There is also a lot of research into developing new types of bioplastics from waste materials, such as food waste and agricultural waste. But ultimately, it's important to take a holistic approach that considers the entire lifecycle of the product, from the raw materials to its disposal. Thank you.

WRITING SECTION

WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The chart below shows what happens to the world's plastic waste.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.

Global Plastic Waste Disposal

The image you are requesting does not exist or is no longer available.
imgur.com

(Source: OECD Global Plastics Outlook)

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Plastic pollution is one of the most serious environmental problems facing the world today. Some people believe that the only way to solve this problem is for governments to ban all single-use plastic products. Others argue that the responsibility should lie with individuals to reduce their own plastic consumption.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

SPEAKING SECTION

Part 1: Introduction and interview (4-5 minutes)

- Let's talk about plastic.
- How much plastic do you use in your daily life?
- Do you think people are more or less aware of the problems of plastic pollution now than in the past?
- What do you do to reduce your use of plastic?
- Do you think it is easy to avoid using plastic?

- What kind of plastic items do you see most often in your local area?

Part 2: Individual long turn (3-4 minutes)

Describe a time when you made an effort to reduce your use of plastic.

You should say:

- *when this was*
- *what you did*
- *why you did it*
- *and explain how you felt about it.*

You will have to talk about the topic for 1 to 2 minutes. You have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.

Part 3: Two-way discussion (4-5 minutes)

- Do you think it is the responsibility of individuals or governments to solve the problem of plastic pollution?
- What are some of the challenges of recycling plastic?
- Do you think that technology can help to solve the problem of plastic pollution?
- What are the long-term consequences of plastic pollution for the environment and human health?
- How can we encourage more people to take action on plastic pollution?

GRAMMAR SECTION (20 questions)

Questions 1-5: Error Correction

Identify the error in each sentence and correct it.

1. The amount of plastic waste have increased dramatically in recent years.
2. Many sea creatures are effected by plastic pollution.
3. I am much concerned about the future of our planet.
4. We need to do more for protect the environment.
5. If I was the prime minister, I would ban all single-use plastics.

Questions 6-10: Sentence Transformation

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given.

1. The government should ban single-use plastics. **OUGHT** The government _____ single-use plastics.
2. It is difficult to avoid using plastic. **HARD** It _____ avoid using plastic.
3. "I will not use plastic bags again," he said. **PROMISED** He _____ use plastic bags again.
4. They have been building the recycling plant for a year. **UNDER** The recycling plant has been _____ for a year.
5. We must all take action to solve this problem. **ESSENTIAL** It is _____ we all take action to solve this problem.

Questions 11-15: Fill in the Blanks

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb, an article, or a preposition.

1. Plastic pollution is one of _____ most serious environmental problems of our time.
2. If we don't act now, the problem _____ worse.
3. I am interested _____ learning more about how to reduce my plastic consumption.
4. The new law, which _____ introduced last year, has already had a positive impact.
5. We need to work together _____ a more sustainable future.

Questions 16-20: Word Formation

Use the word in capitals to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line.

1. The _____ of our oceans is a major concern. (POLLUTE)
2. We need to find more _____ alternatives to plastic. (SUSTAIN)
3. The _____ of single-use plastics is a positive step. (BAN)

4. It is our _____ to protect the environment. (RESPONSIBLE)

5. We need to be more _____ about the products we buy. (INFORM)

ANSWER KEY

READING

1. FALSE
2. FALSE
3. FALSE
4. TRUE
5. TRUE
6. FALSE
7. B
8. C
9. B
10. C
11. throwaway culture
12. aquatic ecosystems
13. fossil fuels
14. iv
15. vii
16. v
17. ii
18. vi
19. i
20. B
21. C
22. C

- 23. B
- 24. complex
- 25. molecular components
- 26. ripple effect
- 27. YES
- 28. NO
- 29. NO
- 30. NO
- 31. NO
- 32. YES
- 33. B
- 34. C
- 35. B
- 36. A
- 37. human health
- 38. chemical additives
- 39. heavy metals
- 40. marginalized communities

LISTENING

- 1. Jones
- 2. 07700 900857
- 3. student
- 4. local park
- 5. beach cleanups
- 6. Sundays
- 7. Medium
- 8. Vegetarian
- 9. poster

10. David
11. B
12. C
13. B
14. C
15. C
16. E
17. F
18. C
19. A
20. G
21. B
22. A
23. B
24. A
25. B
26. C
27. B
28. B
29. B
30. C
31. renewable
32. sustainable
33. microorganisms
34. fossil fuels
35. food production
36. industrial composting
37. recycling
38. misleading

39. standards

40. holistic

GRAMMAR

1. has

2. affected

3. very

4. to protect

5. were

6. ought to ban

7. is hard to

8. promised not to

9. under construction

10. essential that

11. the

12. will get

13. in

14. was introduced

15. for

16. pollution

17. sustainable

18. banning

19. responsibility

20. informed

TUTOR GUIDE

Model Answer for Writing Task 1

The provided bar chart illustrates the fate of global plastic waste. Overall, it is immediately clear that the vast majority of plastic is not recycled, with discarding and mismanagement being the most common methods of disposal.

According to the chart, almost half of all plastic waste, 46%, is discarded. This is the largest single category, indicating that a significant proportion of plastic is simply thrown away. A further 22% of plastic waste is mismanaged, which leads to it becoming plastic pollution in the environment. Together, these two categories account for over two-thirds of all plastic waste, highlighting the scale of the global pollution problem.

In contrast, only a small fraction of plastic waste is recycled. The chart shows that just 13% of plastic is recycled, which is the smallest proportion of the four categories. Incineration is slightly more common, accounting for 19% of plastic waste disposal. This suggests that while some efforts are being made to manage plastic waste more sustainably, they are still far outweighed by less environmentally friendly methods.

In conclusion, the chart reveals a concerning picture of global plastic waste management. The low recycling rate and the high proportion of discarded and mismanaged waste underscore the urgent need for more effective solutions to the plastic pollution crisis.

Model Essay for Writing Task 2 (Band 9)

Plastic pollution has become one of the most pressing environmental issues of our time, and there is a growing debate about the most effective way to address it. Some argue that governments should take the lead by imposing a blanket ban on all single-use plastic products. Others, however, contend that the onus is on individuals to change their consumption habits. This essay will discuss both perspectives before offering my own view that a combination of government intervention and individual responsibility is required.

On the one hand, there is a strong case to be made for government-led action. Proponents of this view argue that individual efforts, while well-intentioned, are

insufficient to tackle the sheer scale of the problem. A legally binding ban on single-use plastics, such as bags, straws, and cutlery, would have an immediate and significant impact on the amount of plastic waste generated. This approach would also force corporations to innovate and develop more sustainable alternatives, thereby driving systemic change throughout the economy. Furthermore, governments have the power to invest in waste management infrastructure and implement national recycling programs, which are essential for a circular economy. The success of plastic bag bans in countries like Rwanda and Kenya demonstrates the effectiveness of top-down legislative action.

On the other hand, it is undeniable that individual responsibility plays a crucial role in the fight against plastic pollution. The choices we make as consumers have a cumulative effect on the demand for plastic products. By consciously reducing our own plastic footprint – for example, by carrying reusable bags, water bottles, and coffee cups – we can send a powerful message to businesses that there is a growing market for sustainable products. Moreover, individual action can foster a sense of collective responsibility and inspire wider community engagement. Grassroots movements and educational campaigns, often driven by passionate individuals, have been instrumental in raising awareness and promoting behavioral change.

In my opinion, while both government intervention and individual action are important, they are two sides of the same coin and must work in tandem to be truly effective. Government bans can create the necessary regulatory framework and level the playing field for businesses, but they are unlikely to succeed without public buy-in and participation. Similarly, individual efforts can only go so far without the support of robust policies and infrastructure. Therefore, the most effective solution is a multi-faceted approach that combines strong government leadership with widespread public engagement. This could include a combination of bans on certain products, investment in recycling technology, and public awareness campaigns to encourage more sustainable lifestyles.

In conclusion, the problem of plastic pollution is too complex to be solved by a single solution. While both government bans and individual responsibility have their merits, a collaborative approach that integrates both top-down and bottom-up strategies is ultimately the most promising path towards a plastic-free future.

Speaking Part 2 Sample Response

I'd like to talk about a time when I made a conscious effort to reduce my plastic consumption. This was about a year ago, after I watched a documentary about the impact of plastic pollution on marine life. I was really shocked by the images of turtles and seabirds entangled in plastic waste, and I decided that I had to do something to change my own habits.

So, I started by doing a "plastic audit" of my home. I went through my kitchen, bathroom, and cleaning supplies, and I was amazed at how much single-use plastic I was using. Everything from food packaging and toiletries to cleaning products came in a plastic container. I decided to start small and focus on a few key areas. The first thing I did was to stop buying bottled water and start carrying a reusable water bottle with me everywhere I went. I also invested in a set of reusable shopping bags and produce bags, so I could avoid using plastic bags at the supermarket.

I did this because I felt a sense of personal responsibility to do my part to protect the environment. The documentary had really opened my eyes to the scale of the problem, and I couldn't just sit back and do nothing. I also wanted to set a good example for my friends and family.

At first, it was a bit of a challenge to remember to bring my reusable items with me, but it soon became a habit. I felt really good about the changes I was making, and it was satisfying to see how much plastic I was able to avoid using. It also made me more mindful of my consumption in general, and I started to look for other ways to live more sustainably. It was a small change, but it made me feel empowered and hopeful that I could make a difference.

Key Vocabulary List

1. **Ubiquitous:** Present, appearing, or found everywhere.
2. **Persistent:** Continuing to exist or endure over a prolonged period.
3. **Pervasive:** Spreading widely throughout an area or a group of people.
4. **Staggering:** Deeply shocking; astonishing.
5. **Skyrocketed:** Increased very steeply or rapidly.
6. **Throwaway culture:** A society strongly influenced by consumerism, where goods are designed to be used for a short time and then discarded.

7. **Aquatic:** Relating to water.
8. **Entangled:** Caught in something, such as a net or rope.
9. **Ingesting:** Taking food, drink, or another substance into the body by swallowing or absorbing it.
10. **Contamination:** The action or state of making or being made impure by polluting or poisoning.
11. **Holistic:** Characterized by the belief that the parts of something are intimately interconnected and explicable only by reference to the whole.
12. **Circular economy:** An economic system aimed at eliminating waste and the continual use of resources.
13. **Systemic:** Relating to a system, especially as opposed to a particular part.
14. **Transboundary:** Extending or operating across boundaries.
15. **Grassroots:** The most basic level of an activity or organization.
16. **Microplastics:** Extremely small pieces of plastic debris in the environment resulting from the disposal and breakdown of consumer products and industrial waste.
17. **Endocrine disruptors:** Chemicals that can interfere with endocrine (or hormonal) systems at certain doses.
18. **Vectors:** Organisms that transmit a disease or parasite from one animal or plant to another.
19. **Marginalized:** (of a person, group, or concept) treated as insignificant or peripheral.
20. **Environmental injustice:** The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.