

Writing and Language

Questions 34-44

The symbol **34** indicates that question 34 references this portion of the passage. The symbol [1] indicates that the following sentence is referenced in a question.

A Quick Fix in a Throwaway Culture

Planned obsolescence, a practice **34** at which products are designed to have a limited period of **35** usefulness, has been a cornerstone of manufacturing strategy for the past 80 years. This approach increases sales, but it also stands in **36** austere
5 contrast to a time when goods were produced to be durable. Planned obsolescence wastes materials as well as energy in making and shipping new products. It also reinforces the belief that it is easier to replace goods than to mend them, as repair shops are rare and **37** repair methods are often
10 specialized. In 2009, an enterprising movement, the Repair Café, challenged this widely accepted belief.

[1] More like a **38** fair then an actual café, the first Repair Café took place in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. [2] It was the brainchild of former journalist Martine Postma, **39** wanting to
15 take a practical stand in a throwaway culture. [3] Her goals were **40** straightforward, however: reduce waste, maintain and perpetuate knowledge and skills, and strengthen community. [4] Participants bring all manner of damaged articles—clothing, appliances, furniture, and more—to be
20 repaired by a staff of volunteer specialists including tailors, electricians, and carpenters. [5] Since the inaugural Repair Café, others have been hosted in theater foyers, community centers, hotels, and auditoriums. [6] While **41** they await for service, patrons can enjoy coffee and snacks and mingle with
25 their neighbors in need.

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Though only about 3 percent of the Netherlands' municipal waste ends up in landfills, Repair Cafés still raise awareness about what may otherwise be mindless acts of
30 waste by providing a venue for people to share and learn valuable skills that are in danger of being lost. **43** It is easy to classify old but fixable items as “junk” in an era that places great emphasis on the next big thing. In helping people consider how the goods they use on a daily basis work and

35 are made, Repair Cafés restore a sense of relationship
between human beings and material goods.

Though the concept remained a local trend at first,
international Repair Cafés, all affiliated with the Dutch
Repair Café via its website, have since arisen in France,
40 Germany, South Africa, the United States, and other countries
44 on top of that. The original provides a central source for
start-up tips and tools, as well as marketing advice to new
Repair Cafés. As a result, the Repair Café has become a
global network united by common ideals. Ironically,
45 innovators are now looking back to old ways of doing things
and applying them in today's cities in an effort to transform
the way people relate to and think about the goods they
consume.