PLASTIC DISASTER

Plastic is cheap and durable and has revolutionized human activity. Modern life is addicted to and dependent on this versatile substance, which is found in everything from computers to medical equipment to food packaging. Unfortunately, an estimated 19 billion pounds of plastic waste ends up in our oceans every year. Much of this plastic comes from single-use packaging, such as soda bottles, and from other single-use products such as disposable diapers. One study suggested that by the year 2050 there will be more plastic by weight in the oceans than fish!

Plastic pollution is more than unsightly. It has a deadly and direct effect on wildlife. Many marine organisms get physically entangled in plastic trash. Others eat the plastics, mistaking the ubiquitous materials for food. Sea turtles often confuse plastic bags for their jellyfish prey and asphyxiate. Seabirds, especially albatrosses, and other birds that scoop food from the sea have been found dead on their nests, their bellies too full of plastics to survive. A recent study found plastic trash in 90 percent of seabirds, with pieces ranging from bottle caps to rice-sized fragments that look like seeds.

Perhaps even more worrisome is microplastic pollution. The vast majority of plastics are not biodegradable, meaning they break down into smaller and smaller particles but never leave the environment entirely. Pieces smaller than 5 mm are classified as microplastics. These particles are too small for waste management systems to filter and are directly discharged into the oceans.

1. **Say whether the following sentences are true or false according to the text. Copy that part of the text which justifies your answer (2 points; 0,25 each)**
2. \_\_\_\_ Plastic is present and used everywhere in our everyday life.
3. \_\_\_\_ Small amounts of plastic are used once and then thrown away.
4. \_\_\_\_ According to a study, the oceans are likely to have more plastic than fish in the next decades.
5. \_\_\_\_ The only problem with plastic pollution is that it is unpleasant to look at.
6. \_\_\_\_ Sea animals are trapped in plastic waste.
7. \_\_\_\_ For sure microplastic pollution is more dangerous than plastic pollution.
8. \_\_\_\_ All types of plastic can never decompose.
9. \_\_\_\_ Seabirds like eating rice.

**2. Find words or phrases in the text that correspond in meaning to the words and definitions given here. (2 point; 0.2 each)**

a) able to last: e) omnipresent:

b) flexible: f) an animal that is killed for food by another animal:

c) rubbish: g) grains:

d) single-use: h) causing distress or worry:

d) likely to cause death: i) sent out:

**3. Pronunciation (1 point; 0,2 each)**

a. In which of the following words is the ending “-s” pronounced / s /: ocean**s**, product**s**, organism**s**, plastic**s**, bird**s**, bag**s**.

b. Write the word whose underlined letters are pronounced differently: tra**sh**, plea**s**ure, pollu**ti**on, o**c**ean, fi**sh**

c. Write the word whose underlined letters are pronounced differently: pr**ey**, w**a**ste, h**ei**r, w**ei**ght, br**ea**k.

d. Write the word whose underlined letters are pronounced differently: f**oo**d, l**oo**k, w**ou**ld, f**u**ll, b**oo**k

e. Write the word whose underlined letters are pronounced differently: tri**ed**, claim**ed**, laugh**ed**, damag**ed**, clean**ed**, entangl**ed**, discharg**ed**.

**4. Complete the second sentence of each pair so that it has the same meaning as the first one. (2.5 points; 0.25 each)**

1. Dave fell asleep so he missed the end of the film.

If\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. I failed my exam because I didn’t study.

I wish\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. “I lost your camera”, Sally said.

Sally admitted\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. They will tell us the news tomorrow night.

We\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Perhaps they didn’t receive the e-mail.

They\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Although the weather was awful, they had a great time.

Despite\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Please, don’t shout!

He begged\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Albert is coming back from hospital tomorrow. He has just broken his ankle.

Albert, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. “What time does your party start?”

Tim asked me\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. I last had the flu five years ago.

I haven’t\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Choose one of the following compositions: (Approximately 120 words) (2.5p)**

**a.** Write a formal letter to the local government in Santiago showing your interest in making the city more environmentally-friendly*. Suggest different actions that could be taken to make it a greener city.*

**b.** Do exams provide a good way to measure students’ knowledge? Give your opinion about this topic. You can present other alternatives you may consider appropriate to assess students.

**c.** Will AI (artificial intelligence) affect jobs in the near future?