

ENGLISH ENTRY TEST, FEBRUARY 2020

STUDENT'S NAMEMark:/100

•READ THE TEXT CAREFULLY AND THEN DO THE ACTIVITIES.



Most plastics are synthetic and have two very special properties: they can be made into just about any shape because they can be moulded. Almost all plastics are made from petrochemicals. The second property I'll tell you about in a minute but it's seriously bad!

People make a lot of things out of plastic because it is cheap and can be used for many things. Plastic things also last a long time. This can be very useful for people but it's one of the biggest problems for the environment. This is because of the second — and bad — property I said I'd tell you about. Most plastics last just about forever; they never disappear because no animals eat plastic.

That's easy, you say: it's recycled, and that is certainly true in some places for some types of plastic. But other plastics — and there are many — are not easily recycled. Some plastics get burned to make heat energy to power electricity generators. And some — probably most — end up on **rubbish tips** or worse, just get thrown away, ending up in the soil (on farms), rivers, lakes and, in particular, the world's oceans.

I'll bet you love the **seaside**! I do, of course, but I don't love the plastic rubbish you find, brought in by winds and waves from anywhere and everywhere on the planet.

“In 2010, waste plastic which ended up in the world's oceans was like having "five plastic grocery bags filled with plastic for every foot of coastline in the world"”

Unfortunately, the sea is where so much of the plastic people throw away ends up. The ocean is full of small bits of plastic the size of confetti or smaller. It floats in the surface layers of the ocean forming a sort of thin 'soup' (yuk!).



Unfortunately, many marine animals mistake some types of plastic for food and eat them. Turtles often die because the plastic they eat blocks their digestive system so they starve. Marine mammals (like dolphins) or rare sea birds like albatrosses often get **trapped** by plastic nets or ropes and either **drown** or **starve to death**. Plastics also poison the animals that eat them.



A wandering albatross in distress. Her foot is caught in an old fishing net. If she can't get free, she will starve to death

Around 400,000 marine mammals die every year due to plastic pollution in oceans. The list of horrible facts about plastics goes on and on.

Plastic is here to stay: Nearly every piece of plastic ever made — and thrown away — still exists today because there is no organism that can break it down completely. By 2012, the world's oceans contained 165 million tons of plastic pollution.

Obviously people aren't going to stop making plastics. They are just so useful in so many things. So first, you humans need to know that plastic is a big problem. Then you can start to do something about it.

1. Put the headings in the correct box. (10 marks)

What can you all do about it?	What is plastic?	What harm do floating plastics do?
What happens to waste plastic?		An Ocean full of plastic.

2. Circle the correct option. Which of the following paragraphs best summarises what the text is about? (10 marks)

- a) Plastics can be recycled to stop animals from eating them.
- b) Plastics take a long time to disappear and cause many problems to the environment and to animals living in the ocean.
- c) We make things out of plastic because it is easy, but we must recycle.

3. Are the following sentences true (T) or false (F)? Circle the correct answer. (12 marks)

- a) All properties of plastic are bad. T / F
- b) Some plastics are difficult to recycle. T / F
- c) There is a lot of plastic in the ocean. T / F
- d) Many animals die because they eat plastic that they cannot digest. T / F
- e) Plastic only takes a few years to disappear. T / F
- f) Nearly all of the plastic we throw away ends up in rubbish tips. T / F

4. Answer the following questions about the text in your own words. (18 marks)

- a) What are the two main properties of plastic mentioned in the text?
- b) Why does it take such a long time for plastic to disappear?
- c) Why is floating plastic in the ocean so dangerous?

5. Match the words in bold in the text with their definition. (10 marks)

1. starve to death	a) area of land where people put things they do not want
2. rubbish tips	b) die because they cannot eat
3. drown	c) area of land next to the sea
4. trapped	d) die because you are immersed in the water and cannot take air in
5. seaside	e) cannot move

6. Writing. Write a short text (10 lines) about things we can do to reduce the amount of plastic. Use the pictures to help you. Which ones do you already do? (40 marks)



BRING YOUR OWN...

CUTLERY

CUP

REUSABLE STAINLESS STEEL

OR

GLASS

WATER BOTTLE

HOW TO LIVE WITH LESS PLASTIC

SKIP PLASTIC PRODUCE BAGS

FORGET FAST FOOD

DINE IN

REUSABLE SHOPPING BAG

KEEP IT SOMEWHERE HANDY

USE GLASS JARS

Left overs

PACK LUNCH
in REUSABLE CONTAINERS

SHARE these TIPS with YOUR FRIENDS

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WRITE YOUR TEXT HERE

Name and surname:

A large empty rectangular box for writing the answer.

Well done!