

Thursday 10 January 2013 – Morning

GCSE ENGLISH/ENGLISH LANGUAGE

A680/02/RBI Information and Ideas (Higher Tier)

READING BOOKLET INSERT

Duration: 2 hours



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- The materials in this READING BOOKLET INSERT are for use with the questions in Section A of the Question Paper.

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Why is Recycling Important?

Recycling is the process of collecting and separating used or waste products and remanufacturing or converting them into new materials. The recycling process involves a series of steps to produce new products.



Recycling helps extend the life and usefulness of something that has already served its initial purpose by producing something that is usable. Recycling has a lot of benefits and importance, not only to us humans but also especially to our planet.

Almost everything we see around us can be recycled. Different materials require different techniques when being recycled. Recyclable materials commonly include batteries, biodegradable waste, clothing, electronics, garments, glass, metals, paper, plastics and a lot more.

The recycling process is composed of three stages. The first stage is the **collecting and sorting**. In this stage, waste materials are collected and then processed and sorted according to type and use. After these materials are sorted, they are ready for the second stage, which is the **manufacturing**.

At the manufacturing stage the collected and sorted materials are processed into new, usable products. Finally, after new products are manufactured, the next stage follows, which is the **selling of the recycled products to consumers**.

Recycling has a lot of benefits that can help people and save the environment as well. Its importance can be observed in many different ways. Here are some great reasons why recycling is important:

Recycling Saves the Earth

Recycling different products will help the environment. For example, we know that paper comes from trees and so many trees are being cut down just to produce paper. By recycling paper, we can help reduce the number of trees that are cut down.

It takes less energy to process recycled materials than to process virgin materials. For example, it takes a lot less energy to recycle paper than to create new paper from trees. The energy from transporting virgin materials from their sources is also saved. Saving energy has its own benefits, such as reduced pollution. This creates less stress on our health and our economy.



By saving energy in industrial production through recycling, the greenhouse gas emissions from factories and industrial plants are reduced and the use of fuels that emit harmful gases during production is also minimised. Recycling non-biodegradable waste (rather than burning it) will contribute a lot to help reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases.

Landfills are mostly composed of non-biodegradable waste, which takes a long time to decompose. By recycling, we can reduce the waste materials that are placed into landfills and we are able to make the most out of these materials. If we don't recycle, more and more rubbish will go to landfills until

they all get filled up. If that happens, where will the rubbish be placed? How would you like a landfill in your back yard?

There are many companies that help reduce the problem of overfilling landfills by offering options that make sense, like re-using ink cartridges. When companies have established green practices, the consumer wins, as this not only helps the environment but also saves money.

Recycling Helps you Save Money

Recycling provides ways to save money. Using products that are recycled reduces expense. You can sell recyclable materials to organisations that are willing to buy them. Products that are made from recycled materials are cheaper than products made from virgin materials.

At home, you can recycle biodegradable waste like eggshells, vegetable and fruit peelings and use it to fertilize plants. By doing a little research and getting creative you can save money and trips to the supermarket while being kind to the planet.

As the population of the world increases, recycling is becoming increasingly important. Our technologically-advanced societies are creating more and more products and packaging that look good, but which are almost indestructible and can take centuries to break down.

In order to combat the problems created by non-environmentally conscious groups, it is up to the growing numbers of individuals and companies that want to inhabit a healthier planet to make a difference.

The following newspaper article was published in 2009

Not In My Front Yard!

Join the Mail campaign to stop monstrous wheelie bins engulfing our streets

by David Derbyshire

The Daily Mail today launches the *Not In My Front Yard* campaign, to spearhead the fightback against wheelie bins.

It comes amid growing fury at the plastic monstrosities blighting our streets and gardens. All across the country, people find their councils steamrolling through unwanted changes to rubbish collections.

Now the Mail is calling on town halls to let council tax payers choose between wheelie bins, ordinary dustbins or biodegradable bags.

WHEELIE BIN TAKEOVER

Opponents of wheelie bins stress they are not opposed to recycling – but say the bins are simply unsuitable for millions of homes.

Yet councils are ignoring protests, petitions and marches. Four out of five town halls already use the bins for ordinary rubbish, but many plan to saddle homeowners with extra bins for recycling.

Dozens more intend to bring in bins for the first time.

Behind the bin explosion is the EU's Landfill Tax, which aims to encourage recycling by penalising councils for sending too much rubbish to tips.

The spread of the wheelie bin has also been helped by concerns over health and safety. Town hall chiefs say wheelie bins – lifted automatically on to dustcarts – are less dangerous for refuse collectors and stop rats and foxes getting to food waste. This has become more important, as many councils have controversially cut food waste collections to only one a fortnight.

WE'VE GOT THREE EACH

A representative of the Pensioners Action Association in Harlow, Essex, said: 'The town is simply not built for wheelie bins – and yet we have got three each.

'In a lot of places there are steps up to buildings and it's going to be hard for elderly people to push them. Some of my members are only as tall as the wheelie bins – how are they going to move them when they are full?'

Protest is growing in other areas where the bins are on the way – including Thurrock, the Malvern Hills, Barking and Dagenham and Enfield.

According to WRAP (Waste Resources and Action Programme), 83 per cent of councils use wheelie bins for ordinary rubbish, 37 per cent

for recyclables and 74 per cent for garden waste. But last week WRAP admitted the bins were not the most efficient way to recycle – and that councils should give homes boxes which can be sorted by the binmen. A spokesman for WRAP said: 'If people put all their recyclables in one large bin, everything gets mixed up. It has to be sorted out quite expensively and the quality is not as good. If you sort it out at the kerbside, the quality is much better.'

THE TOWN THAT PROVES THEY'RE A WASTE OF TIME

Town hall chiefs claim wheelie bins are 'essential' to meet recycling targets. But the evidence from places where the bins have been kept at bay suggests otherwise.

In the leafy London borough of Richmond upon Thames, there isn't a wheelie bin to be seen. Its 170,000 residents sort out their waste once a week – putting paper into a blue box; cans, bottles and foil into another; and the rest of their rubbish into a black plastic bag on the edge of their property.

Despite the absence of wheelie bins, 42 per cent of household waste is recycled each week

– one of the highest rates in London. And without plastic bins, locals are free to enjoy their front gardens or walk down the pavement without bumping into a bin.

The local council prides itself on being 'green'. A spokesman said: 'We do not issue wheelie

bins to our 80,000 homes, and we have no plans to do so. The decision not to use wheelie bins was taken following a survey two years ago which showed the majority of residents were opposed to them. The council believes the bins are expensive, and the money could be better

used to help people through the recession and keep council tax bills down.'

The council leader said:

'Wheelie bins are not all they're cracked up to be and don't solve all the street mess and recycling problems we face.'

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