Functional Skills English
Reading Level 2
Sample paper 1

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Plastics
Source Documents

Do not write your answers in this booklet as this will not be marked.
All answers should be written in the space provided on the question paper.

Read both documents.

Use **Document 1** to answer questions 1 to 8.
Use **Document 2** to answer questions 9 to 14.
Use **both** documents to answer question 15.

Document 1

The Telegraph HOME | TV GUIDE | NOW AND NEXT | FILMS | ALL SECTIONS

Television | Documentaries **By Sarah Knapton** Share this story SEARCH

In her new documentary, *Drowning in Plastic*, wildlife biologist Liz Bonnin has called for an immediate ban of single-use plastics in Britain and accused industries and politicians of not doing enough to tackle pollution.

Speaking ahead of the documentary, Bonnin said that the problem of plastic in the world's oceans would not be fixed by consumers simply saying no to straws.

Drowning in Plastic comes a year after Sir David Attenborough's Blue Planet II, and investigates the effect plastic material is having on marine animals.

"When it comes to all single-use products, I just think if we can live without them, we should live without them," said Bonnin in an interview with the Radio Times.

"There is no kind of middle ground any more. So can we live without plastic bottles? Yes, we can."

The documentary will look at the dangers and struggles of wildlife in the ocean and the extent of the problem of our polluted seas.

Citing Costa Rica's ban on all single-use plastic by 2021, Bonnin said the UK's slower action on plastic pollution was not good enough.

"I have to ask, why isn't the UK doing that?" she said.

"Some of our plastic is absolutely a valuable part of our society. The question there is, do we make up that plastic with less toxic chemicals? Also, can we make that plastic realistically recyclable?

"40% of the plastic that's prevalent in our society is single-use stuff that we can absolutely live without. If Costa Rica can do it, why can't we do it immediately?

"This phasing-out conversation makes me angry after everything I've seen. There is no more time to phase anything out."

The presenter said attempts by the general public to limit their use of single-use plastics such as straws and coffee cups "hugely laudable", but the obligation to change needs to be with governments.

"I do feel that the onus has been placed a lot on the consumer and that's only part of the problem," she said.

"So, for example, if you're going to increase the plastic bag charge to 10p from 5p, again, the onus is on the consumer. Why is the industry still making plastic bags? Why is America investing 180 billion dollars in new plastic factories?

"I don't think it's going to be fixed just from consumers saying no to straws."

Figures released in July revealed that plastic bag sales have fallen by 86% since the introduction of the 5p levy in 2015.

Drowning in Plastic airs next Tuesday on BBC One.

Related topics: Pollution | David Attenborough | Plastic | Wildlife

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Document 2

Plastic-free

Help us save the sea, go plastic-free!

Supporting our work

We're a small charity with a huge task ahead of us. We really want to make single-use plastic a thing of the past, but we need your help.

We would kindly ask that you support our work by offering a small monthly donation.

Choose amount

- ☐ £2 monthly contribution
- ☐ £5 monthly contribution
- ☐ £10 monthly contribution

You can log in to edit your recurring donation any time. NEXT

Thank you!

Plastic is all around us. The statistics say it all:

- Over 300 million tonnes of plastic are produced globally each year.
- Half a million plastic straws are used every day.
- 4 trillion plastic bags are used worldwide annually.

Plastic Production

Roughly half of the plastic produced annually is destined for single-use products. It is truly shocking. It is estimated that around 8.5 billion plastic straws are thrown away every year in the UK alone, not to mention the millions of bottles, coffee cups, crisp packets, plastic bags and take-away dishes. You have probably thrown away several single-use items today without even realising it.

As individuals it is extremely important that we recognize that it is OUR responsibility to make changes which will help our oceans for years to come.

Every piece of plastic ever produced still exists somewhere today.

Oceans and Marine Life

Single-use plastics are small but have a large impact, with more than 8 million tonnes of plastic waste ending up in our oceans each year. This is not only harmful to marine birds and animals, which can end up being choked, poisoned and entangled by the plastic, but it can also have an impact on human health, as a study in 2017 found that plastic micro-particles can get into the flesh of fish eaten by humans.

Time for Change

Manufacturers and businesses should take some responsibility for the plastic waste they generate and offer consumers more sustainable products and packaging. However, as individuals we are the ones who hold the power to make the biggest change - if we all keep on buying single-use plastic products businesses will only keep on selling them. Every one of us needs to say NO to single-use plastic.

Unless we all take action then the crisis we are facing is only going to get worse.