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# Functional Skills Level 2

## ENGLISH

Paper 1 Reading

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### Insert

The three sources that follow are:

**Source A:** a webpage

**Source B:** a leaflet

**Source C:** a newspaper article

**Please open the Insert fully  
to see all three sources**

## Source A

**Garbage Islands in the Ocean**

**Imagine islands of garbage with the combined size of India, Europe and Mexico, floating in our oceans!**

**What is the problem?**

The rise in population has increased the amount of garbage that we generate. We believe inefficient waste management and uncaring humanity created these toxic islands.



There are several garbage islands in the oceans, including in the Atlantic and Arctic, and the largest of them is the Pacific Garbage Patch. Its size cannot be pinned down since it's thought to be constantly growing. The island is made up of plastic, debris and chemical sludge which got trapped by the Pacific tides. It's a collection of waste coming from the surrounding countries. It's a shocking and disturbing sight.

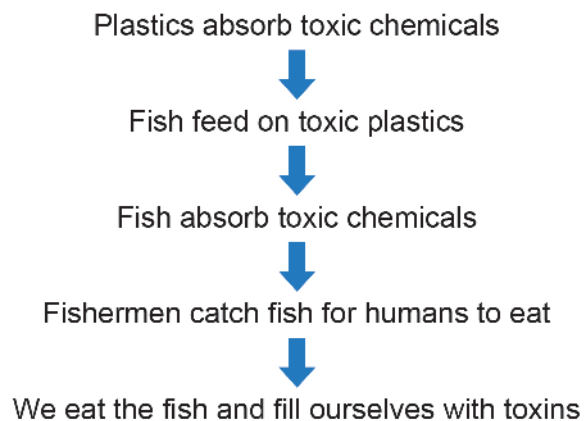
**How did it happen?**

There are places in the oceans where currents meet. In those locations, anything that gets caught cannot escape. The garbage we throw into the ocean – fishermen's paraphernalia, the sludge disposed of by factories and trash – all gets trapped in a sort of whirlpool.

**Did you know...?**

These "plastic islands" are growing by ten times every decade. The garbage islands are made up of things like tiny bits of plastic, toothbrushes, bottlecaps and plastic bags.

Toxic chemicals do not dissolve in water but are absorbed by the plastics. ➡

**What are we doing about it?**

Since these islands are in the middle of the ocean and far away from any coastline, no country is taking responsibility for the clean-up.

In the meantime, while the technology to clean up our mess is not yet available, you can do your bit:

[Recycle and Reuse.](#) Don't just throw away what you don't need. Recycling is now popular and easy.

[Stop using plastics.](#) It's not a good material for the planet. Make use of materials that can be reused and are biodegradable.

[Raise awareness!](#) We can stop our water planet from turning into a plastic planet one voice at a time.

## Source B



More than two million pieces of litter are dropped in the UK every day, costing taxpayers over £1 billion per year for street cleaning. Common litter items include fast-food packaging, sweet wrappers, drinks cans, bottles and cigarette butts.



Litter does not clean itself away. It can take years to degrade, causing harm to wildlife and habitats. Discarded food such as half-eaten burgers, chips or apple cores can attract pigeons and other vermin such as rats. All litter is unsightly and makes our local areas look untidy and neglected. Research shows litter increases existing crime rates and that people feel more vulnerable in areas that are littered.

A #LitterHero is a dedicated, caring person who volunteers their time to pick up litter and improve the environment around them. If you want to help Keep Britain Tidy you can register as a [#LitterHero](#) today or just organise your own little task force and stay safe by following these tips:

### Safe Litter-Picking

You should always wear heavy duty gloves, for hygiene reasons and to prevent cuts and scratches from sharp objects such as broken glass and disposable BBQs. If safe to pick up, these can be put directly into a litter bin rather than into a plastic bag which could rip.

Not everything is suitable for litter-picking. Dead animals/roadkill should not be picked up. If you encounter clinical waste such as needles/syringes make a note of the location and inform your local council. Steer clear of objects like unidentified cans or canisters: the contents may well be innocuous but without a label or description, these are best avoided. Oil drums and chemical containers may also be hazardous.

Building waste, rubble or fly tipping could contain perilous materials such as asbestos. Leave it where it is and contact your local council.

**Source C****Bin so long: Australian woman puts rubbish out for first time in two years!**

An Adelaide woman has taken the rubbish bin out for the first time in two years, following a concerted family effort to reduce the amount of waste they generate.

Alice Clanachan's bin left their yard for the first time in 26 months on Tuesday – still with a little room at the top. "We could have gone on a bit longer, but it's getting hot," she said.

The 'reduce, reuse, recycle' philosophy has been part of their lives for years, but since the pandemic Clanachan has seriously committed to avoiding the creation of waste in any form.

"It's been a long time and a long journey," she said. "But now we try not to accumulate anything."

The bin of waste, representing two years in Clanachan's life, mostly contained trade rubbish – repairs from old pipes or drains. There were also some worn-out gardening gloves, vacuum cleaner dust, dental floss and broken pots.

Clanachan does not drive a car and uses her bicycle or public transport, making it harder for big weekly supermarket shops. She buys the majority of her produce from farmers' markets and in bulk – taking her own containers for grains and rice.

"I avoid pre-packaged foods, and save egg cartons for people with chickens," she said. "I feel like I've failed when I put the recycling bin out!"

According to Planet Ark, around 2.44m tonnes of the 4.9m tonnes of materials sent to landfill each year are either recyclable or compostable.

Clanachan's advice? "Whatever your living situation, there are ways to compost and reduce," she said. "Ditch the supermarkets and find your local grocer. You can buy less packaging, but also have conversations with those you're buying from and that's very powerful."

**END OF SOURCES**

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Source B and Source C**

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