PART I: ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM WRITTEN TEXTS
(60 points)

Read the article below and then answer questions 1-7.

IS IT TIME TO RECONSIDER OUR IDEAS ABOUT WASTE DISPOSAL?

For hundreds of millions of people, responsible disposal of garbage has long been a high priority. Most of us do some kind of recycling – throwing plastic and paper in special bins, or returning glass bottles to the supermarket. The benefits seem obvious: the things we throw away will not end up in landfills, where they could cause significant environmental damage. Moreover, the materials they are made of can be reused. But are these efforts really worthwhile? Information published in the past few years on the environmental and economic costs of recycling is casting doubts on its value.

Very often, the process of recycling involves a vast global network. For example, a plastic bottle thrown into a recycling bin may get sold and transported to a factory on the other side of the world, where it is melted down. The plastic may then be sent to other countries and used for manufacturing new products – shopping bags, clothing, or even more bottles. According to a study conducted by economist and environmentalist Professor Thomas Kinnaman, this extensive shipping burns up so much fuel that recycling certain materials, especially plastic, is more expensive and more polluting than burying them in landfills.

As a result of his findings, Kinnaman insists that only a few materials, such as paper and aluminium, should be recycled, and that all other types of waste should go in landfills. His view may seem surprising given that harmful substances have been known to leak from these sites and pollute surrounding land. However, recent technological advances have led to the improved construction and design of landfills, minimizing the risk to the environment. Furthermore, landfills are not the wasteful use of land that people assume them to be. A recent survey found that they actually take up very little space, and that, when full, most are covered over with soil and turned into fields or parks.

Persuading people to recycle more wisely might not be easy. After all, decades of campaigning by environmentalists have convinced us that any material that *can* be recycled *should* be. So widely accepted is this belief that in many cities in Europe and the USA, citizens readily support the use of tough measures by local authorities to enforce recycling policies – including, for example, imposing a fine on anyone caught throwing recyclable products into ordinary garbage bins.

/המשך בעמוד 3/

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A different approach might ultimately be more effective: reducing the need for recycling in the first place by educating people to buy less. According to Peter Magnus of the Bergamon Environmental Institute, who monitors the work of leading green organizations across the USA, efforts to spread this message are slowly bearing fruit. "More and more people report using their cellphone or computer for as long as they work, instead of rushing to replace them with the latest model," he says. "If the trend continues, that will be very good news for the environment."

QUESTIONS (60 points)

Answer questions **1-7** in English according to the article. In questions **1**, **4**, **5** and **6**, circle the number of the correct answer. In the other questions, follow the instructions.

1. What point does the writer make in lines 1-8?

i) Responsible waste disposal should be a high priority.

ii) Recycling may be problematic.

iii) We are not aware of all the benefits of recycling.

iv) More waste materials should be reused.

(7 points)

2. Why does the writer provide information about the transport involved in the recycling process? (lines 9-16)

COMPLETE THE ANSWER.

To explain why the process can be .....

..... .

(8 points)

3. COMPLETE THE SENTENCE.

The shopping bags mentioned in line 13 are an example of .....

..... .

(8 points)

/המשך בעמוד 4/

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4. What do we learn from lines 17-25 about landfills?

i) They contain fewer harmful substances than we think.

ii) They are cheaper to construct than in the past.

iii) They are built differently than in the past.

iv) It is hard to find a good location for them.

(7 points)

5. What is explained in lines 26-31?

i) How people can be convinced to recycle more wisely.

ii) What city policies regarding recycling have achieved.

iii) Why measures aimed at enforcing recycling must be tough.

iv) What impact environmental campaigns have had.

(7 points)

6. Why is the trend that Magnus refers to good for the environment? (lines 32-39)

i) Because recycling methods have improved.

ii) Because green organizations will be more successful.

iii) Because less garbage is being produced.

iv) Because the latest cellphones and computers are more harmful to the environment.

(7 points)

7. The title speaks of reconsidering our ideas about waste disposal. Which of our ideas about waste disposal might be wrong?

Give TWO answers from the article. Base your answers on the lines below.

Lines 19-25 : ..... .

Lines 26-31 : ..... .

(2×8=16 points)

/המשך בעמוד 5/

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PART II: WRITTEN PRESENTATION (40 points)

Write 120-140 words in English on the following topic.

8. Can we trust our first impression of a person? Why or why not?

Write a composition stating and explaining your opinion. You may relate to your own experience and / or that of others.

בהצלחה!

Use this page and the next (pages **5-6**) for writing a rotation draft.

/המשך בעמוד 6/

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