Exercise 17

Read the following text for questions 1-6.

THE RISE OF SECOND-HAND SHOPPING

In the past, many people preferred to buy brand-new clothes, furniture, or electronics. This was because they believed that new items were cleaner, safer, and a sign of personal or financial success. Owning new things was associated with a better lifestyle and higher social status. However, times have changed, and today, second-hand shopping is growing in popularity all over the world.

Second-hand shopping means buying items that were previously owned and used by someone else. These items are often still in very good condition but are sold at much lower prices than brand-new products. People can find second-hand goods in many different places such as thrift stores, flea markets, garage sales, charity shops, and online platforms like eBay, Vinted, and Facebook Marketplace. In some neighborhoods, people even organize swap parties, where they exchange clothes, books, or household items without using money.

One of the biggest reasons people choose second-hand shopping is to save money. New products can be expensive, but used items are often much more affordable and still useful. This is especially helpful for students, families with children, or anyone who needs to stick to a budget. Sometimes, lucky shoppers even find designer clothes or high-quality electronics at surprisingly low prices.

Another strong reason is to protect the environment. Producing new products—especially clothing—uses a huge amount of resources like water, electricity, and chemicals. For instance, making just one cotton T-shirt can use more than 2,700 liters of water. By choosing second-hand, people help reduce waste, pollution, and the amount of trash that ends up in landfills.

Also, second-hand shopping is becoming more fashionable and trendy, especially among young people. Vintage clothing, retro-style furniture, and unique accessories are now seen as stylish and cool. Buying second-hand also allows people to develop their own personal style while avoiding fast

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fashion, which often harms the planet and exploits workers. Finally, second-hand shopping can be fun and social.

Many people enjoy searching for special items with friends or family. For some, it even becomes a hobby or a small business—buying used items and selling them online. While a few people still worry about cleanliness or item condition, most stores clean and inspect everything before selling. In conclusion, second-hand shopping is a smart, environmentally friendly, and fashionable choice that benefits both people and the planet.

For questions 1-4, fill in the missing information in the numbered spaces. Write no more than ONE WORD and/ or A NUMBER for each question.

In the past, people believed that buying new things showed wealth and **(1)** _____.

Second-hand items are usually sold at a much lower **(2)** _____ than new ones.

Some people go to swap parties where they **(3)** _____ items with others.

Producing one cotton T-shirt can take over 2,700 liters of **(4)** _____.

For questions 5-6, choose the correct answers A, B, C, or D.

5. Why do many people prefer to buy second-hand products?

A) They are always cleaner
B) They are better for the economy
C) They are more affordable
D) They are made of better materials

6. What makes second-hand shopping popular among young people?

A) It offers only cheap products
B) It allows them to follow trends and be unique
C) It is less tiring than regular shopping
D) It requires no effort or time

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