

USE OF ENGLISH

Task 1

Read the text and complete the gaps with one word only.

Carrier bags

Carrier bags are those plastic bags which you are given in the supermarket. A lot of people can't imagine having to do (31) them. After all, how else are we supposed to carry our shopping home? However, carrier bags are a huge problem for the environment. In fact, they are (32) a big problem that some governments have decided to take serious action. The main problem is that they are very difficult to get rid of. After we've thrown them (33), they can stay in the ground for up to a thousand years. The other problem is that we use so (34) of them. It is thought that around one trillion carrier bags are used every year! A lot of them can also be found in the sea and, as a result, millions of sea birds and fish are killed off (35) year. People started to protest about the dangers of plastic bags in the late 1990s, but it took several years to get their message (36) A few years later, some governments made shopkeepers charge customers for their bags. They wanted people to recycle old bags or make (37) with paper ones. This did have an impact and people started using fewer carrier bags. However, the change wasn't big (38) for some governments. In order to solve the problem, they decided to ban carrier bags altogether. Their objective is to (39) sure that carrier bags stop being a danger to life on Earth. They argue that we have to change our habits now, before it's (40) late. Let's hope more countries follow their example.

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Task 2

Read the article and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.

The return of the lynx

The lynx is a type of wild cat which lives in various parts of Europe and Asia. They are most (41) to be found in mountainous, forested areas. There are only around 50,000 of them in the world, but people think the number is (42) Sadly, the lynx (43) in the UK around 1,300 years ago, but now some scientists want to bring them back. These scientists argue that the UK is a(n) (44) habitat for the lynx. They also say that it would have a positive (45) on the British countryside. One problem in the UK is that there are (46) wild deer, which eat all the plants and trees. As a result, forests aren't growing (47) and other animals which depend on the forest can't survive. Some bigger lynx hunt deer so nature would provide a solution to this problem. (48), some farmers do not agree that it would be good to bring back the lynx. They say that the countryside has changed a lot over the last 1,300 years. For example, there are a (49) more sheep than there used to be and they would make an easy meal for a hungry lynx. While some people would like to see the return of the lynx, those farmers are waiting (50) to see what the government decides. For them, its return could cost a large amount of money.

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|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|
| 41 A about | B due | C likely | D probably |
| 42 A going | B increasing | C growing up | D raising |
| 43 A chopped down | B cleaned up | C died out | D killed off |
| 44 A natural | B physical | C ordinary | D usual |
| 45 A bang | B crash | C hit | D impact |
| 46 A enough | B so | C too many | D too much |
| 47 A too quickly | B quickly enough | C enough quickly | D so quickly |
| 48 A Because | B As a result | C While | D However |
| 49 A great | B lot | C many | D much |
| 50 A anxiously | B badly | C luckily | D truthfully |

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Total: 50