

'TIS THE SEASON TO BE WASTEFUL

In many places around the world, Christmas goes down as the most festive time of the year. Yet, (1) _____ of all the joyful feelings, there is a darker side: Christmas is also a time when a large amount of waste is produced. It is estimated that the holiday season generates an extra six million tons of waste each year from, among other things, packaging, Christmas trees, decorations and wrapping paper. Did you know that nearly 50,000 trees are cut down (2) _____ produce 8,000 tons of wrapping paper for Christmas? Well, it's true!



To make matters worse, many new electronic devices appear on the market just in time for Christmas, turning our old gadgets, laptops, digital cameras and mobile phones into a mountain of dangerous e-waste. The amount of electronic waste that is created globally is expected to grow (3) _____ that by the year 2030 it will weigh over twelve times more than the Great Pyramid of Giza. Switzerland was one of the first countries to recognise that e-waste posed such a serious environmental problem (4) _____ it required immediate action. Back in 1994, it introduced a recycling fee that was charged every time a new electronic product was bought, (5) _____ to encourage people to bring their unwanted items back for recycling.

1. A. in spite	B. although	C. despite	D. because
2. A. so	B. to	C. so as	D. and
3. A. so much	B. so many	C. too much	D. enough
4. A. and	B. so	C. that's why	D. that
5. A. because	B. so that	C. as a result	D. in order



REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Our school took us on a school trip in order to learn more about recycling and what happens to (6) _____, and to collect information so that we could set up a recycling scheme in our school. The people who work at the recycling plant talked to us about the large (7) _____ of waste that still isn't recycled.

It was incredible to see where the waste from our homes is sorted before being recycled into new products! The rubbish is loaded onto a conveyor belt and then people (8) _____ the rubbish by hand, removing any objects that can't be recycled. The conveyor shakes the rubbish up and down as it moves and paper, plastic and metal are separated. Finally, the separated rubbish ends up as big square blocks.

There is so much that can be done with recycled materials! Did you know that a plastic bottle can be turned into material to make a jumper? So, next time you are ready to toss a plastic bottle in the rubbish, throw it in the recycling (9) _____ instead. Recycling is so important, and it is something that we can all do. It is an easy way to help (10) _____ our planet.

6. A. pollution	B. source	C. waste	D. cage
7. A. amount	B. size	C. number	D. evacuation
8. A. grow	B. sort	C. melt	D. rescue
9. A. plant	B. station	C. basket	D. bin
10. A. protect	B. campaign	C. blossom	D. feed