

PART 4 Questions 31–40

Complete the notes below.

Write **ONE WORD ONLY** for each answer.

Microplastics

Where microplastics come from

- fibres from some **31** during washing
- the breakdown of large pieces of plastic
- waste from industry
- the action of vehicle tyres on roads

Effects of microplastics

- They cause injuries to the **32** of wildlife and affect their digestive systems.
- They enter the food chain, e.g., in bottled and tap water, **33** and seafood.
- They may not affect human health, but they are already banned in skin cleaning products and **34** in some countries.
- Microplastics enter the soil through the air, rain and **35**

Microplastics in the soil – a study by Anglia Ruskin University

- Earthworms are important because they add **36** to the soil.
- The study aimed to find whether microplastics in earthworms affect the **37** of plants.
- The study found that microplastics caused:
 - **38** loss in earthworms
 - fewer seeds to germinate
 - a rise in the level of **39** in the soil.

The study concluded:

- soil should be seen as an important natural process.
- changes to soil damage both ecosystems and **40**