SKILLS TEST 3A

UNITS 5–6

Name: _____ Score: _____ / 25 points

READING SKILLS

1 **Read the article and match headings 1–7 to paragraphs A–E. There are two extra headings that you do not need.** (5 points)

1 Film helps to introduce a bag ban ☐
2 Plastic bags are light and easy to carry ☐
3 Developing countries do it first ☐
4 The future for plastic bags ☐
5 Bag price increase ☐
6 Other bags are too expensive ☐
7 A good example for the rest of Europe ☐

2 **Read the article again. Are the statements true (T), false (F) or is there no information (NI)?** (5 points)

1 The UK uses more plastic bags than any other country. ☐
2 Bangladesh banned plastic bags in the 1980s. ☐
3 People in Ireland are pleased about the 94% reduction in the number of plastic bags used. ☐
4 Rebecca Hosking wanted to ban bags in Modbury after she had seen how they affected the environment. ☐
5 Before the ban, Italy didn't use many plastic bags compared to other countries. ☐

BANNING PLASTIC BAGS

Disposable plastic bags are small things, but they are big news at the moment. Every year, 500 billion are used worldwide. In the UK alone, consumers get through over 13 billion bags a year – that's enough to fill 200 Olympic-sized swimming pools – over 400 bags per household!

Most plastic bags are only used for an average of just 20 minutes before they're thrown into the rubbish, but they then take hundreds of years to decompose. While they decompose, they kill animals and produce greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming. However, the fight against plastic bags is growing.

A _____

In the 1980s, a movement against plastic bags began in Bangladesh, where old plastic bags blocked drains and caused floods. In 2002, it became the first country to completely ban plastic bags. Other countries followed – Rwanda in 2005, Kenya in 2007 and China in 2008. However, things have been slower in developed countries.

B _____

In 2002, Ireland introduced a 33% tax on plastic bags so they cost 15 pence instead of being free. The result? People started buying and using cloth bags and within six weeks, use of plastic bags had dropped by a staggering 94%. Experts estimate that each cloth bag saves a thousand plastic ones so this is a huge step forward.

C _____

The village of Modbury in England hit the headlines in 2007 when it became the first place in England to completely ban plastic bags. When a local filmmaker, Rebecca Hosking, went to Hawaii to make a film she was horrified to see the environmental devastation caused by thousands of plastic bags. After returning home she showed her film to the local shopkeepers and persuaded them to stop using plastic bags. Several other towns and cities copied the idea. San Francisco became the first place in the USA to ban bags later that same year.

D _____

Since a ban went into place on January 1, 2011, stores in Italy, which used to use 20 billion bags a year (20% of all European use), have only offered paper, biodegradable or cloth bags. It is the first European country to completely ban plastic bags. Now the European Commission is considering a Europe-wide approach to plastic bags which could include total bans on single-use carrier bags.

E _____

Plastic bags are slowly beginning to disappear all over the world. As Italy's environment minister said, 'Sustainability is made of little changes to our lifestyle that don't cost us anything and can save the planet.' Let's hope that one day in the future we will only see plastic bags in museums.

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LISTENING SKILLS

1 CD Track 4 Class CD4.29 **Match extracts 1–5 with descriptions A–E. There are two extra descriptions that you do not need.** (5 points)

Extract 1 ☐
Extract 2 ☐
Extract 3 ☐
Extract 4 ☐
Extract 5 ☐

A a radio programme about films
B a guide at a museum
C a teenager leaving a phone message for a friend
D a class presentation about a book
E a recorded message
F a history teacher in class
G a reporter at the scene of a disaster

2 CD Track 4 Class CD4.29 **Listen again and choose the correct answers.** (5 points)

1 During the volcanic eruption
a 20,000 people were killed.
b the city was covered in volcanic ash.
c most of the city wasn't affected.

2 In the flood
a 10 people died.
b 200,000 people lost their homes.
c 1,500 people were reported missing.

3 You need to call another number if you want information about
a opening and closing times.
b an earthquake in 1906.
c visits for school parties.

4 *The Smoke Jumper* is
a about the writer Nicholas Evans.
b a story involving a forest fire.
c a funny story.

5 *Galveston*
a is a fictional disaster film.
b was finished in 2008.
c was directed by Jim Bailey.

COMMUNICATION

1 **Complete the mini dialogues with the words in the box. There are two extra words that you do not need.** (5 points)

appreciate better loss should useful were ~~wits'~~ worth

1 **A** My dog gets really nervous when I go out to work. I'm at my wits' end.
B You might find it _____ to ask Jim. He knows a lot about dogs.

2 **A** My cat keeps being sick. What do you think I _____ do?
B It's _____ taking it to the vet to check what's wrong.

3 **A** I want to buy my children a pet. I'm at a _____ as to what to buy.
B Why don't you get a dog? I'm sure they'd love that.

4 **A** I am not sure where to go on holidays.
B If I _____ you, I'd go to the seaside.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS