

TASK 3

Read the text below about taking food from supermarket bins. Decide which of the nine phrases below (letters B-J) should go in the gaps 1-7 in the text. There are two extra phrases that do not go into any of the gaps. 0 is an example. Write your answers in the box on the next page.

Can there be no such thing as a free lunch?



By Alice Hutton

NOT many people would relish eating dinner from a bin – but now (0) _____ by so-called freegans has been put under the spotlight by a legal expert from Anglia Ruskin University.

Dr Sean Thomas, (1) _____, published an article entitled “Do Freegans Commit Theft?” in top-ranked law journal *Legal Studies* this month. ‘Freeganism’ is a worldwide movement that involves taking goods that appear abandoned – usually in supermarkets’ bins – without paying, as a protest against waste.

Although the term has not yet made it into the Oxford English Dictionary, it is an old concept. Dr Thomas says: “Freeganism (2) _____, there have always been people who scavenge. But more recently it has been imbued with an alternative, radical philosophy and dissent at materialism.”

The lecturer claimed the issue hinged on whether the supermarkets had actually abandoned the food by putting it in a bin and whether the freegan was acting intentionally dishonestly. He added: “The idea of freeganism raises many seemingly disparate issues of property and criminal law and (3) _____ the extent of legal protection of radical ideologies of ownership.”

“Abandonment in English law is very murky. In order to commit theft you have to be dishonest and dishonesty does not cover a freegan situation in law – yet. But the people who do it often think that (4) _____. I haven’t ever done freeganism or knowingly met a freegan as they don’t usually advertise it, especially if they think it’s criminal.”

A spokesman for the organisation UK Freegans said the idea that it was possible to steal an abandoned item was ‘laughable’ but that he wouldn’t be surprised if it was made illegal. He said: “The idea that people who actively recycle in order to (5) _____, and to redistribute the existing wealth more fairly to those in need, are ‘stealing’, is quite laughable really. Britain has a huge problem concerning wasting food. Millions of tonnes of food items get discarded each year while millions of people are suffering from malnutrition. Thousands of people are fed through bin-raiding each week and so I think stopping them is definitely wrong.”

The environmental impact of mass consumerism is a growing concern in the UK and statistics from the Waste and Resources Action Programme estimate that Britain wastes 40 per cent of its food supplies every year, dumping 4.1 million tonnes of usable products into landfill sites. For instance, in 2009, households and supermarkets discarded 1,600 million apples, 1,030 million tomatoes, 2,570 million bread slices and 484 million yoghurt tubs (6) _____ and perfectly edible.

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Green Party councillor Margaret Wright welcomed freeganism in Cambridge. She said: “It’s about being self-sufficient and I find it quite a hopeful idea that is in line with the Green Party’s ideas on preventing waste. Freegans are not putting anyone (7) _____. If the food has already been put in bins then it won’t be going to charities anyway. It is a sensible way to get food that would otherwise go to landfill sites.”

Adapted from: <http://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/News/Do-freegans-commit-theft.htm>

Example A) the practice of ‘dumpster diving’	
B) which allow us to know	
C) lessen the negative impact they have on the environment	
D) which had gone off	
E) offers an interesting opportunity for exploring	
F) a senior law lecturer	
G) which were still unopened	
H) they are doing something illegal and take the food at night when no one is looking	
I) is not a new phenomenon	
J) out of a livelihood	

Gap	Example 0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Phrases	A							
Teacher	✓							

TOTAL (7 x 2 marks) _____ /14 marks