Final mock

1. Read the text. Choose the correct option (a, b or c)

Gloucester family cuts waste to one rubbish bag a year

When it comes to household recycling, one family in Gloucester take some beating. They have cut the waste they produce to just one bag a year.

Where many families take their rubbish out once a week or once a fortnight, the Strauss family put theirs out just once a year.

Richard, 52, his wife Rachelle, 37, and eight-year-old Verona recycle everything they can at their home in Longhope in the Forest of Dean.

"It's about changing the way that you shop initially so that you're looking at the product and making sure that the packaging it comes in is not something excessive or something that you know you can either compost or recycle afterwards," Richard explains.

A family holiday when they were in the middle of the floods in Cornwall made them think about the impact that the human race has on the environment, and has led to a change in their habits.

They insist they live a very normal life; they are just careful.

I went with them to their local shops and Kevin's Butchers in nearby Mitcheldean. I noticed many shoppers in the street with re-usable bags, but the Strauss family even take their own containers along.

"When you buy meat and vegetables from your local store you can buy exactly the amount you want. No food waste, so it's cheaper," Rachelle says.

The butcher, Kevin Brown, is impressed. "They've opened up our eyes really to what we do waste. They're a bit of an inspiration," he says.

"Over the last 12 months I've seen a heck of an increase in people bringing their own bags in. I used to offer everyone a bag and everyone used to take one. But not anymore."

After carefully selecting food with minimal packaging the next step is to deal with the rubbish after the food has been eaten.

Vegetable peelings, fruit cores and crumbs are turned into compost. Tissues, paper and cardboard are also composted. Bottles, cans, and most plastics are taken to recycling depots in the Forest of Dean. All that is left are crisp packets and some plastics. Once squashed, a year's rubbish fits almost perfectly into their old metal bin.

The Strausses insist that anyone can cut their waste - perhaps not to the extent they have but so much more is possible and every little step makes a difference.

So, just one bin for 2019 - what's ahead in 2020? "Zero waste. No landfill rubbish, no bin," Richard says.

Richard and Rachelle are not concerned about the past, they are determined to improve the future.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. How many people are there in the Strauss family?
a. three
b. four
c. five

2. When did they decide to start recycling?
a. After seeing a documentary about global warming
b. After seeing a natural disaster when they were on holiday
c. After reading about recycling

3. When they go shopping...
a. they always take reusable bags
b. they buy only the necessary
c. they take their own containers

4. The butcher...
a. has started recycling because of the Strauss family
b. thinks the Strauss family inspires the rest of the people to recycle
c. thinks it's pointless to recycle

5. For next year, The Strauss family wants to...
a. Keep on recycling
b. Reduce their rubbish to zero
c. Help others start recycling

2) Complete the conversation.

Tina: - _____ read about that family who recycles almost everything?
Tom: - Oh, no, I haven't.
Tina: - I couldn't believe when I read that they only take the rubbish out once a year!
Tom: - What? Really? I think it's impossible!
Tina: - _____ try at least?
Tom: - I wouldn't. Would you?
Tina: - Well... If my family wanted to do it too, I would. We produce _____ rubbish at home, it's time for a change.
Tom: - Why don't you talk to your parents _____ this?
Tina: - It can be a good idea. We've been talking about this lately, during dinnertime. So they may agree.
Tom: - Do you think it will be difficult to recycle like this family you read about?
Tina: - I think it won't be as _____ it seems. In fact, I think it'll be easier _____ we expect!

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3) Complete with ONE word.

Recycling is very important in our lives because the waste we create is increasing _____ the time. The rise in population means that there are _____ people on the planet to create waste. New packaging _____ being developed, but many of these products contain materials that are not eco- friendly. New lifestyle changes, such as _____ fast food, means that we create additional waste _____ isn't recyclable. Recycling helps to decrease the pollution that is caused _____ waste. It reduces the need for raw materials so that the rainforests can be preserved. Huge amounts _____ energy are used when making products from raw materials. Recycling requires much less energy _____ helps to preserve natural resources. We _____ always remember that making products from raw materials costs much more than _____ they were made from recycled products.

4) Complete with the correct form of the verb.

A Swedish shopping mall where everything is recycled or upcycled.

Anna Bergstrom had a dilemma. She _____ (love) the glitzy world of high fashion, but, a long time ago, she _____ (start) to feel that it was unsustainable and bad for the planet. Now, she _____ (find) peace of mind by running a stylish shopping mall in Sweden, where everything is second-hand.

"Do you notice the smell?" Anna Bergstrom says, as she surveys her mall from the mezzanine level. "It _____ (smell) nice here, doesn't it?"

It's very important to Anna that this place is enticing, because she feels it is making a statement. Everything for sale here, in 14 specialist shops covering everything from clothes to DIY tools, is recycled.

She is usually turned off by the smell of second-hand stores, she explains, even though she _____ (adore) vintage fashion.

For most people flea-markets and charity shops carry a stigma, she thinks - a mark left by countless bad experiences. Too often they _____ (be) worthy but depressing, Anna says. Her mission is to bring second-hand shopping into the mainstream.

The mall itself is spacious and appealing, almost like Ikea. An art installation - a tree and circular bench which _____ (make) of recycled materials - greets customers at the entrance.

There is even a coffee shop and gift-wrapping service.

The mall is called ReTuna. "Tuna" because that's the nickname for the city where it _____ (base) - Eskilstuna, an hour's train journey west of Stockholm - and "Re" because the goods on sale have been recycled or repurposed.

It was set up by Eskilstuna's local government in 2015, in a warehouse which _____ (habit in the past – have) trucks for a logistics company.

The shops inside it are run as businesses rather than charities, and each pays a combined charge of rent and business rates.

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Anna Bergstrom's business mantra which she repeats to each shopkeeper is, "Do it like Hugo Boss." She wants the mall to stand toe-to-toe with a regular, commercial, glitzy mall.

5) Writing: Imagine you decide to start recycling like the Strauss family. Write an email to a friend telling him/her what you are doing.

Include:
- What things you are recycling
- if it has been difficult to start or not
- advantages and/or disadvantages
- if you recommend to your friend this way of recycling.

LIVEWORKSHEETS