



You are going to read an article about the trend of drinking bottled water. For questions 1–10, choose from the sections (A–E). The sections may be chosen more than once.

In which section of the article are the following mentioned?

commonly held myths about the benefits of drinking bottled water

bottled water being responsible for a change in a social custom

the existence of cities having been dependent on the consumption of a particular drink

an explanation for why a temporary trend in bottled water sales occurred

the view that the role a particular person plays is largely redundant

the ability of a certain drink to provide comfort and bring people together

appreciation for an insight that supported the writer's own viewpoint

the desire to behave in a way that would highlight the absurdity of a situation

the potential uses of a drink to enhance physical well-being and mental performance

the habit of drinking bottled water being used to promote the image of its consumer

A nice cup of tea beats bottled water every time

Our writer tries to understand the appeal of fashionable plastic

A

I am occasionally engaged to speak in public, and the preliminary formalities are handled by a functionary who telephones to ask whether I will be needing a power point, and whether I have 'any special dietary requirements'. Sooner or later I'm going to answer both in the affirmative: 'Being a novelist, I will naturally be illustrating my talk with

a series of graphs – and, as for the dinner, I will get my doctor to forward you the list of my allergies.'

- 10 Immediately before the talk, the pointless man will stand up and say, 'A few housekeeping notes,' before pointing out the exits, which, since they are usually the same as the entrances by which we came in, we already know. He then wastes further effort by
- 15 marshalling before me some bottles of water. Again,

I am tempted to call his bluff. I ought to spend the first five minutes of my speaking time tipping the contents of these bottles down my throat. But, in practice, I never touch them. It just so happens that I have never been gagging with thirst while being introduced as a speaker. Don't get me wrong, when I am thirsty, I have a drink: ideally, apple juice, because I prefer something with a taste. Above all, I drink tea – no fewer than half a dozen cups a day.

B

I find the bottled water fad to be a distressing instance of mass hypnotism, so when the remarks of an Australian scientist were reported last week, they represented to me a series of nails being hit firmly on the head. Dr Spero Tsindos resoundingly pronounced that bottled water has become 'a fashion accessory and a token of instant gratification'. Unfortunately, the British public is not so sensible. Sales of bottled water have ascended continually since the 1980s apart from a brief dip from 2006–2010. This was probably accounted for by a backlash against bottled water – at the glibness of the whole phenomenon, whose only tangible result is a mountain of landfill. Restaurants that refused to serve tap water were condemned and often shamed out of the practice. But notwithstanding the fact that it doesn't flush toxins out of the body, improve the skin, or taste better than tap water, people now consume more bottled water than ever before.

C

I suspect that the appeal of a small bottle of water is that it is not a glass of wine. 'Look,' the water carrier proclaims, 'I am not drinking alcohol!' (at least, not right now). The water bottle is a priggish symbol of purity and piety, and insofar as this is radiated externally, it is a reproof to the person daring to drink wine in the presence of the water-drinker. Insofar as it is not radiated, then the water-drinker is claiming moral points for being conscious of

their own well-being. The other reason I can't stand bottled water is that it seems unpatriotic. Since the 1980s, our traditional four cups of tea a day have apparently dropped to three. But let's quickly eliminate one suspect in the case of the lost cup. At first glance, it might appear to be coffee when we notice the proliferation of high street coffee shops. But sales show that the culprit is actually bottled water, and to a lesser extent, fruit juice.

D

Why should we be celebrating tea? Being 99 per cent water, it has all the hydrating virtues of bottled water but with a bonus, namely the tea itself, which provides a moderate dose of cerebrally-stimulating caffeine (the best thing you can do before an exam is drink a cup of tea). It is also rich in flavonoid antioxidants, which aid cardiovascular fitness and tea leaves applied externally can act as an antiseptic, as monkeys in the jungle know very well. And unlike bottled water, tea requires the boiling of water, and it is said that tea consumption enabled the concentrations of population necessary for urban living in the 18th century, when metropolitan water supplies were not clean.

E

As a child, I was involved in a serious car crash, and I could not speak from shock until a woman – a complete stranger, and angelic in my memory – came up with a cup of sweet, milky tea. I doubt that a bottle of water would have done the trick. Tea is associated with an enjoyable and very social ritual, but imagine the sheer crassness of a host who inquired, 'More bottled water, anyone?' Tea is our national common denominator, and it would be helpful in these uncertain times if it could be allied to our other such symbol, namely a certain Elizabeth. But I fear that Her Majesty is invariably accompanied on her travels by bottles of mineral water.