3 **Read the text again. Which paragraph (A–D) is about ...**

1 why it is sometimes hard to recycle your old gadgets? .....
2 what consumers and companies can do? .....
3 who is really paying the price of e-waste? .....
4 what e-waste is and why it is a problem? .....

more common.

5 A challenge for electric car makers is how to recycle their batteries – lithium, its main component, is very ..... for the environment.

Critical thinkers

6 **Tick (✓) the ideas which the writer agrees with.**

1 Landfill is a good solution for e-waste. ☐
2 We need to make it easier to recycle all e-waste. ☐
3 If individuals recycle their e-waste properly, we will solve the problem. ☐
4 Consumers, and not companies, are the key to solving the problem. ☐

Do you really need a **NEW MOBILE PHONE**?

A What do you think of when someone talks about recycling waste? Paper? Organic waste? There's another type of waste which is problematic: e-waste. This is things like mobile phones and computers. Inside these 'cool' products, there are some very toxic heavy metals that can cause serious damage to the environment. If we burn this waste, we get air pollution. If we put it in landfill, toxic chemicals go into the earth and, in the end, pollute the water.

B So, what's the right thing to do if you want to throw away your old mobile phone or laptop? For a start, don't put it in with your usual rubbish. Take it to a recycling point! However, even if you do this, you might find that they don't accept your e-waste if it's big – for example, a laptop or the main part of a computer. That's the first problem with e-waste – finding somewhere to recycle it.

C However, there's a much bigger issue that many people don't know about. The European Union and the US are sending tonnes of e-waste to poorer countries. When this e-waste arrives, these countries don't have the technology to dispose of it properly. This causes direct harm to the people who handle it and also to the population in general.

D What are the solutions to the e-waste problem? First, as individuals, we need to recycle our e-waste responsibly. Second, tech companies will need to look into ways to make it easier to repair their products so that people can continue to use them. At the moment, tech companies are more interested in producing new models and don't want to extend the life of existing ones. Third, if we want a new smartphone, we can buy it from a company like Fairphone, which produces phones that are eco-friendly and easy to repair. Finally, and most importantly, we can stop buying the latest model every one or two years, and keep our phone for longer. A large part of the solution is actually in our hands. However, are we prepar[illegible] consumer[illegible]

LIVEWORKSHEETS