

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____

You are going to give a presentation on fast fashion. You have found a report online. Read the report.

Text 1 Report

Cheap fast fashion comes at a high cost



① Fast fashion has become more and more popular since the beginning of the 21st century. Fashion-hungry shoppers, who mostly live in First World countries, can buy cheap and trendy clothing whenever required. Instead of introducing new items seasonally, fast fashion retailers are restocking their shelves several times a week. Unfortunately, this business model is harming the environment. There are also people who are suffering because of this trend.

② The world is producing more clothing than ever before. The growing demand for affordable clothing forces many retail companies to find cheap labour in developing countries like India and Bangladesh. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that 170 million children are involved in child labour. This is particularly common in the fashion industry because they require mostly low-skilled workers who only need to do routine work like fabric dyeing and sewing. Some of the tasks, like cotton picking, are even more suitable for young children because their small fingers would not damage the crops. These young workers are exposed to dangerous chemicals in the factories. They also work extremely long hours for a small wage. In 2013, an eight-storey building in Dhaka, Bangladesh, which contained several major fast fashion factories, collapsed—killing 1,134 people. These exploited workers are risking their lives and working tirelessly to make a living. However, the clothes that they are making are being thrown away every single day.

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- ③ In China, 26 million tonnes of textile waste is generated annually. This waste ends up in
20 landfills. It may take hundreds of years to break down because, unlike natural materials like
cotton and silk, cheap synthetic fabrics like acrylic, rayon and polyester are made of fossil
fuels. In fact, 70 million barrels of oil are used yearly in fabric making, not to mention that
there are cancer-causing chemicals in these materials. The harmful effects of fast fashion
do not end there. 20% of industrial water pollution comes from treating and dyeing
25 textiles. Most of the factories pump the hazardous waste directly into local fresh water
supplies. Moreover, transporting clothing to different shops around the world leaves a
huge carbon footprint. This contributes to global warming. As a whole, the fashion industry
is responsible for 10% of the world's carbon emissions. It is the second largest polluter in
the world.
- 30 ④ It is clear that the fast fashion industry is treating workers unfairly and causing great
damage to the environment. It is, therefore, important for shoppers to consider these facts
before making a fast fashion purchase.



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Comprehension 1 *You are checking your facts before writing your presentation speech about fast fashion. Answer the questions using information from the report. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only.*

1 According to paragraph 1, where do most fast fashion shoppers live?

2 Why do fast fashion companies set their factories in developing countries?

3 Find a word in paragraph 2 that means 'done regularly as part of a job'.

4 Complete the sentence.
'Cotton picking' is more suitable for child workers because _____

_____.

5 Which of the following problems of working in a clothing factory in a developing country is NOT mentioned in paragraph 2?

- ☐ A no workers' union
- ☐ B unsafe working environment
- ☐ C low wages
- ☐ D long working hours

6 Who does 'they' (line 18) refer to?

7 i) Name THREE examples of synthetic fabrics given in paragraph 3.

ii) Why are they harmful to the environment?

8 Which of the following environmental problems is NOT mentioned in paragraph 3?

- ☐ A air pollution
- ☐ B soil pollution
- ☐ C noise pollution
- ☐ D water pollution

9 According to paragraph 3, are the following statements **True (T)**, **False (F)** or **Not Given (NG)**? Write the letter(s) in the boxes.

Statements

- i) China generates the most textile waste per year. ☐
- ii) Cotton is a man-made material. ☐
- iii) Many synthetic materials contain chemicals that cause cancer. ☐
- iv) Textile factories treat the waste water before pumping it out. ☐

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10 What is the purpose of the report?

A to inform

C to describe

A B C D

B to argue

D to advise

○ ○ ○ ○

11 Match the following subheadings to each paragraph. Write the paragraph number next to each subheading. One subheading is NOT used and should be left blank.

Subheading

Paragraph no.

i) Abused workers

ii) Consider the facts


iii) A solution to fast fashion

iv) Fast fashion's business model


v) A dirty industry

12 Complete the following infographic using information from the report. You may use more than one word for some of the blanks.


Fashion industry




(i) _____ largest polluter in the world




produces 10% of the world's (vi) _____




(ii) _____ million children are engaged in (iii) _____ and most of them in clothing factories



(vii) _____ manufacturing uses 70 million barrels of (viii) _____ annually



treating and (iv) _____ textiles accounts for 20% of the world's (v) _____ water pollution



China generates 26 (ix) _____ tonnes of textile waste per year

13 Find words from Text 1 with these meanings.

i) people or businesses that sell goods to the public (n., para. 1)	
ii) treated unfairly by being made to work and not given much in return (adj., para. 2)	
iii) artificial; man-made (adj., para. 3)	