

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*You have found a feature article in the newspaper about rubbish incineration and an infographic about the waste situation in Hong Kong. Read the feature article and infographic.*

## Text 1 Feature article

# The great incinerator debate

- ① Burning waste to generate heat and electricity has been a common practice in many European countries for decades. They have developed advanced waste-to-energy technologies to deal with the problem of rubbish and waste. However, critics are questioning whether waste-to-energy is really a foolproof method that eliminates waste once and for all.
- ② It is estimated that a quarter of Europe's waste is burnt in 450 incinerators across the continent. Incineration has become the main form of waste management because it frees up land in overpopulated cities, and prevents dangerous chemicals from seeping into soil and underground water supplies. In fact, Scandinavians were the first ones to adopt waste-to-energy. Denmark has incinerated their rubbish for over a century. In Sweden, only 1% of their waste is buried underground and the rest is recycled or burnt. Norway has developed a way to capture carbon emissions from incineration and redirect the gas to their oil fields to increase production. But is waste-to-energy the only method worth thinking about as an alternative to landfills?
- ③ Those against incineration argue that although there is certainly no shortage of waste, we must remember that rubbish is non-renewable. Most discarded goods are produced using resources that will eventually run out, and incineration will only destroy them for good. In some countries, incineration and recycling end up competing for waste, and rubbish made from fossil fuels like plastic is rarely sorted out because of its great burning properties. Therefore, waste-to-energy takes away the opportunity to reuse or recycle these otherwise valuable materials. Furthermore, many countries often end up not having enough rubbish to burn for themselves. They have to import waste from neighbouring countries like the UK to keep their incinerators burning, which actually causes pollution during transportation. And although there are strict regulations in monitoring carbon emissions, other ash and fumes still enter the air and damage the earth's atmosphere.



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④ There is no simple answer to waste management. However, when it comes to working towards a more sustainable future, we can all agree that we have done enough damage to the environment and that we cannot ignore the outrageous amount of waste that is killing our planet. Whichever side of the debate you are on, it is time for us all to consider how we can live more responsibly.

## Text 2 Infographic



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**Comprehension 1 & 2** Your sister wants to know more about rubbish incineration and the waste situation in Hong Kong. Answer her questions using information from the feature article and the infographic. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only.

**Feature article**

1 What does 'They' (line 4) refer to?

\_\_\_\_\_

2 What is 'waste-to-energy' (lines 4 & 5)?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3 What are the TWO reasons that European countries prefer incineration to landfills?

i) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

ii) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4 Decide whether the following statements are **True (T)**, **False (F)** or the information is **Not Given (NG)** in paragraph 2. Write the letter(s) in the boxes.

**Statements**

i) 25% of waste is sent to the landfill in Europe. ☐

ii) Denmark has the longest history of incinerating rubbish. ☐

iii) Sweden recycles 99% of its waste. ☐

iv) The writer thinks that Scandinavians are the most eco-conscious. ☐

5 Which of the following is a non-renewable resource?

☐ A sunlight ☐ C water

☐ B wind ☐ D fossil fuels

6 What does 'its' (line 24) refer to?

\_\_\_\_\_

7 Which word in paragraph 3 is similar in meaning to 'precious'?

☐ A shortage ☐ C valuable

☐ B discarded ☐ D strict

8 What are the disadvantages of waste-to-energy? Use your own words to explain. One has been given to you as an example.

i) It destroys resources for good.

ii) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

iii) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

iv) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9 What is the writer's message to the reader?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**10** Match the main points with one of the corresponding paragraphs on the left. Write the correct letter (A–C) on the line next to the paragraph number.

A stop wasting the earth's resources

B downsides to burning waste

C making the most of waste

i) Paragraph 2 \_\_\_\_\_

ii) Paragraph 3 \_\_\_\_\_

iii) Paragraph 4 \_\_\_\_\_

**11** Which of the following is the best alternative title for the feature article?

A How waste-to-energy works

B The dangers of waste-to-energy

C Waste management in Europe

D To burn or not to burn

A B C D

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

**12** Find words from Text 1 with these meanings.

Definition	Paragraph	Word
i) completely removes or gets rid of something	1	
ii) (of a country or city) with too many people living in it	2	
iii) (of natural resources such as gas or oil) that cannot be replaced after use	3	
iv) to bring a product or service into one country from another	3	
v) very shocking and unacceptable	4	

### Infographic

**13** Complete the following summary using information from the infographic. Use ONE word to complete each blank.

In 2015, 5.5 million tonnes of (i) \_\_\_\_\_ was sent to the (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ in Hong Kong and 67% of it is (iii) \_\_\_\_\_, which is waste produced by (iv) \_\_\_\_\_ as well as factories, (v) \_\_\_\_\_, supermarkets, etc. In fact, each person produces (vi) \_\_\_\_\_ kg of waste daily, and a total of 10,159 (vii) \_\_\_\_\_ of municipal solid waste are landfilled each day. Over 75% of it is food waste, paper and (viii) \_\_\_\_\_.