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Đề thi thật 1: Solving the problem of waste disposal

With the amount of rubbish being produced around the world increasing, Mark Rowe asks whether a new generation of incineration plants can help to solve the problem.

A

For many years, burning rubbish has been portrayed as the lazy option when it comes to dealing with the problem of waste disposal, since it sends toxic fumes into the air and appears to support a consumerist, throwaway society. Norway, however, appears to be burning its way through a sizable chunk of Europe's municipal waste, using the heat created by this process to warm and power homes in many of its cities. Norway isn't alone: Germany, Sweden, Belgium and the Netherlands all burn significant quantities of rubbish, and across Europe there are 420 plants burning municipal waste. With Europe dumping 150 million tonnes of rubbish into landfill* every year, there would seem to be a limitless supply.

B

Those who support burning waste say that a new generation of incinerators has made it a more attractive option. Filters and scrubbing mechanisms now capture harmful substances such as mercury, hydrochloric acid and heavy metals. According to Ted Michaels, president of the US-based Energy Recovery Centre, 'There has been constant evolution in combustion engineering and emissions-control technology, and the output from these facilities is now minuscule.' Above all, however, supporters say that incineration is the only way of preventing the long-term impacts of landfill. In ten years' time, says the World Bank, humans will be generating 2.2 billion tonnes of solid waste per year. Advocates see incineration as a practical way to deal swiftly with an immediate problem.

C

Levels of waste generation vary hugely around the world. 'It's a problem for the developed nations,' says Joergen Fenhann, a senior scientist working with the UN Environment Programme in Denmark. 'The more you develop, the more you produce, buy and throw away. But the growth of incineration hasn't been universally welcomed. Lars Haltbrekken, chairman of Friends of the Earth in Norway, is concerned that incineration plants appear to generate demand for their services. 'The problem in Norway,' he explains, 'is that we have built too many waste-burning factories. So we've ended up importing waste from other countries. If you look at this in a very small perspective, it is, of course, better for the climate to burn rubbish from the UK rather than leave it in landfill there,' he continues. 'But in a broader perspective, it's a lazy way of getting rid of waste; you don't stimulate the goals of reducing, reusing and recycling.'

D

Incineration is also at odds with EU policy, which promotes a 'recycling hierarchy': ideally, we simply produce less waste in the first place; failing that, we reuse objects more; the next step is recycling; only then should we consider incineration, while dumping in landfill is the last resort. Dealing with the problem of waste disposal involves tracing the whole process that took the material from its inception to landfill. We used to call this the 'cradle to grave' life cycle; now, the talk is of 'cradle to cradle' and an even more comprehensive concept known as 'zero waste'. 'The philosophy of cradle to cradle is about designing products that are actually good for the environment at the end of their life,' says Joan Marc Simon, European spokesman for the environmental movement GAIA. You design a bottle that contains no toxins, is fully recyclable and requires the minimum amount of energy to be produced.' As Simon points out, however, without the right mechanisms in place 'nothing guarantees that this bottle will end up being properly collected and treated in the appropriate recycling facility'.

Questions 14-19

Reading Passage 2 has six paragraphs, A-F.

Choose the correct heading for each paragraph from the list of headings below.

Write the correct number, i-vii, in boxes 14-19 on your answer sheet.

List of Headings

i New terminology reflecting changing attitudes to waste disposal

ii Fundamental changes in behaviour in the past and future

iii Ways of rewarding the public for recycling

iv A surprising approach to waste disposal by several countries

v Difficult choices for individuals and businesses

vi Arguments against incineration from a country that uses it

vii A number of justifications for the use of incineration

14 Paragraph A

15 Paragraph B

16 Paragraph C

17 Paragraph D

18 Paragraph E

19 Paragraph F

Questions 20-23

Look at the following people (Questions 20-23) and the list of opinions below.

Match each person with the correct opinion, A-G.

Write the correct letter, A-G, in boxes 20-23 on your answer sheet.

20 Ted Michaels

21 Joergen Fenhann

22 Joan Marc Simon

23 Tim Burns

List of Opinions

A Incineration does not encourage responsible attitudes to waste disposal.

B Recycling can sometimes create serious problems for the future.

C Greater consumerism leads to higher levels of waste.

D Proper systems are needed for the recycling of environmentally-friendly products.

E Landfill is better for the environment than incineration.

F Incineration of waste is now relatively harmless to the environment.

G Efforts to reduce waste may affect profits for some types of companies.

E

Tim Burns, policy manager at Keep Britain Tidy, says, 'In the UK alone, people waste £10 billion of food every year. You can argue about composting that, or not buying it in the first place — if you do that, then that's money the retailers don't get, so it's not always clear-cut. The implications of zero waste are that we're going to have to take a good long look at those well-stocked supermarket shelves, too. 'Supermarkets keep their shelves stocked even when demand isn't there, which means they have to pay to dispose of a lot of food, says Burns. 'But that cost is less to them than the cost in brand damage of having empty shelves.'

F

Recent history and changes in trends in recycling suggest that we should be prepared for unexpected developments. 'If someone back in the 1980s had suggested what waste would be like now, they would be completely wrong, says Richard Fisher, a PhD researcher at Cranfield University. 'Consumerism has developed at a pace we never expected. Nobody would have said there would be so much electronic waste. But recycling has grown, too — ten years ago nobody would have predicted today's levels of recycling.' But he points out that the need to reduce waste is still a difficult message to sell to consumers. He suggests that what people are really concerned about is their loved ones and the future they face. 'Perhaps we can align the environmental message to these deep-seated values,' he says. 'We need to look at whether it's business that drives consumers or the other way around. You need government to play a leadership role, whereas countries such as the UK seem to be stepping away from the environment in pursuit of short-term economic goals.'

- landfill: a method of disposing of waste material by burying it

Questions 24-26

Complete the summary below.

Choose ONE WORD ONLY from the passage for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 24-26 on your answer sheet.

What recent history tells us about recycling

Richard Fisher, a researcher from Cranfield University, points out that the pace of consumerism has increased more quickly than was predicted in the 1980s. There has, for example, been unexpected growth in waste from 24..... products. He suggests that the need to protect the environment should be linked to basic values, and adds that it might be better if consumers had more influence over 25 ..... and more direction was provided by 26 ..... .

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Đề thi thật 2 The History of Pencil

The beginning of the story of pencils started with a lightning. Graphite, the main material for producing pencil, was discovered in 1564 in Borrowdale in England when a lightning struck a local tree during a thunder. Local people found out that the black substance spotted at the root of the unlucky tree was different from burning ash of wood. It was soft, thus left marks everywhere. Chemistry was barely out of its infancy at the time, so people mistook it for lead, equally black but much heavier. It was soon put to use by locals in marking their sheep for ownership and calculation.

Britain turns out to be major country where mines of graphite can be detected and developed. Even so, the first pencil was invented elsewhere. As graphite is soft, it requires some form of encasement. In Italy, graphite sticks were initially wrapped in string or sheepskin for stability, becoming perhaps the very first pencil in the world. Then around 1560, an Italian couple made what are likely the first blueprints for the modern, wood-encased carpentry pencil. Their version was a flat, oval, more compact type of pencil. Their concept involved the hollowing out of a stick of juniper wood. Shortly thereafter in 1662, a superior technique was discovered by German people: two wooden halves were carved, a graphite stick inserted, and the halves then glued together - essentially the same method in use to this day. The news of the usefulness of these early pencils spread far and wide, attracting the attention of artists all over the known world.

Although graphite core in pencils is still referred to as lead, modern pencils do not contain lead as the "lead" of the pencil is actually a mix of finely ground graphite and clay powders. This mixture is important because the amount of clay content added to the graphite depends on the intended pencil hardness, and the amount of time spent on grinding the mixture determines the quality of the lead. The more clay you put in, the higher hardness the core has. Many pencils across the world, and almost all in Europe, are graded on the European system. This system of naming used B for black and H for hard; a pencil's grade was described by a sequence or successive Hs or Bs such as BB and BBB for successively softer leads, and HH and HHH for successively harder ones. Then the standard writing pencil is graded HB.

In England, pencils continue to be made from whole sawn graphite. But with the mass production of pencils, they are getting drastically more popular in many countries with each passing decade. As demands rise, appetite for graphite soars.

Question 1-7

Complete the sentences below.

Choose ONE WORD ONLY from the passage for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 1-7 on your answer sheet.

Graphite was found under a 1..... in Borrowdale, it was dirty to use because it was 2..... .

Ancient people used graphite to sign 3..... . People found graphite 4..... in Britain.

The first pencil was graphite wrapped in 5..... or animal skin.

Since graphite was too smooth, 6..... was added to make it harder.

Russian astronauts preferred 7..... pencils to write in the outer space.

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According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), world production of natural graphite in 2012 was 1,100,000 tonnes, of which the following major exporters are: China, India, Brazil, North Korea and Canada. However, much in contrast with its intellectual application in producing pencils, graphite was also widely used in the military. During the reign of Elizabeth I, Borrowdale graphite was used as a refractory material to line moulds for cannonballs, resulting in rounder, smoother balls that could be fired farther, contributing to the strength of the English navy. This particular deposit of graphite was extremely pure and soft, and could easily be broken into sticks. Because of its military importance, this unique mine and its production were strictly controlled by the Crown.

That the United States did not use pencils in the outer space till they spent $1000 to make a pencil to use in zero gravity conditions is in fact a fiction. It is widely known that astronauts in Russia used grease pencils, which don't have breakage problem. But it is also a fact that their counterparts in the United States used pencils in the outer space before real zero gravity pencil was invented. They preferred mechanical pencils, which produced fine line, much clearer than the smudgy lines left by the grease pencils that Russians favored. But the lead tips of these mechanical pencils broke often. That bit of graphite floating around the space capsule could get into someone's eye, or even find its way into machinery or electronics, causing an electrical short or other problems. But despite the fact that the Americans did invent zero gravity pencils later, they stuck to mechanical pencils for many years.

Against the backcloth of a digitalized world, the prospect of pencils seems bleak. In reality, it does not. The application of pencils has by now become so widespread that they can be seen everywhere, such as classrooms, meeting rooms and art rooms, etc. A spectrum of users are likely to continue to use it into the future: students to do math works, artists to draw on sketch pads, waiters or waitresses to mark on order boards, make-up professionals to apply to faces, and architects to produce blue prints. The possibilities seem limitless.

Question 8-13

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage?

In boxes 8-13 on your answer sheet, write

TRUE if the statement agrees with the information

FALSE if the statement contradicts the information

NOT GIVEN if these is no information on this

8 Italy is probably the first country of the whole world to make pencils.

9 Germany used various kinds of wood to make pencils.

10 Graphite makes a pencil harder and sharper.

11 In Britain, pencils are not produced any more.

12 American astronauts did not use pencil in outer space.

13 Pencils are unlikely to be used in the future.

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Đề thi thật 3: Yawning

How and why we yarn still presents problems for researchers in an area which has only recently been opened up to study

When Robert R Provine began studying yawning in the 1960s, it was difficult for him to convince research students of the merits of 'yawning science1. Although it may appear quirky to some, Provine's decision to study yawning was a logical extension of his research in developmental neuroscience.

The verb 'to yawn' is derived from the Old English ganien or ginian, meaning to gape or open wide. But in addition to gaping jaws, yawning has significant features that are easy to observe and analyse. Provine 'collected' yawns to study by using a variation of the contagion response*. He asked people to 'think about yawning' and, once they began to yawn to depress a button and that would record from the start of the yawn to the exhalation at its end.

Provine's early discoveries can be summanized as follows: the yawn is highly stereotyped but not invariant in its duration and form. It is an excellent example of the instinctive 'fixed action pattern' of classical animal-behavior study, or ethology. It is not a reflex (short-duration, rapid, proportional response to a simple stimulus), but, once started, a yawn progresses with the inevitability of a sneeze. The standard yawn runs its course over about six seconds on average, but its duration can range from about three seconds to much longer than the average. There are no half-yawns: this is an example of the typical intensity of fixed action patterns and a reason why you cannot stifle yawns. Just like a cough, yawns can come in bouts with a highly variable inter-yawn interval, which is generally about 68 seconds but rarely more than 70. There is no relation between yawn frequency and duration: producers of short or long yawns do not compensate by yawning more or less often. Furthermore, Provine's hypotheses about the form and function of yawning can be tested by three informative yawn variants which can be used to look at the roles of the nose, the mouth and the jaws.

Questions 1-6: Complete the summary

Complete the summary below using the list of words, A-K.

Write the correct letter, A-K, in boxes 1-6 on your answer sheet.

Provine's early findings on yawns

1. Through his observation of yawns, Provine was able to confirm that ___ do not exist.
2. Just like a ___, yawns cannot be interrupted after they have begun.
3. This is because yawns occur as a ___ rather than a stimulus response as was previously thought.
4. In measuring the time taken to yawn, Provine found that a typical yawn lasts about ___.
5. He also found that it is common for people to yawn a number of times in quick succession with the yawns usually being around ___ apart.
6. When studying whether length and rate were connected, Provine concluded that people who yawn less do not necessarily produce ___ to make up for this.

Word List:

A. form and function
B. long yawns
C. 3 seconds
D. fixed action pattern
E. 68 seconds
F. short yawns
G. reflex
H. sneeze
I. short duration
J. 6 seconds
K. half-yawns

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Đề thi thật 3: Yawning

i) The closed nose yawn

Subjects are asked to pinch their nose closed when they feel themselves start to yawn. Most subjects report being able to perform perfectly normal closed nose yawns. This indicates that the inhalation at the onset of a yawn, and the exhalation at its end, need not involve the nostrils - the mouth provides a sufficient airway.

ii) The clenched teeth yawn

Subjects are asked to clench their teeth when they feel themselves start to yawn but allow themselves to inhale normally through their open lips and clenched teeth. This variant gives one the sensation of being stuck midyawn. This shows that gaping of the jaws is an essential component of the fixed action pattern of the yawn, and unless it is accomplished, the program (or pattern) will not run to completion. The yawn is also shown to be more than a deep breath, because, unlike normal breathing, inhalation and exhalation cannot be performed so well through the clenched teeth as through the nose.

iii) The nose yawn

This variant tests the adequacy of the nasal airway to sustain a yawn. Unlike normal breathing, which can be performed equally well through mouth or nose, yawning is impossible via nasal inhalation alone. As with the clenched teeth yawn, the nose yawn provides the unfulfilling sensation of being stuck in mid-yawn. Exhalation, on the other hand, can be accomplished equally well through nose or mouth. Through thin methodology Provine demonstrated that inhalation through the oral airway and the gaping of jaws are necessary for normal yawns. The motor program for yawning will not run to completion without feedback that these parts of the program have been accomplished.

But yawning is a powerful, generalized movement that involves much more than airway maneuvres and jaw-gaping. When yawning you also stretch your facial muscles, tilt your head back, narrow or close your eyes, produce tears, salivate, open the Eustachian tubes of your middle ear and perform many other, yet unspecified, cardiovascular and respiratory acts. Perhaps the yawn shares components with other behaviour. For example, in the yawn a kind of 'slow sneeze1 or is the sneeze a 'fast yawn'? Both share common respiratory and other features including jaw gaping, eye closing and head tilting.

Yawning and stretching share properties and may be performed together as parts of a global motor complex. Studies by J I p deVries et al. in the early 1980s, charting movement in the developing foet US using ultrasound, observed a link between yawning and stretching. The most extraordinary demonstration of the yawn-stretch linkage occurs in many people paralyzed on one side of their body because of brain damage caused by a stroke, the prominent British neurologist Sir Francis Walshe noted in 1923 that when these people yawn, they are startled and mystified to observe that their otherwise paralyzed arm rises and flexes automatically in what neurologists term an 'associated response'. Yawning apparently activates undamaged, unconsciously controlled connections between the brain and the motor system, causing the paralyzed limb to move. It is not known whether the associated response is a positive prognosis for recovery, nor whether yawning is therapeutic for prevention of muscular deterioration.

Provine speculated that, in general, yawning may have many functions, and selecting a single function from the available options may be an unrealistic goal. Yawning appears to be associated with a change of behavioral state, switching from one activity to another. Yawning is also a reminder that ancient and unconscious behavior linking US to the animal world lurks beneath the veneer of culture, rationality and language.

Questions 7-11: Multiple choice

Choose the correct letter, A, B, C, or D.

7. *W*hat did Provine conclude from his 'closed nose yawn' experiment?

A. Ending a yawn requires use of the nostrils.

B. You can yawn without breathing through your nose.

C. Breathing through the nose produces a silent yawn.

D. The role of the nose in yawning needs further investigation.

8. *P*rovine's 'clenched teeth yawn' experiment shows that

A. yawning is unconnected with fatigue.

B. a yawn is the equivalent of a deep intake of breath.

C. you have to be able to open your mouth wide to yawn.

D. breathing with the teeth together is as efficient as through the nose.

9. The nose yawn experiment was used to test whether yawning

A. can be stopped after it has started.

B. is the result of motor programming.

C. involves both inhalation and exhalation.

D. can be accomplished only through the nose.

10. In people paralyzed on one side because of brain damage,

A. yawning may involve only one side of the face.

B. the yawning response indicates that recovery is likely.

C. movement in a paralyzed arm is stimulated by yawning.

D. yawning can be used as an example to prevent muscle wasting.

11. In the last paragraph, the writer concludes that

A. yawning is a sign of boredom.

B. we yawn in spite of the development of our species.

C. yawning is a more passive activity than we imagine.

D. we are stimulated to yawn when our brain activity is low.

Questions 12-14: True/False/Not Given

Do the following statements agree with the claims of the writer in the passage?

In boxes 12-14 on your answer sheet, write:

YES if the statement agrees with the views of the writer.

NO if the statement contradicts the views of the writer.

NOT GIVEN if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this.

- Research students were initially reluctant to appreciate the value of Provine's studies.
- When foetuses yawn and stretch, they are learning how to control movement.
- According to Provine, referring to only one function is probably inadequate to explain why people yawn.