



**GCSE**

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S19-3700U30-1A

**FRIDAY, 7 JUNE 2019 – MORNING**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**UNIT 3**

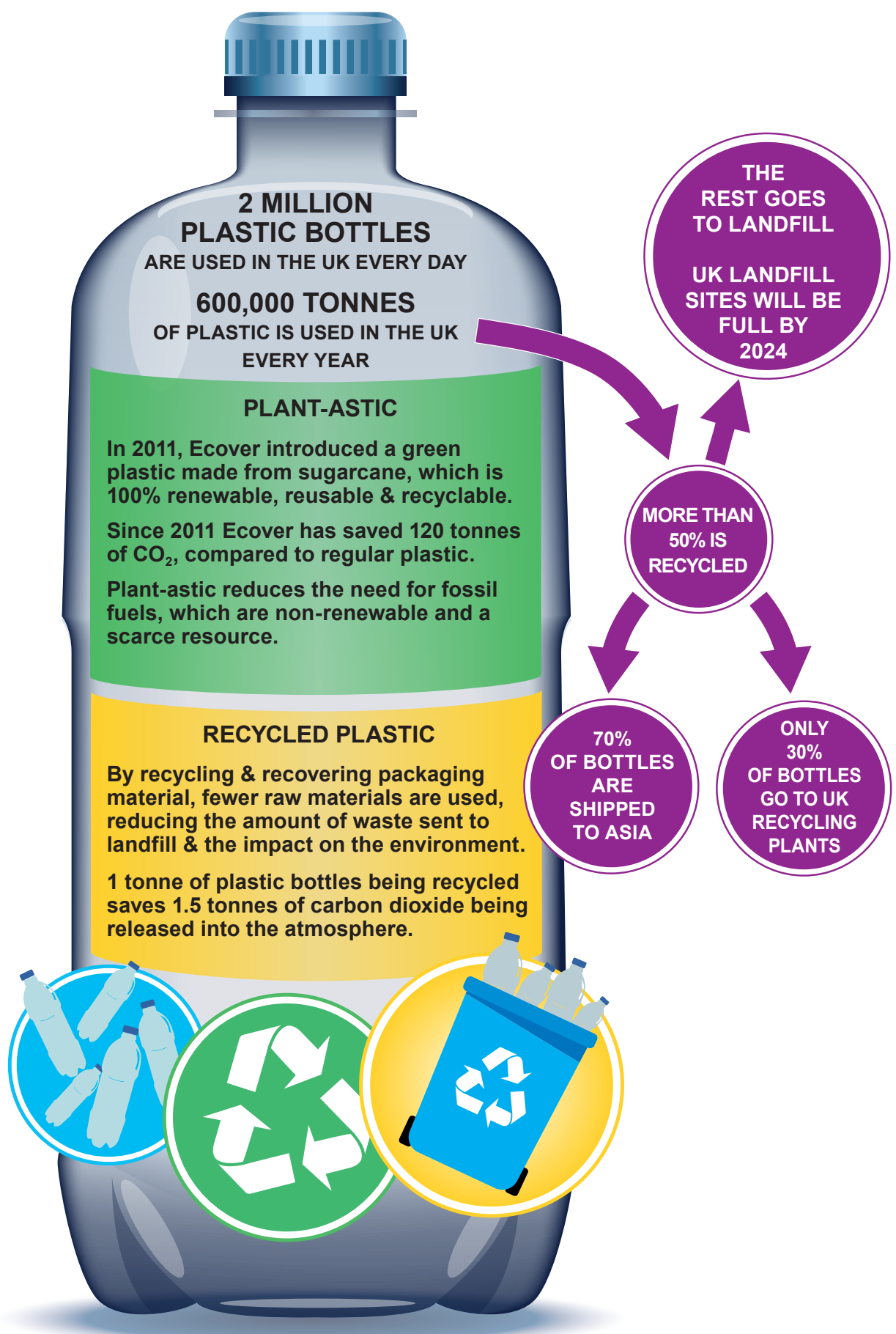
**Reading and Writing: Argumentation, Persuasion and  
Instructional**

**Resource Material**

For use with Section A

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Text A is a poster giving information about the use of plastic bottles in the U.K.



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*Text B* is an advert which encourages people to recycle plastic bottles.

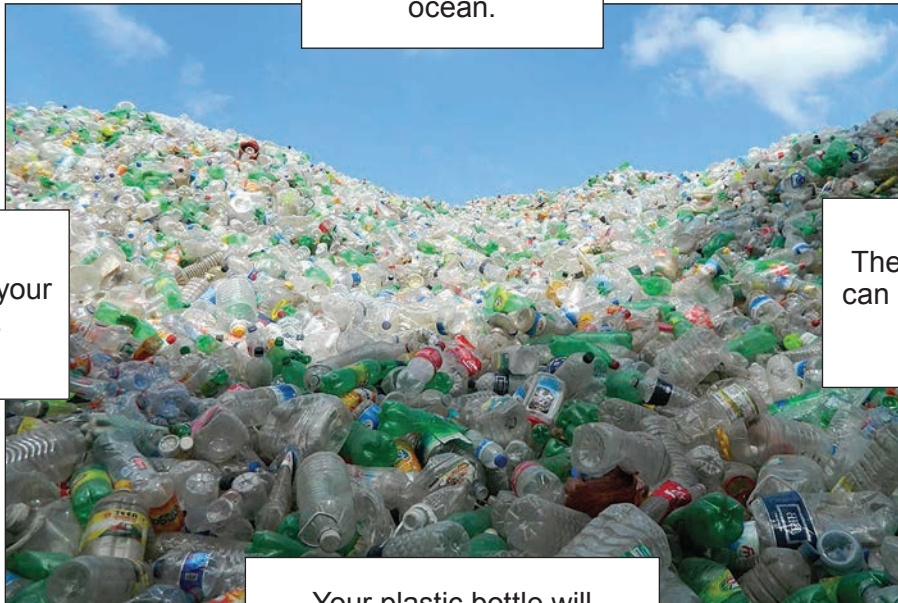
## Always recycle your plastic bottles

Your plastic bottle usually ends up in a landfill site, a waterway or an ocean.

You throw away your plastic bottle.

The whole process can take up to 1,000 years.

Your plastic bottle will slowly degrade by breaking down into tiny particles that contaminate our soil and water.



*Text C is taken from a blog about the benefits of plastic.*

## Why Plastic is Important in Modern Society?

Plastic has moulded the modern world and transformed life. There is no human activity where plastics do not play a key role. From clothing to shelter, from transport to communication and from entertainment to health care, plastic is essential.

Plastic has many attractive properties: it is cheap, lightweight and strong. It can be super tough and rigid as well as flexible. The growing world population and our material consumption has put severe pressure on natural resources and our fragile eco-systems. Plastics can offer a cost-effective alternative.

Plastics are made from hydrocarbons which come from petroleum, a non-renewable resource. Nevertheless, the consumption of petroleum in the production of plastics is less than 5%. Processing many natural materials (glass, paper, wood, metals) consumes far more energy which leads to greater consumption of fossil fuels. When handled properly, plastics do little damage to our environment and have the advantage that they can be easily reprocessed and recycled.

*Text D is a webpage taken from Greenpeace's website.*

## 8 ways to reduce your plastic use



We've all seen the headlines about the environmental problems caused by plastics and the harsh statistics about how much plastic we throw away. **So, what can we do to reduce our personal plastic footprints?**

Here are our 8 top tips:

**1. Carry a reusable bottle** – In the UK we use over 13 billion plastic bottles every year. Carrying a reusable bottle reduces plastic use and saves money too!

**2. Say no to plastic straws** – Discarded plastic straws are terrible for our oceans and over a billion are thrown away each day. Next time you order a drink, think about whether you need a straw. Ask your local pub to stop adding straws to drinks.

**3. Take a reusable coffee cup** – An incredible 2.5 billion coffee cups are thrown away every year in the UK – and less than 1 in 400 are recycled. Carry a reusable cup with you – some cafes even offer a small discount if you use your own cup!

**4. Avoid excessive food packaging** – A ridiculous amount of food is packaged in plastic, which quickly becomes rubbish. We can all try and cut down the plastic we use. Loose fruit and veg is also cheaper than pre-packaged alternatives!

**5. Refill detergent bottle** – Let's face it, washing products are not good for the planet and neither are the plastic bottles they come in. The good news is that there is an increasing number of places where you can refill your old bottles.

**6. Say no to disposable cutlery** – We've all been there – caught out in a cafe or at a train station when we've bought a salad or a yogurt but the only cutlery on offer is plastic! Whilst it's hard to plan for every opportunity, consider carrying a spoon or fork (or spork!) in your bag or keeping cutlery in your desk at work.

**7. Get your milk delivered** – Although the early morning sound of a milk float is not as common as it used to be, there are still many places in the UK where you can get milk delivered in glass bottles – which are then collected and reused.

**8. Carry a shopping bag** – Since the plastic bag charge was introduced in England, there's been a massive 85% drop in their use. Many of us are used to carrying an extra bag with us but a shocking 2 billion bags are still thrown away each year. If you still find it hard to remember, try a foldaway one that you can carry in your normal day bag.

Making just a few small changes can have a big impact on the obscene amount of plastic we use on a day-to-day basis. Start today to reduce our plastic for tomorrow.

*Text E is taken from a newspaper and warns us about the amount of plastic in oceans.*

## **Prince Charles warns that ‘plastic is now on the menu’ due to the amount ingested by fish**

The Prince of Wales has warned that “plastic is now on the menu” due to the increasing amounts found in the fish that is caught for us to eat. He said action must be urgently taken to deal with plastic pollution in order to save the world’s marine life and oceans, stating that it may not be too late to turn the tide.

“The eight million tonnes of plastic that enter the sea every year – through our own doing – is now a global issue”, he told a conference on safeguarding the world’s oceans. “All the plastic that we have produced since the 1950s that has ended up in the ocean is still with us in some form, so that wherever you swim there are particles of plastic near you. We are very close to reaching the point when all wild-caught fish will contain plastic.”

The Prince warned that the growing threat to the world’s marine ecology had reached a critical point and that the irreversible damage to the Great Barrier Reef should act as a serious wake-up call for all nations. He stated, “It is crucial to create a system that allows plastics to be recovered, recycled and reused instead of created, used and then thrown away.”

Each year more than 300 million tonnes of plastic are produced globally, of which 10 per cent will end up in the sea, the equivalent of a rubbish truck of waste every minute. By 2050 that will increase to four trucks every minute. Chemicals from the plastic leak into the water, and it has been shown that humans who eat seafood ingest up to 11,000 pieces of microplastic each year.

The Prince of Wales highlighted the painful decision Canada took 25 years ago of closing a fishery, to protect northern cod due to over-fishing and mismanagement. He added: “Surely we must take equally far-sighted steps to deal with the atrocious quantity of plastic pollution?”

He later said he could not possibly face his grandchildren if he did not do something about the environment. He told ITV News: “I worry about your grandchildren and everybody else’s grandchildren, as well as my own. It seemed to me I couldn’t possibly face my grandchildren or yours at the end of the day when we’d completely mucked up the whole of our environment. Our planet is a living thing. We have to manage it and look after it and respect it and then it will respect us. At the moment we are driving it insane.”