

Section A

Text 1

Study the website below and answer Questions 1 - 4.

<http://www.savefoodcutwaste.com/tag/singapore-food-waste/>

**SAVE FOOD CUT WASTE**       **FOOD WASTE** **INDIVIDUALS** **BUSINESSES** **RECIPES** **GET INVOLVED**

**ABOUT**

## How Much Food Do You Waste?

### Singapore's role in the global food waste race

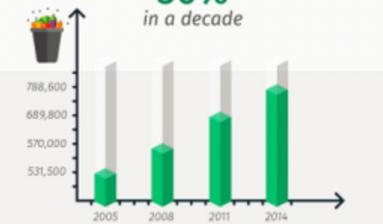
**9 in 10**  
Singaporeans are concerned about food waste



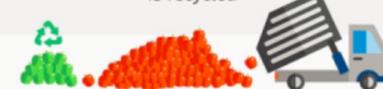
Food & food services make up on average **25%** of household expenditure



**And it is getting worse**  
Food waste has risen **50%** in a decade



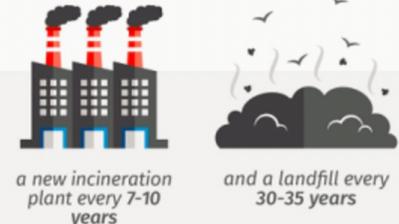
**Only 13%** of food waste is recycled



But Singapore generated **788,600 tonnes** of food waste last year



At the current rate of increase Singapore will need  
a new incineration plant every 7-10 years and a landfill every 30-35 years



Mostly for compost, animal feed, bio-energy and non-drinking water



Cutting food waste by 15% would have the same impact on CO2 emissions as taking **86,000 cars off the road**









Adapted from [savefoodcutwaste.com](http://savefoodcutwaste.com)

**Section A [5 marks]**

**Refer to the website (Text 1) on page 1 for Questions 1 - 4.**

1 What do you think is the main purpose of the webpage? Tick **one** box only. [1]

It is to create awareness on the main culprits of food wastage.	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is to encourage Singaporeans to cut down on food waste.	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is to highlight that food wastage has various effects.	<input type="checkbox"/>

2 Which of the following elements of the website make this a persuasive message? Tick **two** boxes only. [2]

The cute graphics representing key issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
The use of percentages and statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>
The title worded as a question and bolded	<input type="checkbox"/>
The large side navigation links	<input type="checkbox"/>

3 What message does the underlined “But” in the infographic suggest? [1]

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4 How would you describe someone who clicks on the “Sign the Pledge” link? [1]

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## Section B

## Text 2

**The text below is about the writer's experience when her family first stepped into Africa. Read it carefully and answer Questions 5 - 14.**

- 1 My husband, Dave, our children, Melody and Ben, and I, arrived in Khartoum, Sudan that morning. As we descended the steps of the 747, a bubble rose from deep within me and exploded like fireworks through my body. I tingled all over. In a few moments, I would transform from a mediocre housewife in New Zealand to the manager of a guesthouse for expatriate workers in Sudan. On this day, I had no idea what the future would hold; I only knew I was embarking on the most thrilling adventure of my life thus far. 1 5
- 2 After the relative calm of clearing Customs and Immigration, entering the Arrival Hall seemed as though we had been launched on a heaving ocean swell of humans. A wave of taxi drivers surrounded us, intent on taking possessions of our bags, hoping to transport us into town in their dilapidated vehicles. However, before we were completely swamped, rescue came in the form of a thickset African man, wearing a brightly coloured tie-dyed shirt, a dazzling smile and a distinct aura of authority. 10 15
- 3 "You must be David Runner," he said, grasping Dave's hand and pumping his arm up and down vigorously. "Ahlan! Welcome, welcome! My name is Haich, Director of UNifeed." His beaming face split in two displaying a set of perfect pearly-whites.
- 4 "Thank you for meeting us," responded Dave, experiencing some difficulty freeing his hand. 20
- 5 Haich led the way out of the terminal to the car park, forcing his way through the crowd. He was like a surfboat fighting the big waves at Byron Bay, I thought as we trudged wearily in his wake. Once on the highway leading towards the city, he drove as if a sports car was trailing him. Dave sat in the front passenger seat and fired question after question, completely unaware of the speed, frequent near misses and complete lack of consideration for any other vehicle on the road. The kids and I huddled speechlessly in the back seat. The car shot through the junction as the traffic light turned from amber to red. "Red lights mean proceed with caution," Haich said while flashing me a grin. I hoped he was only joking. I had soon learnt he was not. 25 30
- 6 The bewildering experience of seeing a thriving third world city for the first time opened my eyes, popping the comfortable western world bubble I had only known. Contemporary commercial buildings rose from narrow streets overflowing with garbage and filth. It seemed as if I was peering down a kaleidoscope tube: so many sights, sounds, smells and sensations. I found it impossible to focus on any one image: there was too much to see, too much to take in. 35

- 7 There were people jammed like sardines on the buses; women, wearing bright headscarves and colourful wraps tied around their ample waists and men in suits sweeping the roads. Confronting, for the first time in my sheltered life, extreme poverty on the streets, shocked me to the core. I saw ragged men, women and grubby children, most with deformities I had never witnessed before, begging on the pavements. The stench from the rotting piles of garbage made my stomach curl. 40 45
- 8 That night I lay completely awake, fully into panic mode, wordlessly screaming through my head. I wanted out of here. I wanted to go back home and lock myself in the bathroom. How did I ever expect to be able to survive in this place? Maybe we had made a mistake wanting to come here. No answers forthcoming, I eventually fell into a restless sleep. 50
- 9 When I was a child, I had always been fascinated with Africa. I loved watching a television programme called “Safari Tales” about a couple based in Cape Town and who had travelled around East Africa filming the wildlife and the different tribal groups. I thought how exciting it would be to wake up and see a giraffe breakfasting on an acacia tree in the backyard. I longed to see the wildlife and the people who live here with my own eyes. Despite what I experienced earlier, I still held on to this hope. 55

*Adapted from T.I.A. This is Africa, Desley Allen*

## Section B [20 marks]

Refer to Text 2 on pages 3 and 4 to answer Questions 5 - 14.

- 5 In paragraph 1, the writer described stepping into Khartoum as if she “exploded like fireworks”. What does this suggest about how she was feeling? [1]

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- 6 Which two of the following phrases from paragraph 2 suggest that the writer and her family were overwhelmed by the large number of people at the airport? (Tick **two** boxes only) [2]

“completely swamped”	<input type="checkbox"/>
“a distinct air of authority”	<input type="checkbox"/>
“heaving ocean swell of humans”	<input type="checkbox"/>
“intent on taking possession of our bags”	<input type="checkbox"/>
“seemed as though we had been launched”	<input type="checkbox"/>

- 7 How did the writer’s family finally get past the crowd at the airport? [1]

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 .....

- 8 From Paragraph 3, pick a word which suggests: [2]

(a) full of energy: .....

(b) a firm grip: .....

- 9 (a) Identify a simile used in Paragraph 5. [1]

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(b) Pick out a phrase from the same paragraph that conveys the same idea. [1]

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- 10 What do the following words in italics from Paragraph 4 suggest about the passengers' feelings towards Haich's driving? [2]

"Dave ... <i>completely unaware</i> ... on the road."	
"The kids and I <i>huddled speechlessly</i> in the back seat."	

- 11 "The bewildering experience of seeing a thriving third world city for the first time opened my eyes, popping the comfortable western world bubble I had only known. Contemporary commercial buildings rose from narrow streets overflowing with garbage and filth." (lines 33 - 36)

Identify the phrases from the sentences given above that correspond with the writer's impression of the city.

[4]

<b>Points about the writer's impression of the city</b>	<b>Matching descriptions from the given sentences</b>
It was confusing	
City was extremely dirty	
Gained a new perspective	
Destroyed view of the perfect world	

- 12 Suggest a reason why the writer felt shocked by what she saw in Paragraph 7. [1]

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- 13 Pick out the six-word phrase from Paragraph 9 that shows the writer is an optimistic person. [1]

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14

Student A: The writer has a very positive mindset about moving to a new place.  
Student B: I don't think so. I think she is having a hard time adapting to her new environment.

Which student do you agree with? Give **four** pieces of evidence from the text to support your opinion. [4]

I agree with Student ..... because .....

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## Section C

## Text 3

**The text below is about plastic pollution in the world's waters. Read it carefully and answer Questions 15 - 20.**

- 1 When shoppers stroll through the average supermarket aisles, they find hundreds or even thousands of items to make their lives easier. Individually wrapped snack cakes, Ziplock bags to store sandwiches for lunch, unbreakable soda bottles, and disposable razors, diapers, and shampoo bottles. Unless specifically requested, even the bags we use to carry home our supermarket shopping are often plastic. To humans, these are items of comfort, if not necessity. Plastic has become an everyday part of our lives, which is not necessarily a bad thing. Plastic is also the material diabetics use for their disposable syringes; arthritic patients have for their replaced hips; and construction workers wear to protect their heads and faces. 1  
5  
10
- 2 But to marine animals, plastic can be a floating minefield. When plastic reaches our waters, be it plastic bags or drifting fish nets, it poses a threat to the animals that depend on the rivers, seas and oceans for food. To a sea turtle, a floating plastic bag looks like a jellyfish. And plastic pellets - the small hard pieces of plastic from which plastic products are made - look like fish roe to seabirds. Drifting nets ensnare birds, fish and mammals, making it difficult, and most times impossible to move or eat. 15
- 3 Before the days of plastic, when fishermen dumped their trash overboard or lost a net, these items consisted of natural materials - metal, cloth or paper that would either sink to the bottom or biodegrade quickly. However, plastic does not. It remains floating on the surface, the same place where many genuine food sources lay, and can remain there for hundreds of years. Plastic is durable and strong - precisely the qualities that make it so dangerous if it reaches the waters. 20  
25
- 4 Anyone who has been on a boat far from the sight of land will tell you how enormous the ocean feels. Would not any debris simply get dispersed, virtually eliminating the possibility of an encounter with a marine animal? Sadly, the answer is no. While the ocean does disperse the trash, it also runs in currents, which can keep the floating trash traveling constantly in spirals, concentrating it in areas where currents meet. Apparently, the ocean is not large enough to avoid marine life encounters with debris. The devastating effect of plastics on marine mammals was first observed in the late 1970s, when scientists concluded that plastic entrapment killed up to 40,000 seals a year. 30  
35

- 5 A law was finally passed in 1987 to restrict the dumping of plastics into the ocean. The Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act went into effect on December 31, 1988, making it illegal for any vessel or shore-based operation to dispose of plastics into the waters of the seas or oceans. It is part of an international treaty which bans the dumping of plastics anywhere in the waters, and the dumping of other materials, such as paper, glass, and metal, closer to shore. 40
- 6 The plastics industry has also stepped in, taking measures to reclaim plastic resin pellets that often get lost during production or transportation. Plastics manufacturers are also investigating ways to create degradable plastics, of which there are two types: photodegradable and biodegradable. Photodegradable plastics are made to become weak when exposed to sunlight for prolonged periods, whereas biodegradable plastics are made with cornstarch, so bacteria and other organisms eat away at the plastic. 45  
50
- 7 Individuals are also strongly encouraged to reduce their use of plastic and trash habits by choosing reusable grocery bags, containers and straws and buying products with minimal or little packaging. That said, the most effective method right now for solving the persistent plastic problem affecting our waters is beach cleaning. Much appreciation should be given to the countless volunteers who clean up the coasts and shores to collect and remove trash from the marine cycle. 55

*Adapted from [www.whoi.edu](http://www.whoi.edu)*

**Section C [25 marks]**

**Refer to Text 3 on pages 8 and 9 to answer Questions 15 - 20.**

15 Read the text and match the paragraph with the headings.

Write the correct letter (**A-G**). The first one has been done for you. There is one other letter you will not need to use.

DO NOT USE ANY LETTER MORE THAN ONCE.

[5]

**Paragraph 1**                  **G**      

**Paragraph 2**            \_\_\_\_\_

**Paragraph 3**            \_\_\_\_\_

**Paragraph 4**            \_\_\_\_\_

**Paragraph 5**            \_\_\_\_\_

**Paragraph 6-7**        \_\_\_\_\_

- A     Alternatives to plastics
- B     How plastics affect marine life
- C     Pollution caused by human activities
- D     Ways to reduce plastic pollution
- E     Types of plastics discarded into the waters
- F     Laws enacted to address the problem of pollution of our waters
- G     Benefits of plastics for man

16 Which phrase in Paragraph 1 suggests that many people do not bring their own bags when they buy their groceries at the supermarkets? [1]

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17 Name **one** possible result of what might happen should a marine animal encounter plastic in the waters?

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