SOCRATES

Module G — Full Practice Exam · 105 minutes · 100 points

WRITTEN RECEPTION (60 points)

(ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM WRITTEN TEXTS)

Read the text and then answer questions 1–8. In the multiple-choice questions, circle the number of the correct answer. In the other questions, follow the instructions.

THE HIDDEN COST OF ELECTRONIC WASTE

I Every year, hundreds of millions of mobile phones, laptops, televisions and other gadgets are thrown away as their owners rush to buy the latest models. Most people press a button, drop the old device into a drawer or a bin, and think no more about it. Yet these discarded machines do not simply vanish. Together they form electronic waste, or e-waste, the fastest-growing stream of rubbish on the entire planet. Behind the shining screens and sleek designs that we replace so eagerly lies a hidden cost, one that is measured not only in money but also in human health and lasting environmental damage.

II The scale of the problem is genuinely difficult to grasp. Modern devices are built from a remarkable mixture of materials, including gold, copper and rare metals that are expensive and difficult to obtain. When a phone is discarded, all of these valuable resources are effectively buried or burned. Nevertheless, only a small fraction of the world's e-waste is properly recycled; the rest is dumped in landfill sites or shipped abroad. Precisely because the volume grows relentlessly every year, the quantity of usable material that is simply thrown away has become enormous, representing a loss that few societies can afford.

III The consequences for human health are perhaps the most troubling of all. Much of the world's discarded electronics ends up in poorer countries, where workers, sometimes including children, take the devices apart by hand in order to recover tiny amounts of metal. To extract these materials, they often burn plastic casings or bathe components in acid, releasing poisonous substances such as lead and mercury into the air, soil and water. Whereas wealthy consumers enjoy the benefits of new technology, it is frequently the poorest communities that suffer the toxic consequences, often without any protective equipment or awareness of the dangers involved.

IV Solutions do exist, although none of them is effortless. Designers could build products that are easier to repair and upgrade, so that a single broken part no longer means the death of an entire device. Governments could require manufacturers to take back old equipment and recover its materials responsibly, an approach that is slowly gaining ground. Consumers, too, have a part to play by keeping their devices for longer and resisting the constant pressure to own the newest model. None of these measures alone will solve the crisis, but together they could transform waste back into a valuable resource.

V The story of e-waste is, in the end, a story about how we value the objects we own. For decades, technology has been designed to be replaced rather than repaired, and we have grown used to treating even complex machines as disposable. As awareness spreads, however, a different attitude is beginning to emerge, one that sees a discarded phone not as rubbish but as a mine of precious materials waiting to be reclaimed. Whether future generations inherit mountains of poison or a genuinely circular system of reuse will depend, above all, on the choices we are willing to make today.

QUESTIONS — PART I (60 points)

1. What point is the writer making in paragraph I?

i. Discarded electronic devices completely disappear once they are thrown away.

ii. Electronic waste is the slowest-growing type of rubbish on the planet.

iii. Old gadgets carry hidden costs to health and the environment, not only money.

iv. Most people carefully consider what happens to their old devices.

(6 points)

2. According to paragraph II, why is throwing away a phone a waste of valuable resources?

ANSWER:

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(7 points)

3. According to paragraph II, what happens to most of the world's e-waste?

i. It is dumped in landfill sites or shipped abroad.

ii. It is properly recycled and its materials are reused.

iii. It is safely stored for future generations.

iv. It is returned directly to the manufacturers.

(7 points)

4. Paragraph III explains where much of the world's discarded electronics ends up. COMPLETE: Much of the world's discarded electronics is sent to

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(7 points)

5. According to paragraph III, burning the casings and using acid releases dangerous substances. COMPLETE: The poisonous substances released include

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(7 points)

6. According to paragraph IV, how could designers help reduce electronic waste?

ANSWER:

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(7 points)

7. According to paragraph IV, what part can ordinary consumers play in reducing e-waste?

ANSWER:

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(7 points)

8. Mark the TWO statements that are true according to the text.

- ☐ For decades, technology has been designed to be repaired rather than replaced.
- ☐ A new attitude sees a discarded phone as a source of precious materials.
- ☐ The future outcome will depend on the choices people make today.
- ☐ The writer says that awareness of e-waste is gradually disappearing.
- ☐ Complex machines have always been treated as too valuable to throw away.
- ☐ The writer believes that nothing can be done about electronic waste.

(2×6=12 points)

PART II — WRITTEN PRODUCTION (40 points)

9. *(40 points)*

Some people believe that companies should be required by law to make electronic devices, such as phones and laptops, that last longer and are easy to repair. Do you agree or disagree with this view? Write a composition stating and explaining your opinion. Write 120–140 words in English.

DRAFT / טיוטה

FINAL VERSION / גרסה סופית (words 140–120)

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