

Name: _____ Class: _____ ()

Tuesday English News Report: Broadcast Date: Sept 19th, 2017

Shift in mainland policy could spell disaster for Hong Kong recycling

Calls for the recycling industry in Hong Kong to upgrade after Beijing set to ban 24 types of imported waste by the end of the year

In a dusty scrapyards encircled by mountains of plastic, a 11-year-old girl dips her hairbrush in a tank of water clumpy with bits of polymer and runs it through her hair. Later she is seen with another woman, scooping plastic with their bare hands into an industrial shredder.

It was Wang Jiuliang's gripping 2016 documentary, **exposing** the **squalid**, unsanitary conditions of substandard recycling yards often manned by **impoverished** families that caught the public and central government's attention.

"The problem of foreign garbage," Guo Jian, head of international cooperation at the Chinese Ministry of Environmental Protection told reporters in July, "is **loathed* by everyone in China."

*** complex or unwelcome result*

** hated*

In a **swift, abrupt** change of policy that month, Beijing announced it would ban 24 types of imported waste by the end of the year. The ***ramifications* have spread far and wide. Over the past weeks, Hong Kong's export recyclers and traders have found themselves in a **quandary** – almost all of the city's recovered waste paper and plastic is shipped to recycling plants across the border for processing due to the lack of sorting infrastructure locally in Hong Kong. Questions are being raised as to what the future holds for the city's ****embattled* recycling industry, hit in recent years by falling prices, high costs and a lack of space and capacity.

****a situation of difficulty*

Experts think a longer-term **overhaul** in policy and **mindset** is needed as will the need for the entire industry to upgrade the quality of recyclables.

The city would also have to think about its local waste generation problem even more critically in the long-run as the capacity for recycling **shrinks**.

The problem is not about money, but deep-rooted issues such as the lack of incentives for the public to recycle, let alone sort their recyclables properly. This will hopefully change when **mandatory** waste charging is introduced in 2019."

With the new import bans scheduled to come into effect by the end of the year, barges filled to the brim with scrap newspapers and cardboard sit at *****berths* across the city waiting to be shipped, on the back of an announcement by recyclers to stop collecting it as soon as Friday next week.

*****a ship's 'parking place' at a pier/dock*

Adapted from an article in the South China Morning Post dated Sept 8th, 2017

Questions to think about:



- What have you learnt from this article?
- What is the root cause of the problem or issue?
- Who is most affected by this issue?
- What do you think of the proposal to introduce a levy (charge/fee) on waste? What can Hong Kong learn from other countries with regards to managing waste?

I: Vocabulary and understanding meaning: Match the meaning and/or synonym (words with a similar or the same meaning) to the words which have been highlighted in bold in the article.

Column A: Word from text	Letter	Column B: Meaning or synonym
1. expose(ing) (v)		A: very sudden
2. squalid (adj)		B: a difficult situation or a dilemma
3. impoverished (adj)		C: dirty and unpleasant
4. swift (adj)		D: way of thinking
5. abrupt (ad)		E: very quick
6. quandary (n)		F: to get smaller / to lessen
7. overhaul (n)		G: compulsory, obligatory, must do
8. mindset (n)		H: a complete change
9. shrink(s) (v)		I: very poor
10. mandatory		J: make something come to light / reveal information

II: Usage of vocabulary: Choose the most appropriate word from the table above to fill in the missing words of the sentences below making sure your answers are grammatically correct.

- A large part of the world's population (a) _____ and are forced to live in (b) _____, very dirty and unhygienic conditions with no running or drinking water.
- The car in front of me stopped so _____, I had to think step on my brakes, or I would have crashed into him.
- I could not decide what to do, I was in such a _____. I didn't want to get the boy into trouble, but what he did was so wrong.
- The government has decided to make a complete _____ of the education system. Reform is needed.
- Given the _____ birth rate in the developed world, in other words, with less people having children, many governments are worried about how to manage an ageing population.
- The robber moved so _____, the police could not catch him.
- Any problem can be solved as long as you have the correct _____. Stay positive and be confident.
- In Australia voting in the elections is _____, everyone who is 18 or over must vote.
- People were shocked when the truth about the government official _____. Now, everyone knew what he had done and how he had abused his power.

See Ms Roberts for prizes!

No. 1 has been done as an example.

Challenge of the week: Word challenge

1. Remove 4 letters and I form the top of a container: lid (squalid)	4. Add 2 letters and swap 2 letters to get a word which means you have no money: _____ (_____)
2. Remove 2 letters and you can skate on me: _____ (_____)	5. Take quite a few letters from me to get the name of a place where you store things: _____ (_____)
3. Can you remove a few letters to get a male? _____ (_____)	6. You need to know when to arrive. Which word hides me, but you need to swap a few letters? _____ (_____)