

Please check the examination details below before entering your candidate information

Candidate surname

Other names

Centre Number

Candidate Number

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level

Wednesday 8 January 2025

Morning (Time: 1 hour 45 minutes)

Paper
reference

WEN01/01

English Language

International Advanced Subsidiary

UNIT 1: Language: Context and Identity

You must have:

Source Booklet (enclosed)

Total Marks

Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer **BOTH** questions.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided
– *there may be more space than you need.*

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets
– *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*

Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

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(Total for Question 2 = 15 marks)

TOTAL FOR PAPER = 50 MARKS



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Text A

Text A is an edited extract of an article written by Elizabeth Royte, a freelance American science/nature journalist based in New York, USA. Her article was published in the online version of *National Geographic* magazine in 2022.

We Know Plastic Is Harming Marine Life. What About Us?

There often are tiny bits of plastic in the fish and shellfish we eat. Scientists are racing to figure out what that means for our health.

BY ELIZABETH ROYTE

In a laboratory at Columbia University, New York, Debra Lee Magadini positions a slide under a microscope and flicks on an ultraviolet light. Scrutinizing the liquefied digestive tract of a shrimp she bought at a fish market, she makes a tsk-ing sound. After examining every millimeter of the slide, she blurts, "This shrimp is fiber city!" Inside its gut, seven squiggles of plastic, dyed with red stain, fluoresce.

All over the world, researchers like Magadini are staring through microscopes at tiny pieces of plastic—fibers, fragments, or microbeads—that have made their way into marine and freshwater species, both wild caught and farmed. Scientists have found microplastics in 114 aquatic species, and more than half of those end up on our dinner plates. Now they are trying to determine what that means for human health.

So far science lacks evidence that microplastics—pieces smaller than one-fifth of an inch—are affecting fish at the population level. Our food supply doesn't seem to be under threat—at least as far as we know. But enough research has been done now to show that the fish and shellfish we enjoy are suffering from the omnipresence of this plastic. Every year five million to 14 million tons flow into our oceans from coastal areas. Sunlight, wind, waves, and heat break down that material into smaller bits that look—to plankton, fish and even whales—a lot like food.

Experiments show that microplastics damage aquatic creatures, as well as turtles and birds: They block digestive tracts, diminish the urge to eat, and alter feeding behavior, all of which reduce growth and reproductive output. Their stomachs stuffed with plastic, some species starve and die. The list of freshwater and marine organisms that are harmed by plastics stretches to hundreds of species.

We're steeped in this material—from the air we breathe to both the tap and bottled water we drink, the food we eat, and the clothing we wear.

The good news is that most microplastics studied by scientists seem to remain in the guts of fish and do not move into muscle tissue, which is what we eat. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization concludes that people likely consume only negligible amounts of microplastics—even those who eat a lot of mussels and oysters, which are eaten whole. The agency reminds us, also, that eating fish is good for us: It reduces the risk of cardiovascular disease, and fish contain high levels of nutrients uncommon in other foods.

That said, scientists remain concerned about the human-health impacts of marine plastics because they eventually will degrade and fragment into nanoplastics, which measure less than 100 billionths of a meter—in other words, they are invisible. Alarmingly these tiny plastics can penetrate cells and move into tissues and organs.



And so the work continues. “We know that there are effects from plastics on animals at nearly all levels of biological organization,” says Chelsea Rochman, a professor of ecology at the University of Toronto. “We know enough to act to reduce plastic pollution from entering the oceans, lakes, and rivers.” Nations can enact bans on certain types of plastic, focusing on those that are the most abundant and problematic. Chemical engineers can formulate polymers that biodegrade. Consumers can eschew single-use plastics. And industry and government can invest in infrastructure to capture and recycle these materials before they reach the water.

In a dusty basement a short distance from the lab where Magadini works, metal shelves hold jars containing roughly 10,000 preserved fish, trapped over seven years in nearby marshes. Examining each fish for the presence of microplastics is a daunting task, but Magadini and her colleagues are keen to see how levels of exposure have changed over time. Others will painstakingly untangle how microbeads, fibers, and fragments affect these forage fish, the larger fish that consume them, and—ultimately—us.

“I think we’ll know the answers in five to 10 years’ time,” Magadini says.

By then at least another 25 million tons of plastic will have flowed into our seas.

Glossary

omnipresence: being present everywhere

eschew: avoid using

Text B

Text B is an extract from a blog posted to the *Voices of Youth* website by Manar Elkebir, a 17-year-old environmental activist. *Voices of Youth* is an organisation set up by UNICEF (United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund) to help young people from across the world exchange knowledge and ideas.

(The bold and underlined text are embedded links to other websites.)

How I became an ocean hero!

AUGUST 7, 2019

Contributed by Manar Elkebir, **Ocean Heroes Bootcamp** participant.

I am Manar Elkebir, a 17-year-old student, theater actress, young environmentalist, and climate activist. I am also the founder of **EcoWave**, an organization aiming to beat plastic pollution in Tunisia. I was born and raised in a city called Gabes on the Gulf of South Tunisia, located on the coast of the Mediterranean. I have always had an intense passion for the ocean – when I was very young, I used to go to the beach with my family every day in the summer, and before going back home, my father would make us collect the trash we left and that of other people. Not until I was older did I realize that picking up after others is not the solution. Thus, I started my research on marine environmental issues, along with plastic pollution.

Plastic pollution has long threatened the world’s oceans and has cast a dark shadow over our life in Tunisia. According to the Tunisian ministry of environment, Tunisians’ use of plastic is increasing every year and **has reached one billion plastic bags a year**. Every summer in Gabes, we witness a massive amount of dead fish, crabs and sea turtles washed up on the shore. Even my grandparents reminisce about our beaches and life in the past. Back then, they would see dolphins, crabs, mussels, albatross and a lot of exotic marine creatures. Nowadays, we do see them, but unfortunately, pulled by the sea tide, dead on the shore and suffocating from chemicals dumped by the industries and plastic thrown in the sea.

I started my activism journey by taking part in an environmental club called Sea Rangers at my school. The club is a group of concerned students that are committed to raising awareness of environmental issues with a focus on plastic pollution and working towards the conservation and sustainability of the environment. Thanks to our teacher, Mr. Slim, we held successful activities to raise awareness. We also led a campaign to reduce the use of plastic bags by promoting the purchase of traditional Tunisian bags made of palm tree leaves as a substitute. Unlike plastic bags, these bags are 100% organic with no negative effects on the environment. There were school presentations and radio podcasts to encourage the use of plastic alternatives, and we even had a meeting with the mayor of our city to spread the word. We were instrumental in the eventually successful campaign to reduce single-use plastic in Gabes.

In June 2019, I was selected to represent my country Tunisia in an international event called **Ocean Heroes Bootcamp**. It is a huge event that empowers existing and emerging youth leaders to create their own campaigns to take action against ocean plastic pollution, co-founded by **Captain Planet Foundation**, **Point Break Foundation**, and **Lonely Whale**. A flock of 300 students from over 20 different countries came to attend the three-day bootcamp to receive advanced training from experts in leadership, public speaking, community engagement, social media management, and more.



During the program, I felt empowered and inspired to make a change. The Ocean Heroes Bootcamp was a life-changing experience for me. It gave me a whole different perspective on conservation and offered the chance to learn new things, as well as form long-lasting relationships across the globe.

I went back home after the program and founded **EcoWave**, which now has 120 Tunisian youth involved. Our mission is to expand our individual impact, educate people and change mindsets to abandon plastic and switch to alternatives. I have spoken publicly with local decision-makers in a symposium held by an international festival of environmental cinema in Tunisia, and I am looking forward to announcing my future projects that I'm hoping to implement in our community.

Age is never a hindrance to making a change. **By 2030, if we continue to litter our oceans, there will be more plastic in the oceans than fish.** We, the youth of today, may only be 25% of the world's population, but we are definitely 100% the future. It's time to act! Let's all stand together for our planet before it's too late.

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Source information:

Text A: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/article/plastic-planet-health-pollution-waste-microplastics>

Text B: Voices of Youth is developed by the United Nations Children's Fund. See <http://www.voicesofyouth.org>

