

**Tuesday 4 June 2013 – Morning**

**GCSE ENGLISH/ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**A680/01/RBI** Information and Ideas (Foundation Tier)

**READING BOOKLET INSERT**

**Duration:** 2 hours



**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- The materials in this READING BOOKLET INSERT are for use with the questions in Section A of the Question Paper.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

- This document consists of **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

**INSTRUCTION TO EXAMS OFFICER/INVIGILATOR**

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## Plastic Pollution



There is a vast whirling mass of water in the North Pacific. This area is choked with dead fish, marine mammals, and birds. They have been killed by the masses of plastic rubbish swirling round and round.

Some of these plastics will not break down in the lifetimes of the grandchildren of the people who threw them away. The very thing that makes plastic items useful to consumers, their ability to withstand wear and tear, also makes them a problem in marine environments.

Ten per cent of the one hundred million tonnes of plastic produced each year ends up in the sea. About twenty per cent of this is from ships and oil platforms, and the rest from land.

Take a walk along any beach anywhere in the world and washed ashore will be many plastic bags, bottles and containers, polystyrene packing, pieces of fishing net and discarded lengths of rope. Together with traffic cones, disposable lighters, vehicle tyres and toothbrushes, these items have been casually thrown away on land and at sea and have been carried ashore by wind and tide.

At sea and on shore, under the influence of sunlight and wave action, these items simply break down slowly into ever smaller particles. A single one-litre bottle could break down into enough small fragments to put one on every mile of beach in the entire world.

Larger items are eaten by seabirds and other animals which mistake them for prey. Many seabirds and their chicks have been found dead, their stomachs filled with medium-sized plastic items such as bottle tops, cigarette lighters and balloons. A turtle found dead in Hawaii had over a thousand pieces of plastic in its stomach and intestines.

Over a million seabirds and one hundred thousand marine mammals and sea turtles are killed each year by swallowing plastics or by getting entangled in discarded fishing nets and line. Even tiny jellyfish-like creatures become entangled in lengths of plastic wire, or eat the small plastic particles floating in the water.

There is a sinister twist to all this. The plastics can act as a sort of 'chemical sponge' that soaks up many of the most damaging pollutants found in the world's oceans. So any animal eating these pieces of plastic debris will also be taking in highly toxic pollutants.

The floating plastics can also affect marine ecosystems in a surprising way, by providing a ready surface for organisms to live on. These plants and animals can then be transported on the plastic far outside their normal habitat. These ocean 'hitch-hikers' can then invade new habitats where they become nuisance species.

This text is taken from a leaflet.

# WELCOME TO OUR MAGICAL UNDERSEA WORLD



Blue Planet Aquarium is a truly magical experience. From HUGE sharks to tiny seahorses, we have an amazing range of animals.

Our moving walkway carries you along the length of one of the world's longest aquatunnels, where you're guaranteed to see more types of shark than anywhere else in the UK.

And that's not all. See a huge range of animals in their natural-looking habitats: playful otters, poisonous frogs, enchanting clown fish and fascinating moray eels all under one roof.

## Wonders at every turn

At Blue Planet Aquarium you'll be taken on a spectacular underwater safari through the Caribbean seascape that's been recreated in the depths of our vast aquarium.



It lets you get right up close to marvel at the sheer power of the sharks and the breathtaking grace of the wide-winged rays gliding overhead. In fact, it's teeming with so many fish you'll want to go round again!

## Britain's biggest sharks want to swim with you

Our sharks are the biggest in the country – and if you want to treat yourself to a truly unforgettable experience, you can get kitted out in one of our diving suits and take the plunge alongside them. Swimming with sharks is a magical encounter you'll treasure for a lifetime. Find out more at our website [www.blueplanetaquarium.com](http://www.blueplanetaquarium.com). Pre-booking is essential.



## All this excitement can give you an appetite

After a long day of watching sharks feed, you're bound to feel a bit peckish. Our spacious, themed restaurant can cater for all tastes, so why not make a day of it at Blue Planet Aquarium?



## Explore one of the world's longest aquatunnels

Halfway along our incredible underwater viewing tunnel you can experience the sublime beauty of our new exhibit – Reef Magic. It features six reef scenarios, each individually illuminated by a fibre-optic light show synchronised with relaxing chill-out music. See a wonderful array of fish at home in this unique exhibit.



## Oceans of fun!

Kids love the Octopus Adventure play park at Blue Planet Aquarium. They can explore Octopus Island with its shipwreck, bouncy whales, wobbling crocodiles, monkey bars AND slides!

This is no ordinary play park. It's a fantastic state-of-the-art adventure arena. Your children will have a magical time discovering new things about their world here – and we guarantee they'll want to keep coming back for more.

## Don't stand in line – book online

Why queue when you can book your visit to Blue Planet on our website? You can arrange everything on the spot at [www.blueplanetaquarium.com](http://www.blueplanetaquarium.com) – and get straight to the fun with no hanging about. The perfect start to a perfect day out.



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