Topic 5 THE ENVIRONMENT – GIVE EARTH A CHANCE

1 *Complete the text using vocabulary from topic 5.*

The environment

The topic of the environment is a controversial one indeed. Basically, there are two different opinions: Some people think environmental changes are nothing new and we just have to live with them. Others say human activities pose a ___threat___ to the environment, so we all have to make an effort to protect it. And if we don't act now, the consequences will be ___devastating___.

Many countries have signed the Paris Agreement to ___pave___ the way to limit global warming. To reach this goal, many environmentalists think traffic is the most urgent problem to be solved. The daily traffic ___congestions___ in many cities and the ___burden___ of CO_2 emissions ___suggest___ that traffic in inner cities must be ___constrained___. But many people do not want to give up the ___convenience___ of travelling everywhere by car. However, in so-called green cities, residents will have to follow a different ___approach___: Life in green cities can't be organized at the ___expense___ of nature. Consequently the inhabitants will be ___compelled___ to rethink mobility and use public transport.

Energy sources are also an issue. Renewable energy sources are ___crucial___ for the ___decarbonisation___ of industrial countries. But the amount of energy produced this way is not always ___abundant___ enough to meet the ___needs___. Therefore some countries do not want to give up nuclear power although ___unprecedented___ accidents in Fukushima and Chernobyl suggest that the dangers of nuclear power stations should not be ___underestimated___.

Today's consumers are very critical about farming. The demand for organic produce is steadily increasing, so a switch to ___ecological___ farming makes sense. It is a ___means___ of providing healthy food and protecting the environment at the same time, making it good for conmsumers and environmentalists ___alike___. Hopefully this will have a ___long-term___ effect so the ___exposure___ of consumers to chemicals in the food chain will be kept to a minimum.

Another problem is waste. Too much packaging everywhere, plastics in the sea, one-way products – the list is long. And when all of this waste is ___dumped___ in ___landfill___ sites it cannot possibly be recycled. This is why much of it must be burned, but ___combustion___ contributes to higher CO_2 emissions. Avoiding waste seems to be the only alternative, and several steps have already been taken. One example is the ___charge___ people have to pay for plastic bags in shops and supermarkets. But is this the right way to ___address___ the problem of plastic waste? Wouldn't it be better to simply ban ___disposable___ plastic bags once and for all?

2 *Match the words on the left (1-8) with their synonyms on the right (A-H).*

C	1	thoroughly	A	to protect
G	2	to occur	B	serious
E	3	assumption	C	carefully
H	4	to boost	D	ground
A	5	to safeguard	E	suggestion
D	6	soil	F	harvest
F	7	yield	G	to happen
B	8	severe	H	to increase

3 *Match the words on the left (1-8) with their definitions on the right (A-H).*

E	1	six-fold	A	to examine very carefully
C	2	healthcare practitioner	B	a way of dealing with a problem
A	3	to scrutinise	C	doctor who practises general medicine
B	4	approach	D	a plan that is not yet in its finished form
D	5	draft	E	six times as much
G	6	to plummet	F	to throw away
F	7	to dump	G	to suddenly decrease
H	8	to take out of circulation	H	to remove sth. from everyday use

4 *Fill in the gaps.*

1. The ___fleet___ is a group of vehicles controlled by one transport company.

2. When you ___anticipate___ something, you expect something to happen.

3. The fact that something is damaged through ordinary use is called ___wear___ and ___tear___.

4. Wheat and barley are examples of ___crops___ grown in our country.

5. America's debts ___amount___ to billions of dollars.

6. People still find ___carrier___ bags convenient, although they know about the threat they pose when they end up in the oceans.

5 *What is it in English?*

1. Subventionen ___subsidies___

2. auslösen ___to trigger___

3. Einführung ___launch___

4. beschleunigen ___to accelerate___

5. Sprecherin ___spokeswoman___

6. erben ___to inherit___

7. Umfrageteilnehmer ___respondent___

8. machbar ___feasible___