LISTENING TAPESCRIPT (Please read once.)

You will hear about Boyan Slat's ideas concerning ecological problems. Fill in the gaps with the proper words.

Boyan Slat is a 20-year-old on a mission – to rid the world's oceans of floating plastic. He has dedicated his teenage years to finding a way of collecting it. But can the system really work – and is there any point when so much new plastic waste is still flowing into the sea every day?

"I don't understand why 'obsessive' has a negative connotation, I'm an obsessive and I like it," says Boyan Slat. "I get an idea and I stick to it."

This idea came to him at the age of 16, in the summer of 2011, when diving in Greece. "I saw more plastic bags than fish," says Slat. He was shocked, and even more shocked that there was no apparent solution. "Everyone said to me: 'Oh there's nothing you can do about plastic once it gets into the oceans,' and I wondered whether that was true."

Over the last 30 to 40 years, millions of tonnes of plastic have entered the oceans. Global production of plastic now stands at 288 million tonnes per year, of which 10% ends up in the ocean in time. Most of that -80% – comes from land-based sources. Litter gets swept into drains, and ends up in rivers – so that plastic straw or cup lid you dropped, the cigarette butt you threw on the road... they could all end up in the sea.

The plastic is carried by currents and congregates in five revolving water systems, called gyres, in the major oceans, the most infamous being the huge Pacific Garbage Patch, half way between Hawaii and California.

Although the concentration of plastic in these areas is high - it's sometimes described as a plastic soup - it's still spread out over an area twice the size of Texas. What's more, the plastic does not stay in one spot, it rotates. These factors make a clean-up incredibly challenging.

"Most people have this image of an island of trash that you can almost walk on, but that's not what it's like," says Slat. "It stretches for millions of square kilometres – if you went there to try and clean up by ship it would take thousands of years." Not only that, it would be very costly in terms of both money and energy, and fish would be accidentally caught in the nets.

Slat had always enjoyed working out solutions to puzzles, and while pondering this one, it came to him – rather than chase plastic, why not harness the currents and wait for it to come to you?

At school, Slat developed his idea further as part of a science project. An array of floating barriers, anchored to the sea bed, would first catch and concentrate the floating debris. The plastic would move along the barriers towards a platform, where it could then be efficiently extracted. The ocean current would pass underneath the barriers, taking all buoyant sea life with it. There would be no emissions, and no nets for marine life to get entangled in. The collected ocean plastic would be recycled and made into products – or oil.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY

Student

You are a hard-working student who does not have good conditions for learning. You are from a big family, sharing your room with four younger siblings, and helping your parents either taking care of them or earning extra money by working in the supermarket. You usually come home quite late and are tired. If you do not want to disturb your younger siblings, you usually study in the entrance hall with a weak light on and fall asleep quite quickly. You try to get up early to study, but if any of your siblings gets up at the same time, they usually need some care. You know that teachers of some classes have complained to your class teacher about your inattentiveness, but you do not want to excuse your behaviour talking about your family issues.



SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY

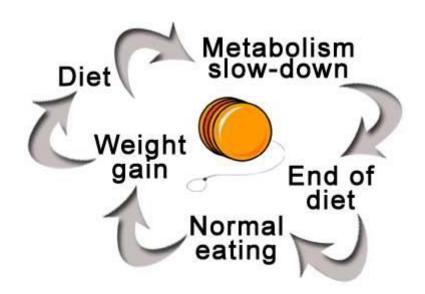
English teacher

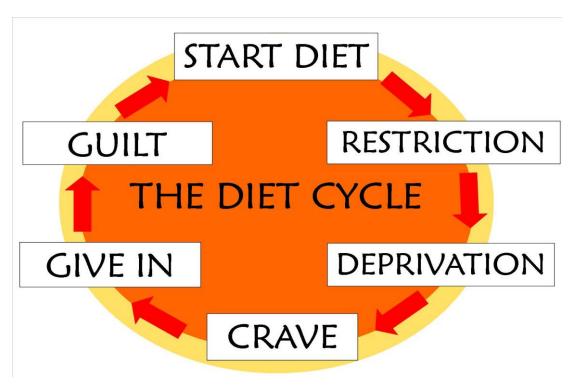
You are a very experienced class teacher. One of your students has not been performing well and is always sleepy in classes. You have discussed the complaints of your colleagues with him/her but feel that there might be some issues the student did not want to discuss with you. You decide to be sensitive and sympathetic. You want to help your student and not offend him/her.

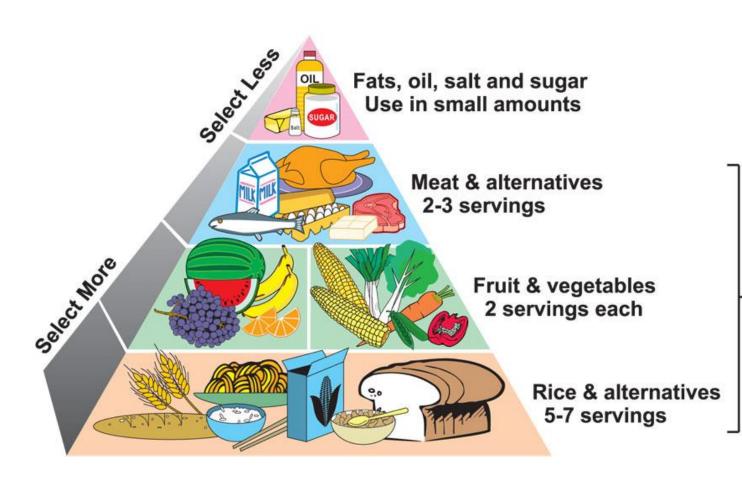
SPEAKING - PICTURES

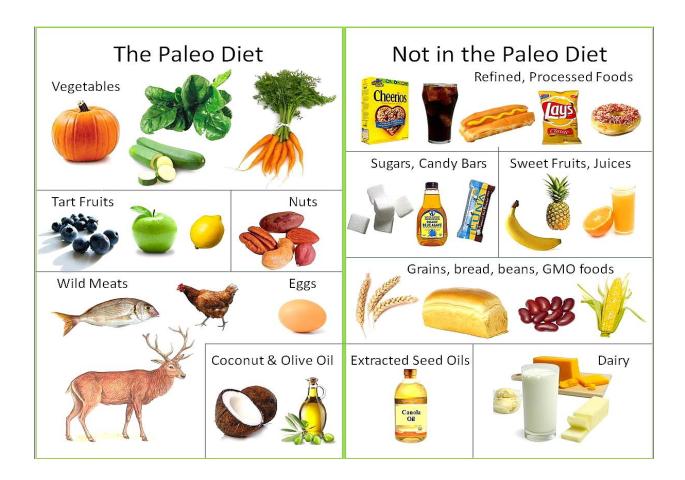
Look at the pictures and choose one from each page which you consider to be the most suitable for your presentation concerning diets.

- 1) explain why you chose those pictures
- 2) say what the advantages and disadvantages of being on a diet are
- 3) deliver a short presentation concerning the topic using the chosen pictures









ANSWER KEY

GRAMMAR – 15pts

01 are led 02 was preparing 03 had visited 04 change 05 quitting/quiting 06 was thinking 07 usually travelled (traveled) 08 came across 09 would come 10 would be / were treated 11 seeing 12 had/'d been left 13 were addicted 14 had been robbed 15 dealt

VOCABULARY - 10pts (SPELLING COUNTS!) - .5 for each

02 death 03 vacancy 04 contenders 05 heartily 06 precedent 07 nominee 08 replacement 09 truest 10 resignation 11 successor 12 confirmation 13 unpopular 14 executives 15 weight 16 nomination 17 guidance 18 silent 19 presidency 20 judicial

READING COMPREHENSION – 10pts

01 K 02 E 03 D 04 M 05 A 06 C 07 L 08 G 09 J 10 H

LISTENING COMPREHENSION – 5pts

01 obsessive 02 solutions (solution) 03 land 04 half way 05 plastic soup 06 Rotation 07 harnessing 08 anchored 09 sea life 10 oil

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