

**Territory-wide System Assessment 2012**  
**Secondary 3 English Language**

**Tapescript Part 1 (9EL3)**

**Narrator:**        *You are doing a report on the Plastic Bag Debate for your Integrated Humanities class. Your teacher plays you two radio interviews about using fewer plastic bags.*

Listen to the interviews and answer the questions. The interviews will be played twice. Do as much as you can the first time and answer all questions the second time. You now have 30 seconds to read the questions. (*music 30 secs.*)

The listening will begin now.

**[Presenter]**        Good afternoon! Today we are here to find out whether the plastic bag levy has been successful. It was introduced because Hong Kong was turning into a plastic bag paradise. For every item you were given a plastic bag. Jenny Wong is the Information Officer from the group *Protect the Earth*. Let's hear what she has to say.

**Jenny Wong**        Hi! Before the levy was introduced, some eight billion plastic bags were being put into Hong Kong's landfills each year! Do you know that in China they use three billion plastic bags a day and in the USA they use 100 billion bags each year? Worldwide it is worse – one million bags are used every minute!

**Presenter**        (*whistles*) Wow, that's a lot of bags!

**Jenny Wong**        Yes, even we were surprised with the figures. Imagine all that plastic in Hong Kong's landfills. It just stays there because the plastic can't break down quickly. Did you know that it can take up to 1000 years for one bag to break down?

**Presenter**        Unbelievable! It is good to know that *Protect the Earth* is helping people to live without plastic bags.

**Jenny Wong**        Yes, we are. We want people to stop using all bags made from plastic because they are toxic to the environment!

**Presenter**        Jenny, as an Information Officer, how are you educating young people?

**Jenny Wong**        We teach students how to make their own bag from an old T-shirt. These workshops are held once a month at our headquarters. All participants need is an old T-shirt. When this bag tears or is no longer usable, it can be

disposed of safely because the material breaks down easily.

**Presenter** Thanks Jenny. Details of the workshops are available on our website.

PAUSE 2 secs

**Presenter** Mr. Ma is the Secretary for the Environment. Welcome, sir! How did you start Hong Kong on the road to the plastic bag levy?

**Mr. Ma** Thanks. We looked overseas, because we aren't the only country to use plastic bags. We found that some countries had already put measures in place to try to solve their own plastic bag issues.

**Presenter** Can you give us some examples of what other countries have done?

**Mr. Ma** Some countries have made the measures compulsory and others haven't. Germany and Ireland charge the consumers for plastic bags. In Denmark the makers of the plastic bags have to pay a special green tax. The plan in Australia is voluntary and it isn't as successful as our levy.

**Presenter** What has been the response to the plastic bag levy?

**Mr. Ma** The public response has been very positive. We have seen a huge reduction in the distribution of plastic bags.

**Presenter** What does that mean?

**Mr. Ma** The public have taken the message to heart and they bring their own bags when they go shopping. The number of bags going into the landfills has been reduced and fewer plastic bags are being produced and sold.

**Presenter** That's good news both for the landfills and the environment!]

**Narrator:** Now listen to the interviews again. *{Repeat []}*

**Narrator:** You have 30 seconds to check your answers. *(music 30 secs.)*

This is the end of Part 1.