Term 3 Holiday - 2025:Day 5 | 10-Day Intensive Selective Writing

Section 1

#1: "Almost everyone recycles their rubbish now, but it is not enough, because every minute an average of 15000 bottles and cans are dumped into our oceans and enters the already fragile cycle of nature."

Strengths:

- Your opening immediately grabs attention with a striking statistic that helps readers understand the scale of the problem
- You acknowledge what people are already doing (recycling) before explaining why more action is needed

Missing Connection Between Ideas → Your sentence jumps from recycling to ocean pollution without explaining how these connect. When you say "almost everyone recycles" but then mention bottles and cans being dumped, readers might wonder: if people recycle, why are bottles still being dumped? You need to clarify whether these dumped items are from people who don't recycle, or if recycling itself has limitations. The phrase "enters the already fragile cycle of nature" is also vague—what cycle specifically? How does plastic entering oceans affect this cycle?

Exemplar: Almost everyone recycles their rubbish now, but it is not enough. Despite our efforts, an average of 15,000 bottles and cans are dumped into our oceans every minute, where they break down into tiny pieces that harm marine life and contaminate the food chain.

#2: "Recycling has been our solution to global warming for 4 decades, despite that we recycle an average of 9% of our rubbish according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics."

Strengths:

- You support your point with a specific statistic from a credible source
- The contrast between what we think we're doing and reality is powerful

Unclear Relationship → Your sentence structure makes it confusing whether recycling is good or bad for global warming. The phrase "despite that we recycle an average of 9%" doesn't logically follow "recycling has been our solution." The word "despite" usually introduces something that contradicts the first part, but here it seems you mean recycling hasn't solved the problem because we only recycle 9%. You need to restructure this to make the logic clearer. Additionally, recycling addresses waste management more directly than global warming—you might want to be more precise about what problem recycling is meant to solve.

Exemplar: For four decades, we've relied on recycling as our main environmental solution. However, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, we only recycle an average of 9% of our rubbish, which means the vast majority still ends up in landfill or polluting our environment.

#3: "The plastic we use can build a box to hold the compost and the food scraps will become the compost."

Strengths:

- You're offering a practical, specific action that readers can take
- The idea of turning waste into something useful is a positive message

Oversimplified Explanation → This sentence makes composting sound too simple and doesn't explain important details. When you say "the plastic we use can build a box," readers won't know what kind of plastic works for this, how to build it, or whether all plastic is suitable. The second part, "food scraps will become the compost," skips over the entire composting process—how long does it take? What conditions are needed? Do all food scraps work? Without these details, readers might try composting incorrectly and become discouraged when it doesn't work. You need to add enough information so readers understand what's actually involved.

Exemplar: You can create a simple compost bin using sturdy plastic containers. By layering food scraps like vegetable peelings and garden waste, and turning the mixture regularly, these materials will break down over several months into nutrient-rich compost for your garden.

Your piece tackles an important environmental topic and shows you understand that current recycling efforts aren't solving our waste problems. The structure follows a logical pattern: you identify the problem, explain why recycling alone doesn't work, and then offer alternative solutions like reducing, reusing, and composting. This organisation helps readers follow your argument.

However, your writing would benefit from developing your ideas more thoroughly. In your second paragraph, you introduce the concept of "reduce and reuse" but don't explain specifically how readers should do this in their daily lives. What does reducing actually look like? Should people refuse plastic bags at shops? Buy less packaged food? Similarly, your composting paragraph tells readers what to do but not how to do it successfully. Adding one or two concrete examples in each section would make your advice much more useful.

Additionally, some of your connections between ideas need strengthening. Your third paragraph suddenly shifts to discussing plants without clearly linking this to your previous points about waste. You could improve this by explaining: "The rubbish we throw away doesn't just fill up landfills—it also harms the plants and animals around us." This kind of connecting sentence helps readers understand why you're moving to a new topic.

Your fourth paragraph about transport feels somewhat disconnected from the rest of your piece, which focuses on waste. Whilst transport is certainly an environmental issue, your advice sheet would be stronger if you developed your waste-reduction ideas more deeply rather than briefly touching on an additional topic. Consider expanding your practical tips for reducing and reusing instead.

Finally, watch your sentence clarity throughout. Several sentences try to pack in too many ideas at once, making them hard to follow. Breaking longer sentences into two shorter ones often makes your meaning clearer and your writing more powerful.

Overall Score: 40/50

Section 2

#1 Almost everyone recycles their rubbish now, but it is not enough, because every minute an average of 15,[SPACE]000 bottles and cans are dumped into our oceans and enters [and enter] the already fragile cycle of nature. It also doesn't help that 600kg [kilograms] of garments are tossed out each minute, and that is merely in Australia. (pause) This reveals the significant damage that it is [this is] doing to our environment. We are endangering wildlife and poisoning our oceans. We are doing damage to our world in every single minute. But we can change that(pause)but [—but] we need every minute, every choice and every one of us.

#2 Recycling has been our solution to global warming for 4 [four] decades, despite that [yet] we recycle an average of 9% [only 9%] of our rubbish according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Data shows that we struggle to dispose of one-time, convenient objects responsibly, so we need to use the two much simpler rules,[:] reduce and reuse. So, it is time to move our focus to more simpler actions, reducing and reusing. [Therefore, we must shift our focus to these simpler yet more effective actions.] That is when [This means] you cut down on your waste and reuse what you already own. These new rulesthough much easier [, though simpler,] are way more powerful because it rules [they rule] out all possibility of waste if you follow them. Recycling requires energybut [, but] reducing and reusing only requires [require] a choice.

As I mentioned earlier, we are killing and endangering our native plantsso [, so] we need to do something to help them. Simply reducing the trash [rubbish] thrown out is what we need to dobut [, but] helping the plants is what we should do. The amount of plastic we throw out is what is poisoning our plantsso [, so] why not use our waste to create compost? #3 The plastic we use can build a box to hold the compostand [, and] the food scraps will become the compost. In fact, if you have any biodegradable plastic, you are welcome to throw that in as well! Because what fed the landfill will benefit the plants they once killed. As one study warns, "Plastic pollutants are introduced into ecosystems... They have become a major source of adverse effects, toxicity development in natural entities, and problems."

And then there is transport, [. Each] each time you fly, drive or ship somethingwe [, we] burn fossil fuelsand [, and] that creates a quarter of the total greenhouse gas that is floating around the atmosphere and heating up our planet. But it doesn't stay in the sky[;] it slowly comes down to earth were [Earth, where] it goes into the soil and spends the rest of its life intoxicating our plants. We need to reduce the transport going around, so we either [should either] bike or go through [use] public transport.

So now we know, every single piece of trash [rubbish], every drive and every scrap leaves a mark on our environment. But we can reverse it[. If] if recycling doesn't work, we change the tactic. We move on to reducing and reusing. (pause) because [Because] every choice makes a difference.