Term 4 - 2025: Week 3 Writing Homework | Year 5 Selective RW

Section 1:

#1: Opening paragraph ("Have you ever seen rubbish floating in the oceans... be inspired to pick up every piece of rubbish you see.")

Strengths:

- Your opening uses strong imagery with "rubbish floating in the oceans" and "plastic bags polluting the soil" to help readers visualise environmental damage.
- The direct address using "Have you ever seen" effectively draws readers into the topic immediately.

Weakness: Unclear focus and abrupt transitions → Your paragraph jumps between different ideas without connecting them smoothly. You move from pollution examples to "thunderstorms, deforestation" to an idealised vision of nature, then to extinct species, and finally to a call to action. This makes it difficult for readers to follow your main point. The phrase "only to carry more burden on their shoulders" is confusing because environments don't literally have shoulders, and the connection to thunderstorms and deforestation isn't clear.

Exemplar: Our local environment faces serious threats from pollution and deforestation. Instead of thriving ecosystems where plants grow freely and butterflies fill the air, we see rubbish-filled oceans and polluted soil. This destruction has already caused species like passenger pigeons to become extinct. It's time for us to take action.

#2: Microplastics paragraph ("In the sands on the beaches... 60% of the food we ate in 24 hours is most likely to be rubbish!")

Strengths:

- You explain microplastics clearly by describing them as "miniscule, so small that you need special equipment" to see them.
- The connection between microplastics in oceans and their presence in our food effectively shows how pollution affects humans directly.

Weakness: Vague and unsupported claim → Your statement that "scientists said that 60% of the food we ate in 24 hours is most likely to be rubbish" needs more explanation. Readers won't understand what this means—are you saying 60% of our food contains microplastics, or that 60% is actually rubbish? The word "rubbish" is too vague here. Additionally, phrases like "miniscope rubbish" and "colourful precious jewels" confuse your message rather than clarify it.

Exemplar: Scientists have found that microplastics are now present in much of the food we eat daily. These tiny plastic particles travel from the ocean into the air, soil, and eventually onto our plates, meaning we unknowingly consume plastic with almost every meal.

#3: Solutions paragraph ("Bob, a local environmentalist, said... every action counts.")

Strengths:

- Including a quote from Bob adds a real-world perspective to your argument.
- Your call to action "do every small effort you can do as every action counts" encourages readers to participate.

Weakness: Underdeveloped solution and weak evidence → Your conclusion introduces Bob's quote but doesn't explain what specific research he does or why his opinion matters. The statement "It has changed over 100% the last few years" is unclear—environments can't change "over 100%." Your solutions section is very brief and doesn't provide concrete examples of actions readers can take beyond the vague "clean the world, save the environment." Phrases like "every small effort" are too general to be helpful.

Exemplar: Environmental experts have documented alarming changes to our ecosystems over recent decades. We can make a difference by taking specific actions: reducing our plastic use, participating in local clean-up events, and supporting conservation programmes. Each small step contributes to protecting our environment for future generations.

■ Your piece demonstrates genuine concern for environmental issues and uses some effective techniques like direct address and vivid imagery. However, your arguments would benefit from clearer organisation and more specific examples. Additionally, try connecting your ideas more smoothly between sentences and paragraphs. For instance, your second paragraph about microplastics could explain the journey of plastic from production to ocean to food chain in a step-by-step way. Also, your final paragraph needs stronger, more specific solutions—instead of saying "clean the world," explain particular actions like "refuse single-use plastics" or "join community garden projects." Your writing would become more persuasive if you developed each main idea fully before moving to the next one.

Overall Score: 40/50

Section 2:

#1 The local crisis [The Local Crisis]

Have you ever seen rubbish floating in the oceans, plastic bags polluting the soiland [or] factories's [factory] smog filled [filling] the air. [?] That's right. Our local environment has faced thunderstorms, deforestation and much moreonly to earry more burden on their shoulders[, placing increasing strain on natural ecosystems]. They [These environments] should be thrivingaround[, with] plants growing freely, butterflies and bees dotted [dotting] the airand several other things[, and wildlife flourishing]. However, us [we] humans keep doing harmful things to naturesuch as [, including] turning the land into a wasteland, causing species like the passenger pigeons [pigeon], bats and several other beautiful kinds of animals

[species] to be completely driven out. By today, I hope you will be inspired to pick up every piece of rubbish you see.

#2 In the sands on the beaches, the cool and smooth soil we feel, [and] the air we breathein[,] all of them carry a type of plastic called microplastics. They are miniscule, so small that you need special equipment in order to see them with a naked [with the naked] eye. At firstwhen [, when] you saw [see] the sand, mixed [it appears mixed] with shells and colourful precious jewelsbut [, but] they are not jewels at all! They are useless and damaging for our local environment, causing our body [bodies] to inhale plastics without even knowing it! To make matters worse, when was the last time you had food? Breakfast? Dinner? Or even at lunchtime or at breaktime [break time]! Those miniscope rubbish was [These microscopic plastic particles were] once in the ocean, [;] however, they quickly made their way toward the air, the soil and even our dinner plate [plates]! If we don't stop the plastics, the outcome could get a lot worse. Recently, scientists said that 60% of the food we ate in 24 hours is most likely to be rubbish [contain microplastics]!

#3 But that is not the only problem the environment is facing. They are [It is also] facing a lack or reduction [decline] of bees and butterflies, meaning that the little [these vital] pollinators are almost completely wiped out. While some species like the Monarch Butterfly [butterfly] and the Bumblebees [bumblebee] are still there, they are on the brink of extinction, making the risks of less food and periods of famine start to become larger and larger. We should be grateful that we already have it [still have these pollinators], instead [; instead,] we didn't use it [them] well.

Bob, a local environmentalist, said" [, "\frac{1}{4} [I] do research every Monday. The world wasn't how the ancestors left it 300 years ago. It has changed over 100% the [in the] last few years." Today, we need your help to clean the world, save the environment and stop species from getting extinct. So do every small effort you can do [make,] as every action counts.