Acoustic responsibility

We show an amazing tolerance for a form of pollution that is a growing problem: noise. Airplane traffic is increasing by five percent a year. Urban noise is doubling every ten years. By air, land and sea, we are facing an onslaught of noise that is threatening our ability to live in this world.

We have granted ourselves the right to make noise. But what about our responsibilities? Have we developed a sense of acoustic responsibility?

The evidence suggests that we have not. Many people seem to believe they have an unlimited right to make noise with cars and motorbikes, and with loud music at home and in the street. In some countries measures have been taken to force people to make less noise. In Britain, for example, a law has been passed preventing people from disturbing their neighbours with music at night.

It is widely accepted that we should deal with our rubbish in a responsible way Noise is in reality a particularly insidious form of rubbish. It destroys community life, pursues us into our homes, keeps us from sleeping and is the cause of many stress-related illnesses, as well as hearing loss.

Our acoustic environment belongs to ah of us. Everyone has the right to use it, but no one has the right to abuse it. Let's start using it responsibly

1. Answer the following questions using your own words.(2 points: 1 point each)

a) Why is our world becoming more difficult to live in?

b) How can noise affect our lives?

2. Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)? (1 point: 0.5 each)

a) Nowadays everyone thinks it's all right to make noise.

b) British law protects people from their neighbours' music at night.

3. Find a word or a phrase in the text which, in context, is similar in meaning to: (1 point: 0.5 each)

a) strong attack

b) follows

4. Choose a, b, or c, in each question below. Only one choice is correct. (2 points: 0.5 each).

1. The level of noise produced in cities and towns

a) is four times higher every eight / ten years.

b) is twice as high now than two years ago.

c) is twice as high now than ten years ago.

2. The right to make noise

a) is often questioned.

b) is particularly insidious.

c) should be accompanied by a sense of responsibility

3. Many people

a) think that they have the right to use noisy motorcycles or cars.

b) feel responsible for their noise.

c) think that cars and motorcycles are disturbing.

4. The author points out that

a) people do not feel responsible for their rubbish.

b) noise and garbage are problems that disturb us at home.

c) we should accept our responsibility for noise as we do for rubbish.

5. Composition (100-150 words approximately). Choose of the following topics. (4 points)

1. Write a story in which someone has problems with noise pollution.

2. Many public places such as nightclubs stay open until late. What do you think about this issue?