

ACCESO MAYORES DE 25 AÑOS-UNIVERSIDAD REY JUAN CARLOS-AÑO 2010-INGLÉS

Plastic Bags in London

London may be soon changing the habits of shoppers in the city and helping the environment by banning the use of the plastic shopping bag. Estimates are that Londoners and tourists use 1.6 billion plastic bags each year, many of which are thrown away after just one use. These bags produce a lot of rubbish and take at least 400 years to break down.

Local authorities have asked the British government to ban shops from giving away free plastic bags. They say: "Stores should sell reusable bags and pass the money earned on to environmental projects. As a society, we need to do more to reduce the amount of waste and London, as a city, is determined to take an ambitious lead on this issue."

Shop owners are furious and have promised to fight the government to stop the ban from going ahead. They say that there is no need for the ban since it would simply cause inconvenience to shoppers. Their representative told reporters: "We think it's excessive because shop owners are already committed to reducing the environmental impact of bags by 25% by the end of next year." He was worried that the ban would affect sales, saying: "If somebody is going to go into a supermarket or a shop, it's hard to see, unless they have brought a bag with them, how they will be able to buy more than a few items." A recent survey found that 92% of Londoners supported a total ban on plastic bags or a tax on them.

QUESTIONS

1. Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Copy the evidence from the text.

No marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE.

- The inhabitants of London use many plastic bags more than once.
- London authorities want stores to sell reusable bags and donate the money to environmental causes.
- Shop owners agree with the ban and want to cooperate with the government.

C/ Fernando Poo 5 Madrid (Metro Delicias o Embajadores).

d. Only a few of London's inhabitants want to ban plastic bags.

(Puntuación máxima 4 puntos)

2. In your own words and based on the ideas in the text, answer the following questions.

a. Why are plastic bags dangerous for the environment?

b. Why are shop owners against the ban on free plastic shopping bags? Give two reasons.

(Puntuación máxima 2 puntos)

3. Find the words in the text that mean:

a. routines (paragraph 1)

b. prohibiting (paragraph 1)

c. litter (paragraph 1)

d. decrease (paragraph 2)

d. angry (paragraph 3)

e. discovered (paragraph 3)

(Puntuación máxima 1,5 puntos)

4. Complete the following sentences. Use the appropriate form of the word in brackets when given.

a. My brother, _____ is a scientist, is now _____ (investigate) the dangers of plastic bags.

b. I want _____ (visit) London next year. For me, it is _____ (good) city in the world.

c. If the city of London _____ (ban) plastic bags, all of its inhabitants _____ (benefit).

d. It is now _____ (cheap) to shop in London _____ in Madrid.

e. Most tourists like _____ (use) plastic bags when they shop. Some prefer bags _____ are made of paper.

(Puntuación maxima 2,5 puntos)