**SOLVING PROBLEMS**

Warm-up

In order to protect the environment, your city passes a law that requires cars with even-numbered license plates to drive on even-numbered dates, and odd-numbered license plates on odd-numbered dates. How would you feel? What would you do?

2. Speaking

Do ex. 1, p. 146.

3. Reading

Read the report and discuss the traffic problems in your area.

MILAN BANS CARS TO REDUCE POLLUTION

Summary

10 October 2011

Italy’s business capital, Milan, banned all traffic from its streets for 10 hours on Sunday in an attempt to reduce pollution. The city is particularly vulnerable to pollution.

Reporter:

Mark Duff

Milan is one of Europe’s most polluted cities

Report

Viewed from the roof of Milan’s cathedral, the Duomo, the Alps appear through a brown, murky haze of pollution. Satellite images regularly show the city to be one of the world’s pollution hotspots.

The problem has been made more acute now by the weather. For most of the past month, Milaneses have been basking in glorious sunshine and temperatures well above the seasonal average.

That means pollution levels have reached a level not normally seen before the cold, still days of January.

The unseasonable weather has exacerbated the two principal causes of Milan’s perennial smog crisis: Italians’ love affair with the car and a trick of nature. Milan lies in a shallow bowl, which traps the fumes from cars, and inefficient old household boilers.

Sunday’s ban was triggered when the measure of pollution exceeded a statutory ceiling for more than twelve days.

Mark Duff, BBC News, Milan

• murky haze — air difficult to see through due to smoke

• pollution hotspots — areas where the air has its highest concentration of harmful substances

• acute — severe, serious

• seasonal average — usual temperatures for that time of the year

• exacerbated — worsened

• perennial — continuous

• smog — heavily polluted air that contains a mixture of smoke, gases and chemicals

• a trick of nature — an event that has not being prompted by man, it happens naturally

• a shallow bowl — a depressed landscape with surroundings slightly higher than the centre.

4.Reading and speaking

Do ex. 2, p. 146.

5. Listening

Listen to the interview and do the task.

Interviewer. Today, I’m interviewing nine-year-old Alex about her feelings on how people can help save the environment. So, Alex, how can we save the environment?

Alex. By saving water.

Interviewer. Well, how can we do that?

Alex. By not using too much water when we wash dishes, take a bath, and when we do other things, like watering the plants outside.

Interviewer. Oh, I think I can do that. What else?

Alex. When drinking or eating something outside, you should keep the garbage until you find a trashcan to put it in because littering makes our planet dirty. Do you like seeing trash all over the ground?

Interviewer. No, I don’t. Do you have any final suggestions?

Alex. Yes. We shouldn’t waste paper because trees are being cut down to make the paper. By recycling paper, we save the forests where animals live.

Interviewer. So, how can children recycle paper, I mean, everyday?

Alex. Well, for example, when I was in kindergarten, I used to save the newspapers so that I could make things make out of them, like paper trees, instead of just throwing them away. Now, the children in our neighborhood collect newspapers once a month to take them to a recycling center.

Interviewer. That’s great. Well thanks Alex for your ideas.

1) What is the name of the girl being interviewed?

a) Alice

b) Ellen

c) Alex

2) She says we should save water when ....

a) washing cars

b) cleaning clothes

c) taking a bath

3) The girl’s second suggestion is about... .

a) separating different types of garbage

b) disposing of trash properly

c) having a family clean-up party

4) By recycling paper, we can ... .

a) protect the forests

b) cut down on waste

c) save money

5) What does the girl do once a month?

a) She visits a recycling center

b) She cleans a neighborhood park.

c) She collects newspapers.

6. Summary

Discuss the following questions to make plans for writing.

1) What can large cities do to improve their air quality?

2) How can we protect the environment and at the same time improve people’s standard of living?

3) Do you think overpopulation is an important environmental issue? Why or why not?

4) Does your country have a smoking ban law in place?

5) What are the benefits / disadvantages of a smoking ban?

7. Homework

Write down your ideas as for one or two issues from the summary.