Food For Free

Andy Wallace has invited me to dinner while I interview him, so I meet him at 8 o’clock, not at some charming local café or new Japanese sushi bar, but at the back of the local supermarket beside the rubbish bins. .......................... (1) “Look at this,” he calls, showing me something. “Have a tuna sandwich – they look delicious. And here’s some almond croissants. And we’ve also got bananas and some yoghurts. Fantastic.”

Andy is a ‘freegan’. He can perfectly afford to buy food, he earns enough money but he chooses not to as a protest against our shamefully wasteful buyer society. “It’s an outrage,” he explains, as he bites a fish and lettuce baguette. “This food is perfectly good and could have fed at least 30 people. It should not be in the bin in the first place.” .......................... (2) And I’ve found out that it’s not just the big supermarkets that waste food – we are all just as guilty. .......................... (3) Lord Haskins, the government’s food and farming adviser, said, “We always want more when we go and shop. Our eyes are bigger than our stomachs in homes and in restaurants.” .......................... (4) The food redistribution charity, ‘Fareshare’, specializes in collecting high-quality food before it is past its expiry date, and taking it to the many charities who feed our country’s poor and vulnerable. Although the company has doubled in size in the last year, it is simply not able to cope with the endless supply of wasted food on its own. For a better example, we need to look to that enormous monument which is the USA. .......................... (5) If only our government helped these food redistribution charities, along with forcing our food businesses to cooperate, then it would be possible.

At the moment, most of our nation’s surplus food goes, along with the other rubbish, to one of our many rubbish sites, where it decomposes into methane – a greenhouse gas over 20 times more destructive to the planet than carbon dioxide. .......................... (6) Freegans feel strongly that our wasteful culture with all its endless producing, packaging, buying, and throwing away, is entirely to blame for the destruction of the planet. So, as a freegan, Andy is committed to taking as little part in this big cycle of buying as possible. “I just never buy food,” he explains. “.......................... (7) I also recycle
and repair everything. I actually haven’t bought anything new for years, and do you know what – I haven’t needed to. In fact, it’s amazing what you don’t really need!"

For many people, Freeganism will be a step too far, but it helps to talk about the waste of millions of tons of food every year in the UK.

A- **Read the text carefully.** (10 minutes)

B- **Which sentence best sums up Andy Wallace’s opinion? Circle the correct letter.** (3 minutes) 2 points

a- It’s good that charities can get lots of food that nobody else wants.
b- Supermarkets throw out lots of food, which is a waste, but it means that I never have to buy any.
c- It’s disgusting that we waste so much good food and it’s causing danger to our planet.
d- The government should stop supermarkets from throwing away so much food.

C- **Match the sentences a-h with the gaps 1-7. There is one extra sentence that you do not need. Write the correct letter in the appropriate space of the text.** (10 minutes) 7 points

a- With a shocking four million people in Britain suffering because they do not have access to a decent diet, it seems he has a point.
b- If we were able to redistribute as much food as they do in the USA, we could give out at least 50,000 tons of free food a year.
c- As I come round the corner, he’s already pushing his head into one of the enormous rubbish bins, and pulling out huge bags of things.
d- Either I look for it outside supermarkets or restaurants, or plant it in my garden.
e- Despite this, Andy has never thrown away anything that could be eaten.
f- Simply by dealing with this one problem, Britain could reduce its gas emissions by 5%!
g- However, according to Andy, the government itself is simply not doing enough in the first place to combat this incredible waste.
h- According to a recent government study, up to 1/3 of the food we buy is thrown away, which in the UK is 420 £ of wasted food per adult per year.
D- Are the following sentences true or false? Write (T) or (F) in the space provided and justify from the text. (10 minutes) 12 points

a- Andy eats food from the garbage because he can’t afford to buy food from shops. ............

b- Every year, about 33% of the food that we buy is thrown away. ..........

c- The charity Fareshare buys food that is expired and gives it to poor people. ............

d- The USA is better than the UK at using again food that could be wasted. ............

e- The food that is thrown away also causes environmental problems. ............

f- Andy gets all his food from outside supermarkets and restaurants. ............

E- Explain the six underlined words or expressions. You can give the synonym, opposite or you can explain them in your own words according to their meaning in the text. (5 minutes) 6 points

a- Beside: .................................................................

b- Earns: .................................................................

c- I’ve found out: ...........................................................

d- Waste: .................................................................

e- Expiry: .................................................................

f- Destructive: ...........................................................
F- **Answer the following questions in your own words.** (25 minutes) 13 points

a- Where does Andy Wallace invite the author to dinner? Why? 2 points

b- Who prepares the food for dinner? 2 points

c- What is a ‘freegan’? 1 point

d- Why do we waste food according to Lord Haskins? 1 point

e- Explain: ‘Our eyes are bigger than our stomachs in homes and in restaurants’ (lines 12-13) 2 points

f- Is Fareshare able to work with the wasted food alone? Why? 2 points
g. Who is to be blamed according to freegans? Explain. 3 points

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G- Give a homophone for 'waste' and explain it. (2 minutes) 1 point

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REWITING: Rewrite the following sentences using the prompts. (7 minutes) 6 points

a. Peter didn’t buy a new computer. He didn’t have money.

If ........................................................................................................................................................

b. She doesn’t have good grades because she is not attentive in class.

Were ................................................................................................................................................

c. Amy split up with her boyfriend but she seems very happy.

Although ........................................................................................................................................

d. He never went to Spain.

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e. I have already been to Istanbul. My uncle works there. (join with a relative pronoun)

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f. They dated for years before he proposed to her.

By the time .....................................................................................................................................