Activity 1. Read the questions below and prepare your own answer. Remember to give a direct answer to the question first, then extend your answer by adding extra information in a couple of sentences.

Activity 2. Read the answers below carefully and highlight expressions, vocabulary or idioms that you wish to remember. Make sure you practice them in your speaking, so that you can make use of them in your speaking test.

Part 3. Advertising/recycling

Q: Do you think people sometimes buy new things that are unnecessary?

Absolutely. I do think people sometimes buy new things that they don't need. Well, there can be many reasons for this, but the most common reason, I believe, is that people are enticed by advertisements they see on TV or in other media and even though they don't exactly need the product, they become interested and buy the product. Another common reason is an impulse purchase. People are attracted to new products as they look nice and cool, and decide to buy it on impulse. This unplanned decision, which is made just before a purchase, is likely to be the wrong decision, and the buyer will end up with a product that he or she doesn't need at all.

Q: What are the disadvantages of advertising? Are there any advantages?

It is very obvious that advertising has both advantages and disadvantages. When it comes to disadvantages of advertising, I would say advertising tends to encourage people to purchase things that are not necessary to them. As advertisements typically exaggerate the value of the product, people are easily lured to buy the new product. I sometimes feel that there should be stricter regulations to control what's being said in advertisements. On the other hand, there are lots of advantages of advertising as well. Advertising provides valuable information for consumers. For example, consumers can have good information about new products and sales as well as any improved features of existing products. Therefore, advertising helps people to make an informed decision about a product.

Q: Can you name a few things that we can recycle?

There are many things that we can recycle. For example, glass bottles, PET plastic bottles, aluminium cans and many kinds of paper such as corrugated cardboards and newspapers. All these can be recycled and they are valuable resources.

Q: How can we urge people to recycle more?

I think we definitely need to encourage people to recycle more and there can be many ways to do this. Most importantly, we have to educate young children to raise awareness about the environment and recycling at school. Also, the government together with civic groups can conduct a campaign to inform people about the benefits and importance of recycling. All these will help an individual to be more conscious about what they do to the environment and how they can reuse and save resources by recycling.