

**Directed Writing- 6**

Read **both** the texts and answer Question 1.

**Text A**

Hozan, 23

Plastic bags, once a symbol of convenience, have now become a menace to our environment. Made from non-biodegradable materials, plastic bags take hundreds of years to break down. During this time, they litter our streets, clog waterways, and pollute oceans. Marine life often mistakes plastic bags for food, leading to fatal consequences that harm them. The production of plastic requires petroleum, a finite and polluting resource. The more plastic bags we use, the greater the demand for oil, worsening greenhouse gas emissions. Less plastic bags means less carbon emissions. Plastic bags are lightweight and easily litter places like parks and beaches. Banning them would lead to cleaner, more attractive public spaces, benefiting communities and boosting local economies reliant on tourism. The future of our environment depends on bold actions like this, and it's time we make the switch for the sake of our planet and future generations.

**Text B**

Jared, 38

Banning plastic bags might seem like a straightforward solution to environmental concerns, but outright bans can do more harm than good. Plastic bags are used not just for carrying groceries but also for lining trash bins and packing items. They provide convenience in everyday household chores. Durability is another plus point, they protect items from water, dirt and other pollutants. Banning plastic bags disproportionately affects low-income families. Many people rely on free plastic bags provided by stores. Replacing them with pricier alternatives increases household expenses, making life harder for those already struggling. The economic impact on businesses cannot be ignored. Small retailers, in particular, may struggle to afford the cost of transitioning to alternative materials. The plastic manufacturing industry also employs thousands of workers who could face job losses if bans are implemented hastily.

**Question 1**

**Write an email** to the owner of a prominent supermarket chain, persuading them that the disadvantages of using plastic bags outweigh the benefits.

In your email you should:

- evaluate the ideas and opinions in **both** texts
- give your own views, based on what you have read in the texts about the disadvantages and advantages of using plastic bags.

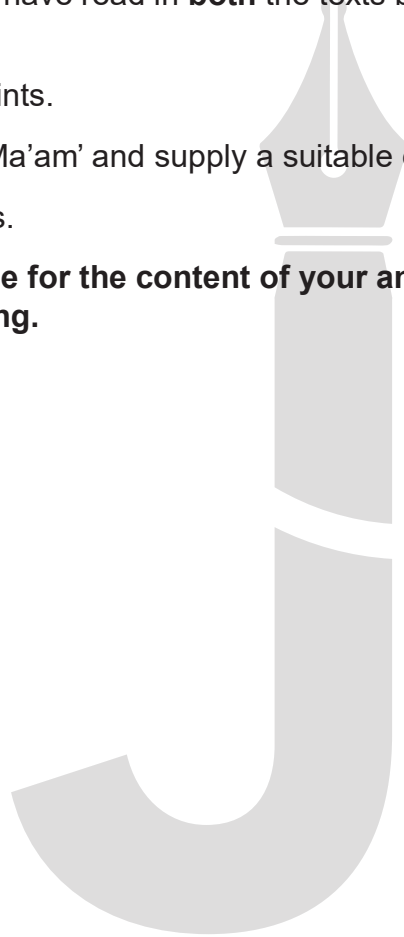
Base your email on what you have read in **both** the texts but be careful to use your own words.

Address both of the bullet points.

Begin your letter with 'Dear Ma'am' and supply a suitable ending.

Write about 250 to 350 words.

**Up to 10 marks are available for the content of your answer, and up to 15 marks for the quality of your writing.** [25]



## Directed Writing- 9

**Amber Heard: What Are You Sorry For?**

Yesterday, after several complaints to an online shop about their poor service, I finally got a reply. I expected a proper apology, but what I got felt like a marketing message. They used polite phrases, showed very little real regret, and ended by inviting me to shop again from their "unique range of bestselling rugs." It felt like the apology was more about protecting their image than showing real concern.

These days, we hear apologies all the time, but many feel fake or forced. In everyday life, people say sorry just to be polite — even when it's not their fault. I taught my kids what I have done throughout the 35 years of my life, to apologise early on, but that didn't always stop the bad behaviour! In workplaces, some people avoid apologising at all, thinking it shows weakness. That might be why the online shop didn't say a sincere sorry — they might have feared I'd ask for compensation.

But to be honest, if they had just given a real apology, I might have trusted them again. Instead, I'll avoid shopping from them now. An honest apology would have been more powerful than the insincere one I received.

**Johnny Depp: The Power of an Apology**

Saying "I'm sorry" has become automatic for many people — even when it's not really necessary. You might say it when someone bumps into you or when you sneeze. But experts say over-apologising can make you look weak or unsure of yourself. People might respect you less or even treat you badly because of it. Specially older generations, who think they 'deserve' an apology, even in scenarios where they are at fault.

When we keep apologising for small things, we reduce the meaning of a real apology. It becomes less powerful when we actually need it. For example, if someone cancels plans and apologises too quickly, it can pressure the other person to forgive before they're ready.

Also, sometimes people say sorry just to feel better about themselves, not because they truly understand the hurt they caused. That kind of apology can feel selfish or even insulting.

Interestingly, research shows that not apologising can boost your confidence. But that doesn't mean you should never say sorry. A true apology — one where you take responsibility and try to make things right — can help fix relationships. It shows strength, not weakness.

A sincere apology doesn't guarantee forgiveness, but it does help reduce guilt and shows maturity. It also allows us to stay emotionally close to the people we care about. Admitting we were wrong and trying to make up for it can help us grow and feel more self-respect.



