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To get a chocolate out of a box requires a considerable amount of unpacking: the box has to be taken out of the paper bag in which it arrived, the cellophane wrapper has to be torn off, the lid opened and the paper removed, the chocolate itself then has to be unwrapped from its own piece of paper. But this overuse of wrapping is not confined to luxuries. It is now becoming increasingly difficult to buy anything that is not done up in beautiful wrapping. The package itself is of no interest to the shopper, who usually throws it away immediately. Useless wrapping accounts for much of the refuse put out by the average London household each week. So why is it done? Some of it, like the cellophane on meat, is necessary, but most of the rest is simply competitive selling. This is absurd. Packaging is using up scarce energy and resources and messing up the environment. Recycling is already happening with milk bottles which are returned to the dairies, washed out, and refilled. But both glass and paper are being threatened by the growing use of plastic. More dairies are experimenting with plastic bottles. The trouble with plastic is that it does not rot. Some environmentalists argue that the only solution to the problem of ever increasing plastic containers is to do away with plastic altogether in the shops, a suggestion unacceptable to many manufacturers who say there is no alternative to their handy plastic packs. It is evident that more research is needed into the recovery

and re-use of various materials and into the cost of collecting and recycling containers as opposed to producing new ones.

Unnecessary packaging, intended to be used just once, and make things look better so more people will buy them, is clearly becoming increasingly absurd. But it is not so much a question of doing away with packaging as using it sensibly. What is needed now is a more advanced approach to using scarce resources for what is, after all, a relatively unimportant function.

1. "This overuse of wrapping is not confined to luxuries." means_____. A. more wrapping is needed for ordinary products B. more wrapping is used for luxuries than for ordinary products C. too much wrapping is used for both luxury and ordinary products D. the wrapping used for luxury products is unnecessary

2. Packaging is important to manufacturers because_____. A. it is easy to use it again B. shoppers are interested in beautiful packaging C. they want to attract more shoppers D. packaged things will not go rotten

3. According to the passage, dairies are _____. A. experimenting with the use of paper bottles B. giving up the use of glass bottles C. increasing the use of plastic bottles D. re-using their paper containers

4. Some environmentalists think that_____. A. plastic packaging should be made more convenient B. no alternative can be found to plastic packaging C. too much plastic is wasted D. shops should stop using plastic containers

5. The author thinks that_____. A. packing is actually useless and could be ignored B. people will soon stop using packaging altogether C. enough research has been done into recycling D. it is better to produce new materials than to re-use old ones

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