

# DEEP IMPACT



## SPEAKING: The Space Race

1. Complete the questions using a form of the word in bold.

- a. Do you think the recent commercial trips to space are **\_exciting\_**?
- b. Do you think space \_\_\_\_\_ is a good thing?
- c. Is space \_\_\_\_\_ more important than exploring planet Earth?
- d. Is money spent on space missions purely \_\_\_\_\_?

**EXCITE**  
**TOUR**  
**EXPLORE**  
**INDULGE**

2. Discuss in pairs, giving reasons for your answers.

## READING

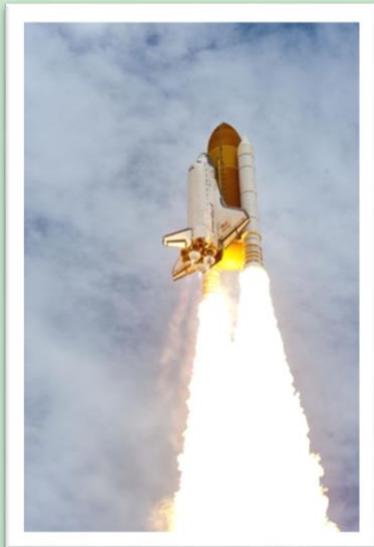
3. Read the text quickly and complete the paragraphs with a suitable title from below. There is one extra title that you don't need.

Out of Sight, Out of Mind  
 A Growing Problem

Middle of Nowhere  
 Green Planet

Eco-Billionaires  
 One Giant Leap for Mankind

## OUT OF THIS WORLD



A: \_\_\_\_\_

It used to just be the thing of Sci-Fi films but space tourism is now firmly becoming a reality if the recent escapades of the world's wealthiest billionaires are anything to go by. But while our eyes are fixed on the sky, watching the world's richest rocket even higher than their bank balances, we are neglecting to consider one thing. What happens when they are brought back to earth?

B: \_\_\_\_\_

The buzz and excitement surrounding space exploration and tourism are contagious. In a world full of restrictions, there's something wildly indulgent about blasting into space. However, despite the constant reassurance that the environment is being considered, it is just merely an after-

thought of these jaw-dropping space adventures. We all know that what goes up must come down but the question is: where?

C: \_\_\_\_\_

Located in the Pacific Ocean, 2,250km from any civilisation is Point Nemo. This scarcely-known location does not enjoy the peaceful solitude you would expect, but instead is home to some rather unusual inhabitants. Point Nemo is the resting place of all the spacecraft, satellites, and any other space junk that needs to be brought back to earth. The mass exodus into space whether it be the launch of satellites to keep up with mounting technological demands, or establishing space stations to give nations a more stable base throughout their research; are all causing an increase in space junk. To avoid potential disaster, they need to return to Earth. Their point of re-entry? Point Nemo. It is, essentially, a spaceship cemetery; a sad and lonely place that signals the end of a rich nation's dreams and past adventures.



D: \_\_\_\_\_

Of course, bringing spacecraft back down to earth is not always as smooth sailing as you'd hope and the trail of debris stretches over more than 1600km. What is frightening is the rate at which the dumping is accelerating. Up until 2009, 150 items had been dumped at Point Nemo. Concerningly, however, this number is now at 250, showing a rapid increase in space junk infiltrating Earth.

E: \_\_\_\_\_

Its remote location doesn't mean that no harm is being caused, however. The marine life, corals, and sponges are all victims of the destruction of their ecosystem, not to mention the poisonous fuels or materials bound to pollute the sea. So, while the world of Space exploration is reaching new heights, environmental considerations are at an all-time low. So, next time you watch someone lift-off, think about what impact their adventures will really have.

**4. Read the text again. Are the sentences below True (T) or False (F)?**

- a. Space Tourism only exists in fantasy movies. **F**
- b. Space Tourism is now becoming a reality for everyone. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. We are neglecting to think about environmental implications. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Point Nemo is located in an area that ensures it won't cause damage to towns or people. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. The resting place for spacecraft and satellites is common knowledge. \_\_\_\_\_
- f. The spaceship cemetery is the consequence of too much space junk in orbit. \_\_\_\_\_
- g. In the past, we used to send more space junk to Point Nemo than we do now. \_\_\_\_\_
- h. The spaceship cemetery is a low-risk way to abandon spacecraft. \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Do you think the spaceship cemetery at Point Nemo is a good idea? Discuss in pairs. Say why or why not.**

**VOCABULARY: Synonyms**

**6. Find words or phrases in the text that mean the same as the words below.**

- a) adventures \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- b) to go very high \_\_\_\_\_ (v)
- c) exciting energy \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- d) simply \_\_\_\_\_ (adv)
- e) amazing \_\_\_\_\_ (adj)
- f) state of being alone \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- g) increasing \_\_\_\_\_ (v)
- h) abandoned \_\_\_\_\_ (adj)

**SPEAKING: Debating**

**7. Read the statement. In groups, complete the table with as many arguments as you can that agree or disagree with the statement.**

The money spent on space exploration would be better spent solving planet Earth's problems!

Agree	Disagree

