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Noisy neighbours and all the things that drive us mad

BY ROSS LYDALL

Noisy neighbours, uncollected 1) litter and graffiti are among the things that really annoy us, according to a new survey. The findings come from a Mori poll of more than 2,000 residents in three UK cities - London, Dundee and Newcastle. The government-commissioned survey revealed that other issues, such as dog mess and abandoned vehicles, also cause so much anxiety that they can 2) affect our quality of life. Designed to measure how people respond to noise, the survey also established the extent to which we are troubled by other anti-social problems. While almost one in three people said noisy neighbours were a problem, they 3) placed it eighth on a list of what troubled them most. They were more than twice as concerned about litter and rubbish - the main problem to affect their quality of life. They said noise was a problem of similar scale to abandoned cars and drinking in the street. However, the effect of noisy neighbours ranked much more highly among residents already dissatisfied with their home - jumping to second place. It is also the second biggest quality-of-life issue among residents in medium- or high-rise flats. The study carried out for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs found that 4) loud music, shouting and banging attracted far more complaints than noisy parties. As many as two in five people annoyed by noise have complained to their council or the police, while one in four have complained directly to neighbours. The 5) survey finds that while people are able to develop 'immunity' to traffic and trains, they see neighbourhood noise as being synonymous with a 'lack of consideration'. The Environment Minister said tackling noise pollution was a government priority.

Task A Write out the word that can replace the underlined word without changing the meaning.

1 A luggage B rubbish C fence D flour

2 A destroy B measure C influence D find out

3 A put B took C brought D developed

4 A fresh B main C noisy D independent

5 A trouble B survival C bargain D research

Task B Complete the second sentence so that it has similar meaning to the first one. Do not change the word given.

6 Noisy neighbours, uncollected litter and graffiti are among things that really annoy us.

Among \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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7 The findings come from a Mori poll of more than 2,000 residents in three UK cities.

More \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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8 Dog mess and abandoned vehicles also cause so much anxiety.

So much \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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9 The survey also established the extent to which we are troubled by other anti-social problems.

The extent \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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10 They were more than twice as concerned about litter and rubbish-the main problem to affect

their life.

Litter \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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11 The effect of noisy neighbours ranked much more highly among residents.

Residents\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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12 The study found that loud music, shouting and banging attracted far more complaints than

noisy parties.

Noisy \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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13 As many as two in five people annoyed annoyed by noise have complained to their council or

the police.

Annoyed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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14 People are able to develop “immunity” to traffic and trains.

“Immunity” \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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15 The Environment minister said tackling noise pollution was a government priority.

According \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Task C Answer the questions.

16 How many people took part in the survey?

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17 Whom have people annoyed by noise complained to?

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18 What problems mentioned in the text exist in the place where you live?