<u>Friday 6th November.</u>

<u>LO. To identify the key points within a discussion text and to identify technical language used within a discussion text.</u>

<u>Should loud fireworks be banned?</u>

An Italian town has started a trial testing silent fireworks. It is to ensure the wellbeing of pets. The town felt the welfare of pets was more important than the sound of fireworks. This suggestion was put forward after a high number of reports of distressed animals during a loud firework display on New Year Eve.

Dogs have sensitive hearing and fireworks cause them to develop something called 'acoustic stress'. Smoke from fireworks can also cause health problems for animals. Vets often report cases of nausea, tremors and anxiety in animals after a fireworks show.

Awareness of the problems caused by fireworks is growing. Germany banned noisy fireworks near refugee shelters to reduce the trauma among refugees. Loud fireworks cause similar problems for war veterans as the explosions can trigger post-traumatic stress disorder.

Not everyone agrees with the idea of silent fireworks. One Italian said: "You need the…thunder. It's an essential part of the fun." He said pet owners should keep all windows closed. A firework company spokesperson also stated that banning loud fireworks would damage the industry because "the bang is part of the appeal! If you take that away, people will not be as interested in going to the displays." "Moreover", he argued, "if you make fireworks silent, people would be more likely to use them at home and this would increase the risk to public safety as fireworks are difficult to handle."

Studies will continue before the ban on loud fireworks is made compulsory.

1) What are the points against having loud fireworks?
2) What are the points made for having loud fireworks?
3) Why was the silent fireworks trial started?
4) Where else uses silent fireworks?
5) Which do you think is the most important point for having loud fireworks? Why?
6) Do you think loud fireworks should be banned? Why?