

CARD 2

CANDIDATE APreparation time: **2 minutes****TOPIC: HOUSING****Trends in housing**

You read the following text:

Soaring house prices and stagnating wages have led to a bloated house market. So millennials are now renting at record rates, yet the appetite to make a house a home remains equally high; they are still looking for stylish, personalised rental homes. Millennials are steadily finding more temporary solutions to the challenge of making a rental home worthy. “We are seeing a trend of individuals, specifically millennials and Gen Z, looking for new life experiences rather than the desire to stay put in one place,” says a marketing manager for Fashion Furniture. “With that mindset, the idea of renting furniture when you need it and returning it to the company when you’re ready to move on to your new adventure is incredibly appealing.”

Adapted from www. bbc.com

You are at a round table discussion and have been asked to speak about this topic.

Speaking time: 2-3 minutes max.**TASK 1: PRODUCTION****...../12,5 points**

Talk about the following points:

- Discuss how you stand on this particular issue.
- Hypothesize about the situation in the future.

Support your opinions with arguments.

CANDIDATE BPreparation time: **2 minutes****TOPIC: PSYCHOLOGY****Consequences of social media**

You read the following text:

New research does a deep-dive on the pervasive anxiety associated with FOMO. This feeling has always been there. However, we now have a formal nomenclature to describe the "fear of missing out." The explosion of social media has launched our youngsters headfirst into the FOMO syndrome due to the ability (or curse) we have to easily see what our peers are doing all the time. This fear would be associated with a host of negative outcomes related to stress and negative emotionality. Further, people who experience it would be more likely to miss out on sleep and feel more fatigue.

Adapted from www.psychologytoday.com

You are at a round table discussion and have been asked to speak about this topic.

Speaking time: 2-3 minutes max.**TASK 1: PRODUCTION****...../12,5 points**

Talk about the following points:

- Discuss how you stand on this particular issue.
- Hypothesize about the situation in the future.

Support your opinions with arguments.



CARD 2

TASK 2: INTERACTION

CANDIDATE A

Preparation time: **2 minutes**

Speaking time: **4-5 minutes max.**

TOPIC: ECO-FRIENDLY CITIES

You and the other candidate are at a meeting to decide which measure the local government should implement to make your city more eco-friendly. You are considering the three options below.

- Discuss the implications of the proposals.
- Debate which of the three proposals to implement for your city.

- **Parks** are considered the lungs of cities and provide the citizens with a place to unwind, take a deep breath and reconnect with nature. They also act as a cooling counterbalance to the heat created by all the concrete and asphalt.
- **Congestion charges** enhance mobility and connectivity within the city. This tax can be spent on other forms of greener public transport. It benefits society by reducing fuel consumption and CO2 emissions and holds the key to improved air quality.
- **Solar panels for carparks.** The area above a car park is an otherwise unexploited urban site that can be used to generate renewable energy. And it can also become a significant source of both direct and indirect job creation.

Remember you must talk about all three texts.

You needn't come to an agreement, but you should support your opinions with arguments.



CARD 2

TASK 2: INTERACTION

CANDIDATE B

Preparation time: **2 minutes**

Speaking time: **4-5 minutes max.**

TOPIC: ECO-FRIENDLY CITIES

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Remember you must talk about all three texts.

You needn't come to an agreement, but you should support your opinions with arguments.

CARD 10 (3 CANDIDATES)**CANDIDATE A**Preparation time: **2 minutes****TOPIC: SOCIETY****Pets**

You read the following text online:

In recent years, the relationship between humans and their pets has been changing. To wit, people increasingly see their pets as core family members. Of particular note, marriage rates have been eroding, as people remain single, unmarried, or choose to cohabit. Moreover, people delay marriage. There has also been a marked rise of childfree women, as well as an increase of non-traditional family structures. It appears these various factors have not only paved the way to new definitions of family and parenthood, but they have also allowed humans to have deeper relationships with animals. Welcome to the 21st century and interspecies families.

Adapted from psychologytoday.com

You are at a round table discussion on **pets** and have been asked to speak about this topic.

Speaking time: 2-3 minutes max.**TASK 1: PRODUCTION****...../12,5 points**

Talk about the following points:

- Discuss how you stand on this particular issue.
- Hypothesize about the situation in the future.

Support your opinions with arguments.



CARD 10

CANDIDATE B

Preparation time: **2 minutes**

TOPIC: TECHNOLOGY

Free apps

You read the following text online:

As the old saying goes, "There are no free lunches." In the Information Age, this has never been truer. We'll try almost anything that is offered to us at no cost. Many apps fit that description. But are free apps really free? Have you ever paused to read the terms of agreement before downloading an app? Are you aware of what you're signing up for, and whether or not the app is safe?

The second you hit "download," you get an app seemingly for free. However, you are giving in return something much more valuable than money: your private information.

Adapted from centsai.com

You are at a round table discussion on **free apps** and have been asked to speak about this topic.

Speaking time: 2-3 minutes max.

TASK 1: PRODUCTION

...../12,5 points

Talk about the following points:

- Discuss how you stand on this particular issue.
- Hypothesize about the situation in the future.

Support your opinions with arguments.

CARD 10

CANDIDATE CPreparation time: **2 minutes**

TOPIC: FAMILY AND RELATIONSHIPS

Living with parents

You read the following text online:

There is a record number of young adults living with parents in the UK, according to the *Office for National Statistics*. A recent report shows that there has been a 46% rise since 1999 in the number of 20- to 34-year-olds returning home, with most of the increase occurring since the financial crisis in 2007. Over the same period, average house prices have tripled from about £97,000 to £288,000. According to Liz Emerson, co-founder of the *Intergenerational Foundation*, young people, unfortunately, can no longer “strike on their own like their parents were able to do”.

Adapted from The Guardian

You are at a round table discussion on **living with parents** and have been asked to speak about this topic.

Speaking time: 2-3 minutes max.**TASK 1: PRODUCTION**

...../12,5 points

Talk about the following points:

- Discuss how you stand on this particular issue.
- Hypothesize about the situation in the future.

Support your opinions with arguments.



CARD 10

TASK 2: INTERACTION

CANDIDATE A

Preparation time: **2 minutes**

Speaking time: **6-7 minutes**

TOPIC: HOUSING

You and the other candidates are at a task force meeting to decide which measure would be most effective to help young people buy their first property. You are considering the three options below.

- Discuss the implications of the proposals.
- Debate which of the three proposals to implement.

- Help-to-buy loans: The government could lend up to 20% of the value of the property interest free for the first five years. Beneficiaries would pay a 5% deposit upfront, and a mortgage for the remaining 75%.
- Rent-to-save schemes: Beneficiaries rent a newly-built home for up to five years, and at some point they can apply to buy the property. The government would then give them back 25% of the rent they have paid.
- Shared ownership schemes: Beneficiaries could get a mortgage to buy a share of the property from a private housing association, and then they would pay a relatively low rent on the remaining share.

Remember you must talk about all three texts.

You needn't come to an agreement, but you should support your opinions with arguments.



CARD 10

TASK 2: INTERACTION

CANDIDATE B

Preparation time: **2 minutes**

Speaking time: **6-7 minutes**

TOPIC: HOUSING

You and the other candidates are at a government task force meeting to decide which measure would be most effective to help young people buy their first property. You are considering the three options below.

- Discuss the implications of the proposals.
- Debate which of the three proposals to implement.

- Help-to-buy loans: The government could lend up to 20% of the value of the property interest free for the first five years. Beneficiaries would pay a 5% deposit upfront, and a mortgage for the remaining 75%.
- Rent-to-save schemes: Beneficiaries rent a newly-built home for up to five years, and at some point they can apply to buy the property. The government would then give them back 25% of the rent they have paid.
- Shared ownership schemes: Beneficiaries could get a mortgage to buy a share of the property from a private housing association, and then they would pay a relatively low rent on the remaining share.

Remember you must talk about all three texts.

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TASK 2: INTERACTION

CANDIDATE C

Preparation time: **2 minutes**

Speaking time: **6-7 minutes**

TOPIC: HOUSING

You and the other candidates are at a government task force meeting to decide which measure would be most effective to help young people buy their first property. You are considering the three options below.

- Discuss the implications of the proposals.
- Debate which of the three proposals to implement.

- Help-to-buy loans: The government could lend up to 20% of the value of the property interest free for the first five years. Beneficiaries would pay a 5% deposit upfront, and a mortgage for the remaining 75%.
- Rent-to-save schemes: Beneficiaries rent a newly-built home for up to five years, and at some point they can apply to buy the property. The government would then give them back 25% of the rent they have paid.
- Shared ownership schemes: Beneficiaries could get a mortgage to buy a share of the property from a private housing association, and then they would pay a relatively low rent on the remaining share.

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