



**CARD 9 (2 CANDIDATES)**

**CANDIDATE A**

**Preparation time: 2 minutes**

**TOPIC: SHOPPING AND CONSUMERISM**

**Second-hand markets**

You read the following text in a news article:

The market for bargains is booming, fueled by the economy, ethical buying and ease of purchase online. But research shows age and gender both impact on what consumers want from their bargain basements. A third of consumers are buying more second-hand items than they were 12 months ago and more women are happy to rummage through vintage or used items than men. They are more likely to buy different types of second-hand items, in particular books, adult clothing, accessories, jewelry and shoes.

*Adapted from <https://www.marketingweek.com>*

During a conversation with Candidate B at a talk about second-hand markets that you are both attending, you decide to inform them about the article you have read and explain your opinion about it.

**Speaking time: 2-3 minutes**

**TASK 1: PRODUCTION**

**...../12,5 points**

Talk about the following points:

- Discuss the impact of second-hand markets on the sellers' economy.
- Make predictions and speculate about what the situation may be like in the future.

Support your opinions with arguments.



**CARD 9**

**CANDIDATE B**

**Preparation time: 2 minutes**

**TOPIC: HEALTH**  
**Cosmetic surgery**

You read the following text in a news article:

According to the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS), almost 18 million people underwent surgical and minimally invasive cosmetic procedures in the United States in 2018. This total means that there were almost a quarter of a million more procedures in 2018 than in 2017. The authors of an earlier study in the United Kingdom analysed 204 questionnaires to identify the factors that make people go through cosmetic surgery. The findings showed that women who rated their self-esteem, life satisfaction, and attractiveness as low, had few religious beliefs, and had high media exposure were more likely to undergo cosmetic surgery.

*Adapted from medical newstoday.com*

During a conversation with Candidate A at a talk about health that you are both attending, you decide to inform them about the article you have read and explain your opinion about it.

**Speaking time: 2-3 minutes**

**TASK 1: PRODUCTION**

**...../12,5 points**

Talk about the following points:

- Discuss the effects of cosmetic surgery on society.
- Make predictions and speculate about what the situation may be like in the future.

Support your opinions with arguments.



**CARD 9**

**TASK 2: INTERACTION**

**CANDIDATE A**

Preparation time: **2 minutes**

Speaking time: **4-5 minutes**

**TOPIC: ENVIRONMENT**

You and Candidate B are attending a conference on the topic of ***protecting the environment*** in which you have heard the three statements in the box below.

- Talk to each other about how these statements represent different ways of protecting the environment.
- Then decide together which of the statements best reflects the actions people should take to help protect the environment.

- Make ecological awareness part of our social fabric and culture. The more you learn about the complex relationships between living things and their environment, the better. Talk to your family and friends about the things you know and learn.
- Instead of driving a car, walk or ride a bicycle to the grocery store or anywhere else. The traditional gasoline car is the worst polluter; new electric cars are affordable for many and completely free of toxic emissions.
- A third of the world's population does not have access to clean water. Only 1% of Earth's water is safe and available for humans to use. Minimize your use of toxic chemicals as they tend to end up in the groundwater.

Remember you must talk about all three texts.

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



**CARD 9**

**TASK 2: INTERACTION**

**CANDIDATE B**

Preparation time: **2 minutes**

Speaking time: **4-5 minutes**

**TOPIC: ENVIRONMENT**

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**CARD 10**

**CANDIDATE A**

Preparation time: **2 minutes**

**TOPIC: SECURITY**

**Online privacy**

You read the following text in a news article:

"We agree to give these companies ownership of our lives and they are cashing in". Edward Armstrong, a freelance copywriter and consultant, has abandoned using the services of internet giants and is using smaller rivals, which promise greater privacy. "I'm uncomfortable with the power of the major service providers. We think everything is free, but the cost is our data and privacy". If Google knows everything you have ever searched for, it has a detailed catalogue of your interests, hopes and fears. Facebook knows who your friends are, what you like and what you talk about online.

*Adapted from <https://www.bbc.com>*

In a conversation with the other candidates after a talk about security that you have both attended, you decide to inform them about the article you have read and explain your opinion about it.

**Speaking time: 2-3 minutes**

**TASK 1: PRODUCTION**

**...../12.5 points**

You must include the following aspects

- Discuss the impact that of a lack of privacy online can have on society.
- Make predictions and speculate about what the situation may be like in the future.

Support your opinions with arguments.



**CARD 10**

**CANDIDATE B**

Preparation time: **2 minutes**

**TOPIC: WORK**

**Automation**

You read the following text in an online report:

Robots have been doing the repetitive drudge work in our factories for decades. But now they can flip burgers, lay bricks, even co-operate to open doors and escape. Giant 3D printers can make houses out of concrete in a fraction of the time humans can. "Artificial Intelligence is a big threat to low-skilled jobs, no question," says Bernard Louvat, general manager of digital customer engagement solutions at tech firm Nuance. "Chatbots are certainly eliminating jobs - we need fewer and fewer human agents each year. The ones that are left will be highly skilled super-agents looking after the most complicated cases."

*Adapted from <https://www.bbc.com>*

In a conversation with the other candidates after a talk about how technology has changed the way we work, you decide to inform them about the article you have read and explain your opinion about it.

**Speaking time: 2-3 minutes**

**TASK 1: PRODUCTION**

**...../12.5 points**

You must include the following aspects

- Discuss the impact of automation on employment.
- Make predictions and speculate about what the situation may be like in the future.

Support your opinions with arguments.



**CARD 10**

**CANDIDATE C**

Preparation time: **2 minutes**

**TOPIC: FAMILY**  
**Working parents**

You read the following text in a news article:

The 2020 Modern Families Index survey highlights the difficulties working parents face. "This research shows that for too many parents, work is still too 'big' for the hours supposedly allotted to it," said James Tugendhat, international managing director at Bright Horizons. "Too often fathers are working overlong hours, while mothers carry the double burden of paid work and childcare. Yet, increasingly, neither mothers nor fathers want this. It's time for employers and lawmakers to reconsider the 'normal' nine-to-five model and acknowledge that work doesn't really need to fit into a five-day-a-week package."

*Adapted from [www.theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com)*

During a conversation with the other candidates at a seminar about modern family life that you are both attending, you decide to inform them about the article you have read and explain your opinion about it.

**Speaking time: 2-3 minutes**

**TASK 1: PRODUCTION**

**...../12,5 points**

Talk about the following points:

- Discuss the challenges families face from modern lifestyle.
- Make predictions and speculate about what the situation may be like in the future.

Support your opinions with arguments.



**CARD 10**

**TASK 2: INTERACTION**

...../12,5 points

**CANDIDATE A**

Preparation time: **2 minutes**

Speaking time: **6-7 minutes**

**TOPIC: INNOVATIONS**

You and the other candidates are attending a conference on the topic of ***progress and innovation*** in which you have heard the three statements in the box below.

- Talk to each other about how these statements represent different changes undergone by our society in recent decades.
- Then decide together which of the statements best reflects the most dramatic transformation.

- Cell phones have become increasingly ubiquitous. 77% of Americans own [smartphones](#), which have transformed phones from mere communication devices into full-fledged handheld personal computers.
- Self-driving cars have gone from a distant dream to a reality. In 1995, researchers from Carnegie Mellon University [developed a car that could steer by itself](#), although a driver still had to operate the brakes and hand throttle.
- Climate change is becoming a grim reality. Researchers have been aware of the Earth's changing climate but the devastating effects have become especially apparent in recent years. Weather-related records are being shattered at an alarming pace.

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**

...../12,5 points

**CANDIDATE B**

Preparation time: **2 minutes**

Speaking time: **6-7 minutes**

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**CARD 10**

**TASK 2: INTERACTION**

...../12,5 points

**CANDIDATE C**

Preparation time: **2 minutes**

Speaking time: **6-7 minutes**

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