

04 POLITICS

WATCH

A Watch the video. What are the three issues the students discuss?

B Watch the video again. How does each person feel about the issues?

C Compare your ideas with a partner.

D Look at the video script. What are the missing words?

E Watch again and check your answers.

PRACTISE PRONUNCIATION

A Practise the conversation in pairs.

B Which words or phrases are difficult for you? Tell a partner.

C Watch again and listen to the words / phrases that are difficult to say.

Ask your teacher to stop the video.

Repeat the word(s) / phrases.

D In pairs, practise reading the dialogue again.

KARAOKE

Watch the karaoke version and look at the video script. Act out the karaoke lines in *italics*.

VIDEO SCRIPT

Alexander Personally, I'm in favour of bringing back the death penalty.

Julia *Seriously? I'm TOTALLY against it myself.*

Alexander Yeah? But why? It would help to ¹ _____ serious crime. It would make violent people think twice about their actions if they knew there was a chance they'd end up being executed.

Julia *That's just complete rubbish! I mean, look at the United States. They have the death penalty, but ² _____ is still really high. If you're planning to kill someone, you don't think about the legal consequences. You just think about doing it. And getting away with it! And if you think killing someone is wrong, then killing someone is wrong. I don't see how it can be OK to do it if the state says so. What message does that send to society?*

Alexander Well, it says ³ _____, doesn't it? I mean, I'm a big fan of this idea.

Julia *Well, I'm totally opposed to it. Think of all the innocent people who would be executed as well. They often arrest the wrong people and find them guilty in court, and then years later find out they were innocent and let them go and say sorry. How would that work if ⁴ _____ the death penalty?*

Alexander *I know what you mean, but I still think the positives far outweigh the negatives and that it would help society.*

Julia Well, we'll have to agree to disagree on that one. My idea is ... the thing I'm in favour of ... is introducing a tax on all financial transactions. Making the banking system pay more so that we don't have to pay for them ⁵ _____.

Alexander *OK. So how would that work, then?*

Julia Well, they're already talking about it in lots of countries, because of all the anger about banks. The basic idea is that banks and financial institutions pay a tiny tax on each deal they do, each transaction, something like 0.01% and then all that money goes into a big fund that they then use, say, for things like helping countries who ⁶ _____, or if a big bank goes bankrupt because it made lots of stupid loans, then they would get saved with this money, not with money that they save by cutting spending.

Alexander *Hmm. I don't know where I stand on that really.* ⁷ _____ banks from working in your country and encourage them to move somewhere else?

Julia That's obviously a risk, yeah, and it'd work better if lots of countries ⁸ _____, like if it was, say, a Europe-wide project or something.

Alexander Well, OK. *That could work. I don't really know enough about how it all works, so I can't really pass judgement, but maybe.*

Julia OK. Well, what about real proposals? Have you got anything?

Alexander Kind of, yeah. *You probably haven't heard about it, but there's a proposal in my hometown to open a super-casino.*

Julia Open a what?

Alexander A super-casino. Like a huge, huge gambling place, where people can play roulette and poker and use all those gambling machines and everything.

Julia Like in Las Vegas?

Alexander Yes. Exactly.

Julia OK. And how do you feel about it?

Alexander *Well, I'm in two minds, really. I can see that it'd*
⁹ _____ *and create lots of jobs, which*
is something we really need, but at the same time I think it'd create lots of problems
too.

Julia In what way?

Alexander Well, I think some people would just become very
¹⁰ _____ . And usually it's people
who don't have money to begin with who become like this.