
ANSWER KEY

Unit 13**A**

- 1 It had been lending money to people who couldn't pay back their loans and mortgages. Then house prices dropped because of the recession and the bank was left with a lot of bad debts.
- 2 They were killed by fellow policemen who were involved in a drug dealing ring, which the shot policemen were investigating.
- 3 It converts waste into electricity and fertilizer.

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- 1 as far as I understand
- 2 seem to have got it badly wrong
- 3 more regulation to stop
- 4 something fundamentally wrong with
- 5 kind of terrorist attack
- 6 huge drug-dealing rings
- 7 It's supply and demand
- 8 hailed as revolutionary
- 9 can be extracted from
- 10 be out within

VIDEO SCRIPT

- Yvonne So, what do you make of this story about the national bank going bankrupt?
- Nicholas Yeah, I saw that. It's terrible, isn't it? But I'm not sure I really understand what's actually happened.
- Yvonne Yeah, I know what you mean. It's pretty tricky stuff to follow, isn't it? I'm no expert or anything, but as far as I understand it, they've been lending money to all kinds of people who've basically got no chance of ever paying back their loans and the mortgages and now there's a big recession, house prices have dropped and the banks have been left with a lot of bad debt.
- Nicholas Yeah, OK, but don't banks usually keep loads of money in case they get into these kinds of situations?
- Yvonne Capital reserves, yeah. I think they've just got their maths wrong. They have all these mad equations saying what percentage of their finance they ought to keep safe and how much they can play with, and they just seem to have got it badly wrong.
- Nicholas And probably now it'll be the taxpayer that ends up paying for all their losses. That's what really makes me angry! There really needs to be more regulation to stop this kind of thing happening again. I mean, how many times do we have to hear similar stories before they decide something has to change?
- Yvonne I think it's deeper than that. I think there's something fundamentally wrong with the whole way economics is used to inform policy. It's clearly not the science that they claim it is.
- Nicholas You might be right. I've no idea! Anyway ... did you see that crazy story in the news about the policemen somewhere who was shot dead at some national airport?
- Yvonne No, I didn't! Where was that, then? And what was it? Some kind of terrorist attack?
- Nicholas No, it was more crazy than that. I can't remember the country, but it turned out they were shot by fellow policemen.
- Yvonne Uh! Why?
- Nicholas If I'm remembering it correctly, the guys who did the shooting were involved in some huge drug-dealing rings and were helping drugs to get through the airport and these other guys were investigating what was going on.
- Yvonne And just got a bit too close to the truth?
- Nicholas It sounds like it, yeah.
- Yvonne That's horrendous! They really need to do more to crack down on the drug trade.
- Nicholas Ah, they'll never stop it. How can they? It's supply and demand, isn't it? As long as people buy drugs, others will produce and sell them. And plenty of people will line their pockets along the way.
- Yvonne That's a fairly depressing view of things!
- Nicholas Yeah, maybe, but it's true!
- Yvonne So ... did you hear about these amazing new toilets that turn human waste into electricity and fertilisers?
- Nicholas No! What's that? It sounds amazing.
- Yvonne Yeah, I was reading about it in the paper. It's being hailed as revolutionary. They're based on aeroplane toilets and use far less water than normal toilets – and they channel liquid and solid waste into different places, where useful chemicals can be extracted from them and gases can be converted into electricity.
- Nicholas Wow! So are they on the market already, these toilets?
- Yvonne Not yet, but they should be out within three years, they said.