
ANSWER KEY

Unit 4**A**

The first issue is the death penalty:

Next they discuss introducing a financial transactions tax, whereby money would be put away in case it's ever needed when a bank goes bankrupt:

Finally, they discuss plans to build a super-casino:

B

The first issue – Alexander is in favour. He's a fan of the idea of an eye for an eye, whilst Julia is totally against it. She thinks innocent people would end up getting executed and that if killing is wrong, then it's wrong – even if the state does it. Alexander thinks it'd serve as a deterrent, but Julia points to the US as an example of why this isn't true.

The next issue – Julia is for it. Alexander doesn't know where he stands and doesn't feel he can pass judgement.

The final issue – Alexander is in two minds about it – he can see benefits (it'd boost the local economy and create jobs) and problems (more people would end up addicted to gambling).

E

- 1 curb the amount of
- 2 their murder rate
- 3 an eye for an eye
- 4 they brought back
- 5 if they go bankrupt
- 6 get into trouble
- 7 Wouldn't it just discourage
- 8 adopted the same law
- 9 boost the economy
- 10 addicted to gambling

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 curb the amount of 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 their murder rate 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 an eye for an eye, 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 they brought back 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 if they go bankrupt.
- 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 get into trouble, 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. Wouldn't it just discourage 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 adopted the same law, 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 boost the economy 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 addicted to gambling. And usually it's people who don't have money to begin with who become like this.