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To: IELTS Prep Group
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Lesson Objective

The student shall be able to use “power words” as part of their oral vocabulary, read and comprehend both social and business language and demonstrate effective oral communication skills

Section One
Vocabulary

Evaluation Criteria

- Ability to understand definitions of English vocabulary

MATCH THE WORD WITH THE CORRECT DEFINITION

VOCABULARY	DEFINITIONS
1. PETITION (Noun)	A. the management of any office, business, or organization; direction.
2. ADMINISTRATION (Noun)	B. serving as, or being an essential part of, a foundation or basis; basic;underlying.
3. FUNDAMENTAL (Adjective)	C. rigorously binding or exacting; strict; severe.
4. PROPOSAL (Noun)	D.a pretense of having a virtuous character, moral or religious beliefs or principles, etc., that one does not really possess.
5. CODE (Noun)	E. of a character or kind farthest removed from the ordinary or average.
6. STRINGENT (Adjective)	F. without definite or serious intention; careless or offhand; passing.
7. HYPOCRISY (Noun)	G. a systematically arranged collection or compendium of laws, rules, or regulations.
8. EXTREME (Adjective)	H.the act of offering or suggesting something for acceptance, adoption, or performance.
9. DELUSIONAL (Adjective)	I. a formally drawn request, often bearing the names of a number of those making the request, that is addressed to a person or group of persons in authority or power, soliciting some favor, right, mercy, or other benefit.
10. CASUAL (Adjective)	J. having false or unrealistic beliefs or opinions.

Section Two
Reading Comprehension and Pronunciation skills.

Evaluation Criteria

- Ability to effectively read and comprehend written English in a social or business environment.

A. High School Students Are Wearing Crop Tops to Protest Dress Code

1. If dressing comfortably and expressively is so wrong, why does it feel so right? This question has been raised time and time again by students all over the world. And now it’s the students of Bluefield High School’s turn. In protest of unnecessary school dress codes, students from the school on Canada’s Prince Edward Island wore crop tops to class. ‘We should be able to express ourselves through our clothing,’ said Samara Ford, a 10th-grader from the school who took part in the protest. “How does how we dress affect our learning? It doesn’t,” said Samantha Gallant, another student who participated in the protest. “The one thing that affects our learning is teachers pulling us out of class.” She makes a valid point. The students against the school’s dress code have created a petition and Facebook group in hopes of having the rules changed. School administration said some students also put up posters at the school in an attempt to rally others.



One student said she wore a tank top on a hot day and was forced to put on a sweater. “It definitely gets hot in the summer and even spring, so I want to be able to wear crop tops, I want to be able to wear shorts,” she said. How do they expect students to learn when they are overheating because they were forced to wear pants on a sweltering-hot day?

The school’s dress code does not allow bottoms above mid thigh and straps thinner than two fingers. The stomach, back, and hips must be covered. The school reasons that “learning the fundamentals of proper dress at an early age will provide the student with a valuable lifestyle habit.” Since many professions call for suits, we can understand this reasoning.

Questions:

What country is Bluefield High School located in?

What were the students protesting?

What social media did the students use to protest?

2. However, this we *cannot* come to terms with: “Dressing appropriately for a variety of situations shows that a student has a high degree of self-respect and respect for others.”

What someone wears has nothing to do with self-respect. For many, it is simply a way of expressing oneself; for others, it’s just part of the daily routine. Just because someone rolls out of bed and puts on the first thing she sees doesn’t mean she has no dignity, but this is what the school’s statement implies.

The school principal admits that the rules may be a tad outdated — they’ve been in place for a decade — and he is open to reviewing them. “I told them to take a week to 10 days to do some research, involve students and staff, and come up with a proposal,” he said. Unfortunately, not all schools have reasonable officials.

Two years ago, nearly 200 students at Tottenville High School in New York City wore their favorite threads in protest of stringent rules that prohibited girls from wearing shorts or skirts that don’t extend past the fingertips when they have their arms down at their sides, low-cut or midriff-baring shirts, leggings, skinny jeans, and more, and proudly served time in detention for it.

Questions:

According to this passage, is self respect related to the clothing you wear?

How long have the rules for clothing been in effect at this school?

How many students protested at Tottenville High School?

3. A few months ago, a high school in Victoria, Australia, made headlines for reprimanding its female students and essentially blaming them for landing the school on a photo-sharing porn-ring website. In an attempt to “set their minds at rest,” officials at the school, Kambrya College, warned the young women to “protect their integrity” by lowering the hems of their skirts and forgoing makeup and “sexy selfies.”

Feeling victimized and targeted by the very people she trusted to protect her, one 15-year-old student was motivated to share a video on Facebook denouncing the school officials’ reaction and standing up for what self-esteem and integrity mean to her. “I’ll be honest, I’m pretty mad that she [assistant principal Jo Wastle] thinks that ... she thinks I don’t respect myself for the way that I wear my skirt, or the way other girls wear their skirts,” said Faith Sobotker. “We don’t live in the ’50s anymore. I’m looking for equality. I’m looking for being able to show off my body without being sexualized. I’m 15 years old. You do not get to sexualize me like that. You do not get to tell me that my body is sacred, ’cause it isn’t. Half the population is females, alright? We’re not sacred. We’re not a new discovery.”

Questions:

What country is Kambrya College located in?

What social media did the 15 year old use to share her video?

According to this passage what percentage of the population are female?

4. Hollie Sikes, a student at Farragut High School in Knoxville, Tenn., started a petition on Change.org protesting her school’s “irrationally strict” dress code, saying it’s not only sexist but also puts students’ health at risk. In the petition, which is currently more than 3,700 supporters strong, Sikes argues against school rules that prohibit shorts that don’t pass the fingertip-length test.

“We cannot ignore the simple truth that clothing stores do not sell a wide variety of shorts for girls that are below fingertip length, if any, so young women are forced to wear long pants and jeans in 90-100 degree



weather simply to avoid suspension,” Sikes wrote in the petition. “Not only does this present health risks, such as nausea, overheating, and even fainting, but it promotes victim blaming in the (unfortunately, extremely prevalent) case of sexual harassment among students.” It’s starting to sound like dress codes are doing more harm than good.

Questions:

Where did Hollie start her petition?

How many supporters have signed her petition?

What are the health concerns brought up for young women forced to wear long pants?

B. Interns Get Fired En Masse After Protesting Dress Code at Work

Source

1. After complaining at work and hoping to enact change, a class of interns was met with a very unexpected outcome.

A blog post on askamanager.com says that a reader recently scored a summer position at a company within the field the individual hopes to work in post-graduation. “Even though the division I was hired to work in doesn’t deal with clients or customers, there still was a very strict dress code,” the person wrote, adding that they felt the clothing rules were “overly strict” but weren’t going to complain. That is, “until I noticed one of the workers always wore flat shoes that were made from a fabric other than leather, or running shoes, even though both of these things were contrary to the dress code.”



Angered by the hypocrisy, the reader rallied other interns, and the group wrote a proposal, along with a petition signed by the whole class (minus one who declined to participate). The request mostly focused on footwear, asking for non-dress shoes that would fit under a more business casual dress code, but also asked if it was possible for the workers to not have to wear suits and/or blazers in favor of a more casual but still professional dress code.

Questions:

What were the things that were contrary to the dress code noticed in this article?

How many people in the class of interns declined to participate in the petition?

What did the request (proposal/petition) ask the company to do?

2. The next day, everyone who signed was called into a meeting, where the lot was informed that due to their “unprofessional behavior,” they were being let go. “We were told to hand in our ID badges and to gather our things and leave the property ASAP,” the post reads. The young adults were shocked and weren’t given a chance to defend their actions. But that’s not the worst part. “Just before the meeting ended, one of the managers told us that the worker who was allowed to disobey the dress code was a former soldier who lost her leg and was therefore given permission to wear whatever kind of shoes she could walk in. You can’t even tell, and if we had known about this we would have factored it into our argument.”

In response, Alison Green, the voice behind the blog, shared that while she believes firing the whole group was an extreme reaction, she understands why the employers were highly annoyed. She explained that being an intern is basically like being a guest — the company’s rules are the rules. “To be clear, that doesn’t mean that you need to suck up any and every condition of an internship. You don’t,” she wrote. “But this wasn’t something like asking you to do unsafe work or work unreasonable hours; this was asking you to abide by what sounds like a very common and reasonable professional dress code.”

Questions:

What were the interns told in the meeting they went to?

For the employee that was allowed to wear different kind of footwear, what was the reason given?

What was the extreme reaction that Alison Green was talking about?

3. Since the blog post was published on Tuesday, it has been shared multiple times across the Internet, with many offering their own opinions. “Kids these days. You gotta pay your dues,” Jason Chalker said. “I think the company handled it perfectly.” Julie Borowski wrote, “Interns these days got mouths on them. You’re in



audition mode. You better not be slacking with the dress code.” Lucas Correia even made the argument that the situation was the “direct result of the bad parenting and the self entitlement attitude created in both our primary and secondary education system.” Glenn Beck also offered his opinion, writing that “real life can be brutal.”

Because of the attention the article received, with a majority of the critics calling the millennial generation delusional and blaming “young people today,” Green added an editor’s note. “The letter-writer’s generation is far from the first to bridle at dress codes or misunderstand office culture or start out with little knowledge of how things work in offices,” she said. “This is about being young and new to the work world, not about what generation they belong to. Most of us made plenty of mistakes when we first started work — I certainly did. So please go a little easier on this person.”

Questions:

- What day was the blog post published?**
- What did Julie Borowski say about the interns?**
- Who was “delusional” according to the passage?**

c. Students to Fight Draconian Dress Code in Federal Court

Source

1. A federal lawsuit filed on Tuesday is challenging a draconian dress code that requires girls to wear knee-length skirts, skorts, or jumpers to school. The plaintiffs are challenging Charter Day School in Leland, N.C., and being represented by the American Civil Liberties Union

The case, which is being fought under Title IX (a law prohibiting discrimination based on sex in federally funded education programs), has been brought by three students — ages 5, 10, and 14 — who claim the statute victimizes the young females and disinhibits them daily, whether it’s sitting in a powwow or playing outside.



Keely Burks, one of the complainants, drafted a petition last year to get the school to amend the clause that mandates female students to wear “knee-length or longer” skirts (pants or shorts are permissible strictly for gym class). Despite the petition’s receiving more than 100 signatures and the case having parental support, the administration insisted that the measure was put in place to promote “chivalry” and “traditional values.” Interestingly, the years old policy was also enacted, according to Baker A. Mitchell Jr., Charter Day School’s founder, in response to the 1999 Columbine school shootings.

Questions:

- How long are the skirts suppose to be at Charter Day School?**
- What is Title IX?**
- Did the parents of the students support the petition?**

2. “Personally, I hate wearing skirts. Even with tights and leggings, skirts are cold to wear in the winter, and they’re not as comfortable as shorts in the summer,” Burks, who is in eighth grade, wrote in a blog post. “I love playing outside, especially soccer and gymnastics. When we go outside for recess, the boys in my class will sometimes play soccer or do flips and cartwheels. But I feel like I can’t because I’m wearing a skirt.” Bonnie Peltier, the mother of another plaintiff, added that her daughter often feels uncomfortable wearing a skirt, and it even distracts from daily studies.

“Although many girls may not mind wearing skirts, no one should be forced to do so based on outdated sex stereotypes,” Galen Sherwin, a senior staff lawyer at the ACLU’s Women’s Rights Project, said. “Requiring all girls to wear skirts reinforces the false notion that girls are less physically active, and should behave in a more typically feminine manner, than boys. Our clients correctly believe that they are equal to boys and should be treated equally by their school — and luckily, the law backs them up.”

The ACLU has been involved in a number of cases recently involving schools disregarding this mandate. In Manteca, Calif., the organization won in court on behalf of a lesbian student who wore a “Nobody Knows I’m a Lesbian” T-shirt. It also urged the Clovis Unified School District, which recently saw its students dressing as their opposite genders in protest of its dress code, to comply with California state law. While there aren’t any national laws governing fashion guidelines, dress codes are forbidden from discriminating based on federally protected status, such as disability, gender, and race.



Questions:
What grade is Keely Burks in?
What are the things that Keely feels she cannot do during recess because of the dress code?
What case was the ACLU involved in at Manteca California?

D. School Sends 70 Female Students Home for Too-Short Skirts

Source

1. A school sent home multiple young girls due to the length of their skirts. Why? Administrators were concerned that the short hemlines would encourage “boys to peer up them.”

Reportedly 70 female students were sent home from Lord Grey secondary school in England after being informed that their skirt lengths — regulations call for knee-length pieces — didn’t pass the uniform test on the first day of term. Included in this group were some pupils whose pants were deemed too tight.



Chloe Hirst, a junior, spoke out against the decision, taking particular offense to the comments that her outfit was “inappropriate” and calling out officials for the discriminatory decision. She explained, “The boys never get any hassle; [administrators] are so sexist about it. I feel like it is disgusting how they ask women to dress modestly. They never used to be strict on skirts, but now it is ridiculous. ... [They] are always moaning that we are not doing enough work, yet they send us home for our uniform.”

Questions:
What were the concerns raised by administrators about skirts being too short?
What country is Lord Grey school in?
What was the comments made about Chloe Hirst outfit?

2. Her father, Jay Hirst, added, “I can’t see what the problem is. She’s been wearing the same skirt for months, and they pull her up now. I can understand if a girl goes with a short, short skirt, then maybe, but this was ridiculous.”

However, head teacher Tracey Jones stands by her decision, insisting that the pupils were given ample notice to prepare for the uniform check — though it’s her comments about the female students’ sexuality and her “boys will be boys” attitude that has stirred controversy. “We are protecting our female students,” Jones said. “They should look demure and modest and not appear oversexualized in figure-hugging trousers or very short skirts.” She noted that the school has a tower with six flights of stairs that the students climb on a daily basis. “The last thing we want is boys peering up girls’ skirts while they are climbing the stairs.”

Following complaints from parents regarding students being sent home to empty houses before their parents were warned, the school has reportedly started placing those who do not comply with the dress code into isolation instead.

Questions:
What did Chloe’s father think about the situation?
What remark did the head teacher make that created controversy?
Do you agree with dress codes at school (joint discussion)