



- Q3** What is problematic about the newly evolving form of “individualism”?
- A** Responsibility towards society ceases to exist.
  - B** Unacceptable behaviour occurs among individualists.
  - C** Individualism becomes a private lifestyle.
  - D** Individualism interferes with our social duties.
- Q4** Recent developments around the world point towards
- A** a lack of responsibility towards other
  - B** a rise in the number of individualists
  - C** an increase in criminal activity
  - D** a decrease in recklessness among individualists
- Q5** According to Mr Janks, what danger are we already facing?
- A** falling into anarchy
  - B** loss of all established rules
  - C** destruction of society
  - D** irreversible consequences

**KEY**

- 0–B** every two weeks
- Q1–B** the widening gap between society and individual.
- Q2–A** the ability to go beyond society’s limits
- Q3–D** Individualism interferes with our social duties.
- Q4–A** a lack of responsibility towards other
- Q5–C** destruction of society

## TAPESCRIPT

- Host:** Welcome to all the bookworms out there for today's interview with famous author Timothy Janks, with whom we will discuss his latest bestseller *The conflict of individualism*. Mr Janks, may I welcome you to our show "Literary news", which informs interested readers biweekly about current must-haves in the world of books.
- Timothy Janks:** Thank you! I have been looking forward to being here. You know, this is my first time on a radio show and I have been feeling quite nervous. While I seem to be able to write decent books, I have been told that my voice is not the most pleasant sound in the world.
- Host:** We have a lot of guests who feel uncomfortable about hearing their own voice on the air, but believe me, it is never as bad as you fear it is going to be. Now, from what I hear your book has been hitting the bestseller lists once again. Would you mind explaining what your latest work focuses on?
- Timothy Janks:** Well, I have actually tried to cover a variety of topics I have been noticing over the past few years. My field of study is behavioural analysis and I must admit that I see profound changes occurring in society. The growing conflict between mankind living in a society and individuals claiming increasing freedom to determine their own lifestyle was what first caused me to research this issue in more detail. Thus, I looked at what a sharp rise in individualism could imply for all of mankind today as well as for future generations.
- Host:** Since you have already mentioned a key concept explained in your book, what exactly are you referring to when discussing the term "individualism"?
- Timothy Janks:** Uhm, as I outline there, it is my belief that the term has recently undergone some changes. Before, it merely referred to the fact that every one of us always differentiated between the function we fulfilled in society and the individual we perceived ourselves to be in our private lives. Individualism was nothing more than a term coined for a concept, which enabled us to break free of certain boundaries set by society. Today, however, there is increasing evidence, that the free choice to go beyond limits is ranked higher than the responsibility towards society. In other words, since individualism gradually ceases to be an alternative private lifestyle, there is the possible consequence that extreme individualists will stop performing their social functions. This effect could easily lead to a disruption of the unwritten sets of rules every society has and expects its members to behave accordingly to.
- Host:** But haven't there always been members in any society who would not play by the rules?
- Timothy Janks:** Oh, of course, and that fact in itself would not provide us with any bigger problems than we had so far. However, what we see occurring now across the globe is a growing amount of recklessness of an increasing number of individuals in terms of the consequences their behaviour might have on the lives of others. To a certain extent I point out in my book that this could have been caused by the typical characteristics of the modern media, which allow for us to be anonymous perpetrators who do not have to accept responsibility in the same way the real world demands. This fact could prompt people to take actions they would commonly shy away from. Most recent proof of this fact is the emergence of cyber-bullying among even young schoolchildren.

When I speak of individualism today, I refer first and foremost to a form of selfishness that – if ever spinning out of control – poses a danger to all the rules we have established in society and whose consequences might even be irreversible. I am not saying that we are on the brink of anarchy, but we have turned our steps down a quite dangerous road by allowing this trend to push us towards destruction of society as we know it.

**Host:**

So how do you think this process could be stopped or even reversed?

**Timothy Janks:**

Clearly, we have to spread awareness of this development, so people take a close look at their actions and their consequences. As a second step, it will be necessary that we increase pressure to accept their share of responsibility on the people concerned. As for reversing the process, ... *(fade out)*





	satisfied with it. For example, living standards may vary considerably among different nations, which can easily leave one nation's citizens in uproar, especially if the situation is believed to have been caused by bad decisions made by the ones in charge. Other areas which are commonly subject to envy and jealousy are the availability of products or the existence of social support systems. When we reach a point where the majority of citizens experiences the present situation as unbearable, loyalty towards their nation decreases and consequently threatens the unquestioned existence of their national identity.
<b>Interviewer:</b>	Assuming this is the case, what consequences would this nation have to face?
<b>Prof Storms:</b>	That depends on several factors. In general it must be said that countries offering more benefits in form of monetary support or unemployment programmes suffer less from periods of disappointment or protest among their citizens. In contrast to that, nations which tend to tightly control their citizens' personal freedom, may it be through censorship or restrictive laws, are in a bigger danger of losing public support.
<b>Interviewer:</b>	If support for their own nations vanishes, where do people turn to, then?
<b>Prof Storms:</b>	What we have seen in the past few years is that globalisation has turned an increasing number of people into "global identities", who feel no longer tied to a certain nation, but embrace the concept of belonging to a global mega-society. While this society is still developing its own moral codes and basic beliefs, more and more people see the benefits in being able to develop an interconnected global nation.
<b>Interviewer:</b>	Thank you very much, Professor Storm, for your explanations on this topic. Now let's see what questions are on our listener's minds ... (fade out)

### 3. Reading: The misery of illegal aliens

Read the text below, then choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for questions 1–5. Put a  in the correct box. The first one (0) has been done for you.

#### The misery of illegal aliens

Ever since the gap between industrialised and developing countries has become so wide, there has been an increase in illegal immigration into the countries that are economically better off. It could be argued that travelling to or staying in another state illegally is a mistake to begin with, since it leaves the immigrants with a lot of problems. However, thousands of people have little to no chance to be accepted as a legal immigrant or to be given a visa for economic reasons. This forces many of them to use alternative ways which might be illegal, but at least seems to provide them with the chance to achieve their ultimate goal of leaving their home country and settling down in a country which might offer a job and even a small, regular income.

Apart from the seemingly ample benefits, many so-called illegal aliens face a whole myriad of problems once they arrive at their destination. Not only do they live in fear of being discovered and deported back to their country of origin, in the most extreme cases there is even the danger of being imprisoned. Reoccurring illegal migrating activities may lead to serious legal charges. Furthermore, on a daily basis there are all kinds of difficulties, especially when dealing with the authorities.

Unlike normal citizens, illegal immigrants have trouble obtaining any type of legal document or performing legal actions, such as getting a local driver's licence or registering a car in their name. Since they do not exist in a legal sense, small obstacles in their way towards a better existence and standard of living can easily become insurmountable difficulties. Another very real consequence of having no permit to stay in a country is the fact that illegal aliens are often subject to exploitation.

Due to their problematic status, there is little to no protection against people who are trying to use illegal immigrants to their own advantage. If they manage to find accommodation, for example, there is no guarantee that the landlord will treat them in a fair way. They might be thrown out without a warning or be forced to pay much higher rent than usual. Although local people often argue that the problem lies in the language barrier or the difference in culture, the underlying fact is a different one. Illegal immigrants are dependent on the mercy of other people and have no possibility to take any legal action towards people who exploit them or treat them inappropriately.

Apart from possible mistreatment, there is another major drawback to crossing borders illegally. After their initial arrival many illegal immigrants become aware of the fact that they might have robbed themselves of any way to ever return to their home country in a legal



- Q2** Illegal immigrants may be put into jail, if
- A** they are to be deported back to their country of origin.
  - B** they are found to immigrate without permission repeatedly.
  - C** they are forced to deal with the authorities
  - D** they are involved in other criminal activities.
- Q3** Because of their illegal situation, many immigrants
- A** lose their driver's licence.
  - B** cannot buy a new car.
  - C** depend on other people's trust.
  - D** cannot get a new passport.
- Q4** Often such immigrants run into problems with landlords, because
- A** they cannot pay the rent.
  - B** they do not speak the local language.
  - C** they cannot take others to court.
  - D** they misunderstand the local culture.
- Q5** Illegal immigrants' fear to apply for an official visa is caused by
- A** the government's refusal to grant them.
  - B** the restrictions on travelling back home.
  - C** the threat of deportation through boarder control.
  - D** the costs for such an official document.

**KEY**

- 0–A** offer better economic circumstances.
- Q1–D** they believe they have no legal chance.
- Q2–B** they are found to immigrate without permission repeatedly.
- Q3–D** cannot get a new passport.
- Q4–C** they cannot take others to court.
- Q5–A** the government's reluctance to grant them.

#### 4. Reading: Peace – Mission Impossible?

Read the text below, then answer the questions (1–6) using a maximum of four words. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

##### Peace – Mission Impossible?

Although the world has seen two World Wars and suffered the consequences of such major events, humankind appears to have learned little about how to live in peace with each other. There are still many unresolved conflicts with the potential of drawing many other countries into them as well. Due to alliances and organisations binding several countries together, political statements and actions have to be watched closely, since they might not only trigger the reaction of the country attacked or insulted, but also of several others.

Nevertheless, many wars in the past have taught us some important lessons about the extreme losses resulting from military conflicts. We can still vividly remember pictures of destroyed buildings, injured or dead soldiers as well as civilians, and half-starved children. It is usually the normal population who suffer most from wars. Apart from the fact that many fall victim to attacks, the economy of the country concerned often comes to a screeching halt. This results in high unemployment rates, inflation and lack of resources, such as food or energy. In addition, it can take the economy years to recover from the decrease in industry and production as well as the destruction of infrastructure.

With all those factors in mind, it seems to be obvious that keeping peace should be the top priority of any government. Not only are there extensive economic benefits, since multinational companies tend to choose peaceful countries as headquarters and to run main operations in, but there is first and foremost a climate of political stability. People who live in peaceful times tend to appreciate their government and politicians more and are also willing to support the political system they live in. In addition, they are more productive, because they profit from their own hard work and manage to establish a higher standard of living.

Thus, the question remains, why countries decide against peace, if there are so many clear advantages to it. One determining factor why countries enter into military conflict is political reasons. In cases where the population is suppressed by a military regime or a dictatorship, other countries might decide to spring into action in order to enforce a more stable system. Whether this is the right way to deal with such situations is questionable. Especially when a country suffers from civil war, soldiers from other countries are often sent in to stop the violence. On the other hand, frequent violations of human rights through governments such as torture, censorship or unjustified imprisonment are also often the cause for arising conflicts, which are usually following an international outcry.

Nevertheless, the main problem with an ideal world living in peace lies in the character of human beings. Although we possess a certain control over our feelings, aggression is still among our basic instinctive reactions. Whenever we feel insulted or attacked, our initial urge goes towards using violence for protection and defence. Even though we realise that this desire might be misplaced and might not go through with it, keeping the peace might be more difficult for us than one might hope.

<b>0</b>	What threatens peace today?	<i>unresolved conflicts</i>
<b>Q1</b>	Who might react to political insults or activities?	
<b>Q2</b>	In terms of financial matters, what do wars often result in?	
<b>Q3</b>	What has to be increased in order to reverse the effects of war?	
<b>Q4</b>	What is the main benefit of peace?	
<b>Q5</b>	According to the author, what reason might rightfully cause a conflict?	
<b>Q6</b>	How do people react to provocation?	

**KEY**

- 0**        **unresolved conflicts**
- Q1**      **countries and their allies/several countries**
- Q2**      **loss of money value/inflation**
- Q3**      **industry and production/infrastructure**
- Q4**      **political stability/politically stable climate**
- Q5**      **violations of human rights**
- Q6**      **they protect themselves/they defend themselves/desire for violence/aggression**



**KEY**

<b>0</b>	<i>majority</i>	<b>Q5</b>	<i>focused</i>
<b>Q1</b>	<i>treatment</i>	<b>Q6</b>	<i>personalities</i>
<b>Q2</b>	<i>safety</i>	<b>Q7</b>	<i>reflection</i>
<b>Q3</b>	<i>economically</i>	<b>Q8</b>	<i>consideration</i>
<b>Q4</b>	<i>unemployment</i>	<b>Q9</b>	<i>underestimate</i>

## 6. Language in use: Is there still an American Dream?

You are going to read a text about the American Dream. Some words are missing from the text. Choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for each gap (1–10) in the text. Write your answers in the boxes provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

### Is there still an American Dream?

The American Dream represents the ideal life most Americans desire, including an amazing job with a high **(0)** ..., a perfect little family and a nice home. Only a few decades ago thousands of families in America lived an almost perfect life in **(Q1)** ... and with seemingly endless great opportunities. Unfortunately, the times when it was rather easy to go from rags to **(Q2)** ... seem to be over. In times of economic **(Q3)** ... it has become much harder to hold on to a job or save up a little money, let alone acquire enough wealth to make bigger **(Q4)** ..., such as property. Many people are even **(Q5)** ... to afford health insurance for their family or to fix broken **(Q6)** ... around the house.

In addition, many private households have **(Q7)** ... high amounts of debt, which in turn makes it impossible for them to pay their everyday bills in the long run. This situation has been caused by the development of a society made up of consumers who are used to having everything at their beck and call at any time a day. **(Q8)** ... out credits and loans can therefore be seen as a result of the desire to **(Q9)** ... a high standard of living, even though the **(Q10)** ... circumstances have changed entirely. In contrast to the abundant wealth the American society was used to they will have to move on to a time of saving and dreaming on a smaller scale.

## Prime Time 8

- 0** ~~A~~ income    **B** payment    **C** profits    **D** returns  
**Q1** **A** riches    **B** prosperity    **C** affluence    **D** opulence  
**Q2** **A** richer    **B** riches    **C** rich    **D** richest  
**Q3** **A** collapse    **B** boom    **C** recession    **D** prosperity  
**Q4** **A** purchases    **B** purchasing    **C** gains    **D** gaining  
**Q5** **A** struggling    **B** managing    **C** succeeding    **D** harassing  
**Q6** **A** applications    **B** designs    **C** appliances    **D** goods  
**Q7** **A** gathered    **B** increased    **C** hoarded    **D** accumulated  
**Q8** **A** taking    **B** getting    **C** borrowing    **D** lending  
**Q9** **A** retain    **B** maintain    **C** sustain    **D** contain  
**Q10** **A** ergonomical    **B** ecological    **C** economical    **D** economic

0	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
A										

### KEY

0	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
A	B	B	C	A	A	C	D	A	B	D

## 7. Writing: “How beautiful do you have to appear on TV?”

### “How beautiful do you have to appear on TV?”

The topic of beauty has always been a controversial one. After a discussion in class about the extreme beauty requirements for actors and actresses appearing on TV or in films, you decide to write an **article** on this topic for the school newspaper. In your article, you should:

- explain the importance of beauty in today’s society and in the media
- outline the requirements on famous peoples’ appearance and discuss whether they are realistic
- refer to the dangers such images might present to teenagers and children

Write an **article** of about **250 words**.