

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Your cousin is going to participate in a debate about plastic surgery. She has shown you her speech. Read the debate speech.*

### Text 2 Debate speech

① Good afternoon. Today, I'm debating against the motion 'Plastic surgery is beneficial for us'. In total, I have three arguments to support my position.

② Firstly, plastic surgery puts our lives in unnecessary danger. Most plastic surgery procedures, such as breast enlargement and double eyelid surgery, are superfluous and purely cosmetic in nature. You can live without them and the potential risks far outweigh their advantages. There are many documented cases of botched plastic surgery procedures leading to severe blood loss, infection and even death. Former Miss Argentina Solange Magnano died after plastic surgery in 2009. When her regular plastic surgeon refused to perform an unapproved operation on her, Magnano sought out a practitioner who was willing to take it on. In 2016, a Hong Kong woman died after receiving plastic surgery in Shenzhen. If these two had had the opportunity to see into the future before going under the knife, there is no conceivable way they would have chosen to pay for beauty with their lives. At some point in all of our lives, we wish we could look youthful forever, but the price may be much higher than we are willing to pay.

③ Secondly, plastic surgery is costly. The Brazilian 'Human Ken Doll', who has undergone nearly 200 cosmetic surgeries, has spent over HK\$3 million to look like Barbie Doll's boyfriend. Moreover, 400 billion yuan is spent every year on plastic surgery in China. People are emptying their wallets to alter their appearance, but they are not beautifying the world nearly as much as they could. If only the money had been used on more pressing and important issues like education and environmental protection! Our world could become a much better place if people redirected their money toward these underfunded areas.

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30 **4** Thirdly, plastic surgery is only a temporary solution to a long-term problem. As we age, our bodies will inevitably go through more and more natural changes. The march of time cannot be stopped, no matter how much we wish it. Unless we begin acknowledging the beauty already within ourselves, we will never be satisfied. Depending on youth and physical attractiveness to make us happy is a fool's venture, since we will all end up aging. We can either accept it with grace, or struggle against it every step of the way. To live happy lives, we must learn to accept who we are and focus more on developing our relationships, skills and personality.

35 **5** Finally, a culture of plastic surgery creates a dangerous precedent in our society. Do we really want the younger generation to believe that getting surgery is the only way to be accepted and loved? We should teach children that there are far more important things than how people look. Plastic surgery operates on the belief that there is only one standard for 'beauty' -  
40 thin waists, wide eyes and chiseled chins. We should instead teach our children to celebrate and embrace different types of beauty. After all, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. What is considered 'beautiful' changes frequently and from culture to culture. In Europe during the Renaissance, as well as in Mongolian tribes now, being plump was an attractive quality in a  
45 woman as it signified wealth and good health. Ideas of attractiveness change, but inner beauty does not. If we do not set a good example for children and show them that there are different kinds of beauty, we are putting them at risk of depression later when they do not meet society's standards of beauty.

50 **6** In summary, plastic surgery is risky, costly and temporary. It also sets a bad example for the future generations. Therefore, we cannot consider it to be beneficial for us.

## Challenging reading and comprehension

## Unit 6

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (    ) Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Comprehension 2**     *Your cousin wants to find out what you have learnt from the debate speech. Answer her questions using information from the debate speech. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only.*

1 What is the purpose of paragraph 1?

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2 According to paragraph 2, what are the health risks associated with plastic surgery?

- i) \_\_\_\_\_
- ii) \_\_\_\_\_
- iii) \_\_\_\_\_

3 Why did Magnano's regular plastic surgeon refuse to perform the operation she wanted?

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4 Why does the writer mention a Hong Kong woman dying after receiving plastic surgery in Shenzhen?

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5 Who does 'they' (line 14) refer to?

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6 What is 'the price' (lines 15–16) that people may be unwilling to pay?

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7 Find an expression in paragraph 2 that means 'having surgery'.

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## Challenging reading and comprehension

## Unit 6

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- 8 Complete the summary using ideas given in paragraph 3. Write ONE word for each blank. Answers must be grammatically correct.

Plastic surgery (i) \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of money. People in China (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ more than 400 billion yuan (iii) \_\_\_\_\_. Instead of making the world more (iv) \_\_\_\_\_ by spending that money on education or the environment, people choose to (v) \_\_\_\_\_ their wallets to change their appearance.

- 9 i) What is the name of 'Barbie Doll's boyfriend' (line 19)?

\_\_\_\_\_

- ii) Why do you think a person might undergo surgery to look like him?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 10 What is the main idea of paragraph 3?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 11 i) What is the 'long-term problem' in lines 26–27?

\_\_\_\_\_

- ii) Why is plastic surgery only a temporary solution to this?

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\_\_\_\_\_

- 12 According to the writer, what should people do as they get older? Why? Answer in your own words.

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\_\_\_\_\_

- 13 What is the 'dangerous precedent' that plastic surgery sets for younger people?

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**14** What THREE qualities does the writer mention in paragraph 5 as examples of ideal beauty today?

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**15** Why is being plump considered an attractive quality for women in Mongolian tribes?

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**16** According to the debate speech, what risks do children face if we do not teach them that there are different kinds of beauty?

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_



**17** What is the meaning of the expression 'beauty is in the eye of the beholder' (lines 41–42)?

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\_\_\_\_\_

**18** Which of the following are given as arguments against plastic surgery? Tick (✓) THREE statements only.

- i) Plastic surgery makes us feel less confident.
- ii) There are dangers to plastic surgery.
- iii) People who get plastic surgery are mocked by society.
- iv) The expense of plastic surgery is too high.
- v) There are more worthy issues that deserve people's attention.




**19** Which of the writer's arguments do you find most convincing? Why?

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