

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____

Your cousin is going to participate in a school debate about plastic surgery. She is showing you her debate speech. Read her speech.

Text 2 Debate speech

Is plastic surgery harmful to society?

- ① Good morning, fellow students and honoured teachers. We are here this afternoon to debate the motion 'Plastic surgery is harmful to society'. I am for the motion because plastic surgery promotes an
- 5 unhealthy emphasis on physical appearance, has severe health risks, and carries a significant possibility of regret, especially among young people. I will present four reasons as to why I support the motion.
- ② The chief reason I oppose plastic surgery is because
- 10 it encourages a focus on outward appearance. This emphasis on physical beauty makes us wrongly believe that our self-worth is reliant on our appearances. In magazines and films, we constantly see images of supposedly beautiful people, and we learn to uphold
- 15 these images as the ideals of beauty. Inevitably, we start to judge ourselves in comparison to these ideals. We wish we had been born with slimmer bodies, like the ones we see on TV. We start to think that if only we had been born with straighter noses or higher cheekbones
- 20 or different eyelids, our lives would have been much better. Such purposeless comparisons can have a devastating effect on our self-esteem.



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3 Plastic surgery can seem like a quick fix to all of our problems. But in no way do I agree with proponents of plastic surgery that these procedures can improve our self-esteem in addition to our looks. Our self-esteem should not depend on how we look, or on notions of beauty that are based on subjectivity. The truth is that real beauty can be found in all shapes and sizes. As a society, we should encourage these diverse forms of beauty. Society would be much better off if it was receptive towards different standards. Plastic surgery, however, clearly contributes to the narrowing of such standards.



4 As with any medical procedure, plastic surgery carries severe risks. In any operation, dozens of things can go wrong, from excessive blood loss and organ damage to life-threatening infections. Never should a doctor recommend that a patient undergo a medically unnecessary procedure because multitudinous patients have died needlessly. But even in cases without medical complications, there is still a lengthy recovery time associated with the operations. The whole process takes a heavy toll on the body.

5 Another major drawback of plastic surgery is the regret that many patients feel after going under the knife. Rarely do the results of the operations turn out the way that patients expect or hope for. There are numerous stories of people who, for one reason or another, deeply regret having had plastic surgery. Sometimes, patients are driven to despair about how fake they look. Other times, people feel some sort of emotional distress when they realize that they no longer recognize themselves in the mirror. Unfortunately, most of these procedures cannot easily be reversed.

6 For all of these reasons, I oppose the continued and widespread use of plastic surgery, especially among young adults. We should educate our next generation about embracing diversity. We should nurture talents and not vanity. We should be accepting of different types of beauty. Our society would have been much more content if only we had learnt to value inward rather than outward beauty.

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Comprehension 2 *Your cousin wants to see if you understood her arguments. Answer her questions using information from the debate speech.*

- 1 i) Who is the audience of the debate?

- ii) What is the motion of the debate?

- iii) What is the writer's position in the debate?

- 2 Find a word in paragraph 2 that means 'main'.

- 3 i) According to the writer, where do the ideals of beauty come from?

- ii) What do people think would happen if they looked better?

- 4 What is the writer's advice to society in paragraph 3?

- 5 According to paragraph 4, which of the following is NOT a health risk associated with plastic surgery?

☐ A excessive blood loss

☐ B cancer

☐ C organ damage

☐ D life-threatening infections

- 6 Find an example of exaggeration in paragraph 4.

- 7 Why does the writer describe some patients' deaths as 'needless'?

☐ A because they were so young

☐ B because their operations were not medically necessary

☐ C because the doctors were incompetent

☐ D because their surgeries were expensive

- 8 What does 'takes a heavy toll' (line 39) suggest about plastic surgery?

- 9 What does 'going under the knife' (line 41) refer to?

- 10 Based on the information in paragraph 5, use ONE word to complete each blank. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.

Many plastic surgery patients have (i) _____ their procedures because the results were not exactly what they (ii) _____.

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- 11** According to paragraph 5, what are the TWO reasons that people regret having plastic surgery?

- i) _____
- ii) _____

- 12** Match the main points (A–D) with one of the corresponding paragraphs on the left. Write the correct letter on the line next to the paragraph number.

Paragraph no.	Main point
i) Paragraph 2 _____	A Plastic surgery has major health risks.
ii) Paragraph 3 _____	B Patients may regret having plastic surgery.
iii) Paragraph 4 _____	C Plastic surgery puts emphasis on people's outward appearance.
iv) Paragraph 5 _____	D Plastic surgery narrows beauty standards.

- 13** i) Find an example of repetition in paragraph 6.

- ii) Why do you think the writer repeated this phrase?

- 14** Find words from Text 2 that have the following meanings.

i) as is certain to happen (paragraph 2)	
ii) people who support an idea or course of action (paragraph 3)	
iii) the fact of being influenced by personal ideas, opinions or feelings, rather than facts (paragraph 3)	
iv) a disadvantage or problem that makes something a less attractive idea (paragraph 5)	
v) excessive pride in or admiration of one's own appearance or achievements (paragraph 6)	