China's social credit system

B2/C1 level

Teacher's version



TASK 1. Think and try to answer the questions below:

- 1. Have you ever heard about any social credit system? Do you know any country that has it?
- 2. How would you feel to be controlled and tracked all the time?
- 3. Do criminals and good citizens have the same rights in your country?
- 4. Do you know any way how to check if a person is trustworthy?

TASK 2. Now watch the video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0cGB8dCDf3c and answer the questions. If there is a need watch it twice.

- 1. What's the young girl's score? 752
- 2. Which activities are not considered good?

A lot of alcohol, too many video games

- 3. What privileges and discounts does she have for a good score?
 Using a share bike without the deposit
- 4. Is it mandatory or optional?
- 5. How many points do you start with? 1000
- 6. What do you lose point for?

Jaywalking, spreading rumours, littering, tossing cigarette butts

7. What do the posters show?

The posters list the ways you can gain or lose points

8. Who is Joe?

She's an information collector and a paid enforcer who writes down deed about her neighbours

9. What happened with Wang Wei Jun?

He was sued by a client and refused to pay 90 grand to settle it so he was put on a social credit blacklist

10. What does it mean to be blacklisted and discredited?

That you can't buy an airplane or train ticket, it makes it hard to get a job, a loan, a hotel room or put kids in certain schools (and there's public shaming photo galleries)

11. What information does come out from a person's image?

It identifies the gender, age, personal details such as wearing glasses, shape of one's face

TASK 3. Post watching questions:

- 1. Can you see any similarities with Black Mirror TV series or any other TV series?
- 2. Do you think China's citizens have any choice of being tracked or not?
- 3. Do you think it would work in your country? Why/why not?
- 4. Is there any place where someone already tracks our activities?

(What about the banks as lenders and mortgage providers? Allegro and other websites/ online stores that are based on ratings?)

*TIP Brits are well accustomed to credit checks: data brokers such as <u>Experian</u> trace the timely manner in which we pay our debts, giving us a score that's used by lenders and mortgage providers. We also have social-style scores, and anyone who has shopped online with eBay has a rating on shipping times and communication, while Uber drivers and passengers both rate each other; if your score falls too far, you're out of luck.

TASK 4. VOCABULARY

Match the words with their definitions. Try to come up with examples how to use these words.

1. To track	to follow a person or animal by looking for proof that			
	they have been somewhere, or by using electronic			
	equipment-			
2. Diligent	careful and serious in your work, or done in a careful and			
	determined way			
3. To consider	to believe someone or something to be, or think of him,			
	her, or it as something			
4. To discredit	to cause people to stop respecting someone or believing			
	in an idea or person			
5. Jaywalking	the action of walking across a street at a place where it			
	is not allowed or without taking care to avoid the traffic			
6. Credibility	the fact that someone can be believed or trusted			
7. Deed	an intentional act, especially a very bad or very good			
	one			
8. Mortgage	an agreement that allows you to borrow money from a			
	bank or similar organization, especially in order to buy a			
	house, or the amount of money itself			
9. To default	to fail to do something, such as pay a debt, that			
	you legally have to do			
10.Counterfeit	made to look like the original of something, usually			
	for dishonest or illegal purposes			

1 J, 2 H, 3 F, 4 I, 5 A, 6 G, 7 C, 8 B, 9 E, 10 D

EXTRA TASK/ HOMEWORK

Look at the picture https://i.redd.it/1v9lslrjsu831.jpg, analyze it and summarize how does the social credit system work. What can people gain and lose points for? What are the rewards and punishments?