

## **English as an International Language**

English is becoming a global second language. It is estimated that 1.75 billion people worldwide speak English at a useful level. This sheet describes the positive and negative aspects of this trend.

### **Positives of English as an International Language**

A global language helps to bring countries together.

It helps to form stronger ties between countries because there is no language barrier.

English is the dominant language of international business, technology and science.

The ability to understand English provides access to global media.

English allows people to travel around the world without difficulties.

### **Summary**

The role of English as an international language is important. Firstly, it helps to bring the world together. It helps to form stronger ties between countries because there is no language barrier. This allows there to be more communication and collaboration across borders. For example, English is the dominant language of international business, technology and science.

Furthermore, the use of English allows people from around the world to access global culture. For instance, if someone from Pakistan learns English, they can read English versions of media from around the world. They would not have access to this information if English wasn't as widespread.

Finally, knowing English allows people to travel around the world without difficulties. This is because there are English speakers in every country and companies that work with tourists have workers who speak English. Therefore, knowing English makes it easier to enjoy and experience new countries.

## **Negatives of English as an International Language**

If one language is dominant, other languages may disappear.

The dominant language brings its own culture.

American culture has become popular around the world.

Other cultures may be damaged.

### **Summary**

The role of English as an international language has some drawbacks. Firstly, if one language is dominant, then others may disappear. This would be a shame as losing a language means losing part of human history, as each language carries the history of the people who created it.

Secondly, the dominant language also brings its own culture. This can be seen in the popularity of American culture around the world. Because people can understand English, they can access American films and TV shows. The problem is that the strong influence of American culture may damage the cultures of other countries.

### **Practice Question**

The advantage of the spread of English as a global language will continue to outweigh its disadvantages.

To what extent do you agree or disagree.