**Cambridge English B for the IB Diploma: Teacher resource**

**Audio scripts**

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**Radio host:** ‘Factivism’. This is the new buzzword that rock star Max has us talking about these days. In his latest, best-selling book he shows the world, through charts and numbers, how facts are setting people free from poverty. Today he is with me in the studio, where we will talk about this new brand of activism, which spreads facts and promotes transparency. Max, thank you for joining me here.

**Max:** Thank you for having me.

**Host:** I’d like to start by asking what’s on the mind of many listeners. You’ve been campaigning against poverty for a while now, and you’ve fronted several high-profile global campaigns. How is this new campaign that you call Factivism any different?

**Max:** I appreciate this question, Carla. I understand how the public might be tired of hearing a rock star go on about ‘healing the world’, like a messiah, but this campaign is truly different. There’s no longer any need for images of suffering children in Africa, even though they certainly still exist. Instead, I’m here to report the facts. And the facts are good. Between 1990 and 2010 we halved the number of people living below the poverty line. Since the year 2000 the child mortality rate in sub-Saharan Africa has been cut by seventy-five per cent. *And* these countries have doubled their education completion rates. The list of achievements goes on and on.

**Host:** That’s very impressive, Max. But there must be more to your campaign than reporting the facts. Certainly that’s the job of reporters and journalists.

**Max:** Yes, you would think so. But open the newspapers and turn on the TV and there’s still a lot of ‘doom and gloom’, because fear sells. Our mission is two-fold: we aim to spread awareness about the positive outcomes that we’ve achieved; and we aim to counter corruption.

**Host:** Can you explain how sharing facts will counter corruption exactly?

**Max:** By creating more transparency. By letting in the light. So many governments are hiding in the dark, making backroom deals with oil companies. We’re arming citizens with facts about their government. How much are they spending on military? How much are they hiding in offshore accounts? The people will find out and the people will demand change.

**Host:** So the Arab Spring is just getting started?

**Max:** I think that thirty years from now, we’ll look back on the Arab Spring and see it as the beginning of something much bigger than the Arab world. Technology is global. And technology is making it more difficult for world leaders to commit evil acts.

**Host:** It sounds like you’re out to overthrow dictators. Is that your new campaign?

**Max:** I’m not out to overthrow anyone, but I’m out to empower everyone. And it’s not about me. It’s about us.

**Host:** Your message sounds utopian.

**Max:** It’s not utopian. It’s realistic. Do you realise that we can eradicate poverty by 2028 if we continue at this rate? All the graphs start high on the upper-left corner and point down to the right, to zero per cent of the world population living below the poverty line by 2028.

**Host:** You say ‘we’ can eradicate poverty. Who is ‘we’ exactly?

**Max:** Everyone can contribute to the cause. But the organisation to give to is The Global Fund. They give about four *billion* dollars every year to organisations and local experts who carry out projects and programmes in the developing world.

**Host:** Critics of anti-poverty campaigns often claim that such projects are not sustainable. You’re only making them more dependent on the West. You give them fish but you do not teach them to fish. That’s their line of argument. Is this characteristic of The Global Fund? Are they creating a dependency that’s unsustainable?

**Max:** It’s difficult to generalise about all projects and programmes. But that line of logic is typical of those who refuse to give money for selfish reasons. They see debt cancellation as a threat, not an opportunity. They see a local producer of medicine as a competitor instead of a partner. They see more healthy people as more mouths to feed instead of more mouths to speak out. But the truth is: debt cancellation works, microcredit works, and freedom of speech works.

**Host:** Aren’t you talking yourself out of a job? If poverty is completely eradicated by twenty twenty eight, where will you and the charity industries of the world go?

**Max:** I’ll go back to being a rock star, I guess. And I’m sure the charity industries will find something else to do with their creative energy. Let’s focus on the ‘have nots’ before we worry about the ‘haves’.

**Host:** Thank you for your time, Max.