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

**Audio scripts**

**Audio track 18**

[Paper 2 Standard level Text C]

**Text C**

You are going to listen to a phone conversation about cyber bullying.

[…]

**Interviewer:** Good morning Dr Cass.

**Dr Cass:** Good morning

**Interviewer:** Thank for agreeing to this phone call. As you know, I work for *The Times.* We’ve recently read the report you published with the University Press. Your study on cyber bullying in the UK is rather revealing, we think.

**Dr Cass:** Yes, yes, I agree. I hope it sheds some light on a rather pernicious problem here in the UK.

**Interviewer:** Well, we just wanted to ask you a few questions regarding your research, to give our article a little more context. We’re hoping to elicit a few quotes and paint a clearer picture here for our team of reporters.

**Dr Cass:** By all means, feel free to enquire.

**Interviewer:** I’d first like to ask about your research methodology. You say you conducted over three hundred and twenty interviews with teenagers and their parents. Is that one hundred and sixty with the teenagers and another one hundred and sixty with the parents?

**Dr Cass:** That’s correct.

**Interviewer:** And with only so many interviews, can you comment on the significance of the results?

**Dr Cass:** Well scientifically speaking, the cohort was too small to claim it was a significant representation of all British teenagers. However, if you’re talking about how valid the research was, I can support the research’s main conclusions.

**Interviewer:** OK. The report includes quite a few conclusions and many statistics. We were wondering which ones you recommend we feature most prominently in the article.

**Dr Cass:** I suppose I would boil down the research to three main points. First of all, we found that most perpetrators aim to embarrass their victims. Fifty-three per cent of our random sample of teenagers had had experience with this form of cyber bullying.

**Interviewer:** OK.

**Dr Cass:** And then there was the ignorance of the parents, which was shown by the discrepancy between what teenagers answered and what parents answered.

**Interviewer:** Those answers were in relation to questions about online threats, I believe?

**Dr Cass:** Yes, the parents weren’t aware that their children had received threats as often as they actually had. But there’s also the discrepancy between the number of teenagers who’d been shamed online versus the number of parents who were aware of this shaming. And finally – and more predictably – there was the discrepancy between the number of parents who were aware of their children’s malevolent behaviour and the actual number of students engaging in it.

**Interviewer:** Understandable.

**Dr Cass:** And that’s related to the other major issue, which was the grey line between being a perpetrator and a victim. Almost half of the teenagers interviewed had had experience on both sides of the divide, usually becoming a perpetrator *after* having been bullied.

**Interviewer:** And the silent bystanders? Your report mentions them in passing.

**Dr Cass:** Yes, true. The report could have put more emphasis on this issue, because it’s the behaviour of these teenagers which condones the rest. And we’re talking about three quarters of those teenagers interviewed who witnessed these interactions without so much as a sign of disapproval or onus.

**Interviewer:** You could say that their silence is almost an act of aggression?

**Dr Cass:** Well that makes it sound like an intentional act. It’s hard to say if teenagers even understand the gravity of the matter. A lot of them dismiss bullying as ‘teasing’. They don’t seem to be capable of recognising the seriousness of the problem until someone is hurt or shamed or even blackmailed.

**Interviewer:** OK, it sounds like they are naïve to the dangers of cyber bullying…