

0. Intro: So, my name's Marek and I'm going to talk to you for a few minutes about shopping and how mad we are in today's society about shopping.

1. So, there are many ways that the shopping industry attracts people to buy their products. **The first thing that comes to mind, are sales.**

Sales are a fantastic way, maybe twice a year or more often, to get people to buy products at a discount, for less money. **It's good for the consumer** because they pay less money and they think they're getting a great deal but probably what we don't realise is that the companies sell the products initially for a huge profit and then when they offer it to us during the sales, they're probably making a little less profit but they're still making a profit.

2. And, you know probably **because of this sales culture, we have this kind of shopaholic attitude towards consumption.**

People are obsessed during the sales, it's almost to the point where they will fight each other to get the last product that is being sold at a discount.

3. With all these sales happening there are so many products being sold-They have to be contained in some way you have to allow the consumer to take that product from the shop and **that involves a lot of bags.** So, with this whole consumerist lifestyle we are having a lot more bags being produced. If you go to a simple shop like Mercadonna or Consum, you get a very thin bag, but some of the materials that are being used for bags, it's like a product in itself. I think it's a big issue, environmentally. Some of these bags you can reuse but really, I think we should totally eliminate the use of bags. I don't know what the other options are but I think designers should be responsible for finding an alternative.

4. But then again it's difficult to decide who is responsible for most of the shopping and most of the consumption. I would probably say a lot of rich people do the majority of the shopping because obviously poorer people don't have money to spend on shopping and at the same time **probably more women shop than men because** women are probably more concerned about their appearances (sl). Men buy things when their old stuff is worn out, is totally destroyed. Women, if they're going out, every time they go out they have to have a new outfit. So that involves a lot of shopping especially for shoes.

Conclusion: In conclusion, I think there are many aspects to shopping and shopping is a huge industry and I think it's having a positive effect on our lives. We have a lot of things that our parents never would have dreamed of, but I question whether it's making us happy as a society.

ADVANCED MONOLOGUE

Please introduce yourself to the examiner and other candidate. In this part of the exam you are going to give a short talk on a topic. Discuss some of the ideas given below. The talk should last 3.30 or 4 minutes.

MAD ABOUT SHOPPING

- The sales: A good deal or a commercial trick?
- Shopaholics: A by-product of our consumerist society?
- Your view on the issue of plastic bags in shops.
- Men and women: A different attitude to shopping?
- Different kinds of shopping: Catalogue, online, teleshopping...
- Pros and cons of department stores or malls being allowed to open on Sundays and bank holidays.
- The influence of advertising on our shopping habits.
- Is it a good idea for parents to buy everything their children want?

5. But shopping doesn't really only involve going to shops. **There are many different ways in which you can shop.** I really love shopping **on the Internet.** Websites like Ebay are very popular nowadays. And I know my mum used to do a lot of shopping in (from) **catalogue** but I never really...I don't think I have ever bought....I have bought a few things from catalogues but I definitely prefer websites like Ebay and websites for buying my things.

8. With this whole convenience- especially for children, if they're looking on the Internet and they find something or they want something then it's very easy for them to ask their parents to buy things for them and ...with the convenience of the Internet parents don't even have to go to the shops, they can just order it and it comes to the house. But **I don't think it's a good idea for children to have so many things, we live in a very consumerist society** and I think it's better to have less, but to have things that you really want. And I think...that's why I like websites like second hand websites. I like to buy a lot of second hand things. And I like to sell my things. When I don't use them as much anymore I like to see them before they're obsolete and I have to throw them away.

7. I think that the reason why we shop so much as well is because of advertising. Especially for people who watch TV, you have fragrance ads/adverts all the time. And also on the Internet, it's very easy to find anything you can imagine. You're sitting there and you're thinking how can I solve this problem? I would need a product like this. What could the name of that product be? You put it into Google, you find the product and you can buy it immediately over the Internet, which is very convenient.

6. I know that when I was younger, shopping...well, you know I probably didn't have as much money when I was younger but at the same time shopping wasn't something that was as popular as it is now. **And that's probably because shops weren't open on Sundays and bank holidays.** Now especially in places like London, bank holidays and Sundays are like normal days, in fact with the amount of work that people do during the week; people are working increasingly more in their careers, so they have very little time during the week to shop. And now they're dedicating that time to weekends. And **I think there's (are) a lot of advantages and disadvantage to this** obviously for people who work a lot; it's an advantage but for the people who work in the shops, it's probably a disadvantage and at the same time, I don't know, there's something morally wrong. I'm not religious but I think there is a certain time that we should have for ourselves and to spend with our families. But at the same time shopping is a leisurely activity. It's almost something that people do to relax. So it's a way of relaxing now. But I'm not sure whether that's a good thing or a bad thing.

