READING & LISTENING PRACTICE
B1

LISTENING

2 07 **Listen to part of a radio programme about teenage fashion and answer the questions with *M* (Maria), *J* (Jake) or *B* (Both).**

1 Who would like to buy clothes more often?

.....

2 Who says they don't shop for clothes alone?

.....

3 Who has looked for clothes online?

.....

4 Who is a musician?

.....

5 Who disagreed strongly with their parents about their piercings?

.....

6 Who thinks that people's attitudes to piercings have changed over the years?

.....

7 Who is often criticised for not looking smart enough?

.....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

The history of fashion

Since the origins of humankind, the earliest humans began to wear skins to protect themselves from the cold as they migrated further north, but even in prehistoric times different designs for men and women or social classes developed. Certainly, very few items of ancient clothing exist, but there are examples of Bronze Age clothing from Denmark which show that their clothes were mainly made of woollen cloth or leather.

Almost 3,000 years ago, men were wearing woollen leggings, woollen cloaks or sleeveless coats and woollen hats. They also had accessories such as leather belts, which they used to attach their bronze swords to, and leather wrist guards (a kind of bracelet) to protect their arms from the bows they used to shoot arrows.

Jumping forward to the nineteenth century, fashion was very important to the rich. In the 1840s men used to wear very tight trousers, waistcoats with high collars, neckties and knee-length frock coats. For the most part, they had long hair pulled to the side and most men had moustaches or beards. Women's fashion in the UK was inspired by Queen Victoria, who wore high-necked full-length dresses. The more daring ladies wore low-cut dresses, sometimes off the shoulder, for evening parties.

By the end of the 1800s, men were wearing something that we would recognise today – the three-piece suit. The longer frock coats were becoming a thing of the past and the very high collars were beginning to be worn turned down like on coats and shirts today. It was now fashionable for men to have short hair, however, they still had big moustaches.

Fashion in the 1920s witnessed a huge shift in style for women, but less obvious changes for men. Women's dresses became shorter and simpler and as materials became cheaper and designs easier to reproduce at home, fashion became accessible to a wider public and less related to social status. The three-piece suit began to die out as younger men preferred to wear wide-legged trousers with light casual jackets in brighter colours than previously.

Fifty years later, in the 70s, ready-to-wear clothing was available in shops for everyone and women sometimes wore suits, although men's clothing still remained quite traditional. Of course, all young people wore T-shirts and jeans and long hair was popular for both sexes, probably due to the influence of pop culture.

Fashion has been reflecting the world in which we live for millennia and has changed over that time, but probably never as fast as over the last 100 years. Today, people are free to wear almost anything that takes their fancy and fashion has become a vast global industry.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3 You are going to read an article about the history of fashion. Read the text and choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

1 People in prehistoric times
- A made their clothes from animal products.
- B wore different clothes according to the season.
- C had clothes that were made to last.
- D didn't follow fashions.

2 3,000 years ago men's clothes were
- A designed for comfort.
- B made of a wide variety of fabrics.
- C adapted for their practical needs.
- D attractive and stylish.

3 Fashion in the nineteenth century
- A favoured long coats.
- B was imperative for the wealthy.
- C was mainly important for the royal family.
- D promoted extravagant hairstyles.

4 In the 1920s
- A people wore less formal clothes at home.
- B men still dressed formally.
- C there was a radical change in men's clothing style.
- D following fashion became more attainable for everyone.

5 In the sixth paragraph, what does 'ready-to-wear clothing' mean?
- A clothes made in a comfortable style
- B clothes produced in standard sizes for everyone
- C clothes made quickly for immediate use
- D clothes for men and women

6 Nowadays, fashion
- A has more influence on young people.
- B creates a lot of employment everywhere.
- C makes people look more attractive than in the past.
- D changes quickly because of low-priced clothes.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS