

TEXT A

GENERATION Y

There is a wave of energy sweeping the globe and with it a new brand of youth culture named Generation Y. These young, spirited 16-22 year olds are redefining their role in society and they want to make a statement. They have benefited from multiracial schools and higher education and the fact that they're black or white or yellow is not an issue. The struggle today is with themselves – they want to stand out from the crowd yet feel trapped in a mad desire to own the latest trendy gear and the latest techno gadgets such as cell phones¹. They are expected to stop global warming, find a cure for Aids, and still find the time to be young. Every generation has its icons, its songs, its labels ... and its own struggle. So what drives this new generation?



[-X-]

Vintage – the cool term for second-hand clothes – is an expression of individuality, an attempt to distinguish oneself from those who buy just for labels. It is all about wearing something unique and combining this piece from the past with something contemporary. Expect to pay more for these old clothes than they're usually worth.

[-1-]

The latest must-have fashion item is jeans that look old and worn even though they are brand new. Faded, hipster, boot-leg, glittered, frayed ... the options are endless.

[-2-]

Today's youngsters can pierce everything. Tongue rings, eyebrow rings and belly button rings are popular for schoolgirls who need to keep them out of sight. Yes, it hurts. But it's worth it, and the scar is there to stay.

[-3-]

Tattoos are the signatures of the creative. For the younger members of the Y generation, tattoos are usually tucked away near the hip bone or the small of the back – permanent reminders of the constant desire to make a statement, no matter how subtle.

[-4-]

We are all seeking the ultimate thrill. Daring jumpers leap off mountains armed only with a parachute and three seconds till impact. Some call it suicide, others call it being adventurous. Although we are not all so driven, taking our bodies to their extremes is our way of proving we're strong and invincible.

[-5-]

As young adults, we all have to cope with the threat of Aids. Many of us also have to deal with our parents' failed marriages. We therefore tend to date and marry cautiously. Chat rooms on the Internet have become a "safe" social space in which to meet people. Web-based programmes enable us to have conversations with people without ever having to meet them face-to-face, and to keep in touch with friends and family spread around the world.

¹ These portable phones are also called mobile phones in some parts of the world.

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Read the text and match the headings with the paragraphs. Write the appropriate letter in the answer box provided. The first one has been done as an example. NOTE: there are more options than you need.

Example: [-X-] ☐ A

1. ☐

2. ☐

3. ☐

4. ☐

5. ☐

- A. *The Old and the New*
- B. *Clothes Fit for a King*
- C. *Pushing the Boundaries*
- D. *Reinventing Denim*
- E. *What's New in Sport*
- F. *Redefining Communication*
- G. *Stick-on Styles*
- H. *Making Your Mark*
- I. *Facial Accessories*
- J. *Painful but Fashionable*
- K. *The Joys of Friendship*

From the statements A to J, choose the *five* that are true. Write the letter in the answer box provided.

6. ☐

7. ☐

8. ☐

9. ☐

10. ☐

- A. Generation Y has been affected by racial tensions.
- B. Generation Y suffers from the conflict between the individual and consumer society.
- C. Those who wear vintage clothing want to show that they are different from the crowd.
- D. Young people sometimes need to keep piercings and tattoos hidden.
- E. Generation Y believes that it is possible to fall in love at first sight.
- F. Society relies on young people to find solutions to social and environmental problems.
- G. The main attraction of body piercing is its decorative value.
- H. Youngsters are only interested in the latest fashions in clothing.
- I. Those who wear vintage clothing are obsessed with the latest designer fashions.
- J. Young people today are careful of whom they choose as a partner.