

Reality Television

SURVIVOR

A group of sixteen to twenty people from different backgrounds are sent to a tropical island and divided into tribes. The tribes have to win challenges. **Contestants** vote off tribe members until only one final contestant remains and wins the title of Sole Survivor and a prize of \$1 million. All players receive \$10,000 to appear on the reunion show.



transmit (a programme or some information) by radio or television

a person who takes part in a contest or competition

a set of judges who sit together to hear a cause of action



AMERICAN IDOL

The aim of the show is to find the best new solo pop singer. **Viewers** can vote by telephone, by text or online. **Auditions** take place around the country and are open to anybody aged 15–28. A **panel** of four judges discuss the performances and the results are **broadcast** live. The prize is a one-million-dollar recording contract.

a practice or trial performance of a play or other work for later public performance

people who look at or inspect something

an interview for a role or job as a singer, actor, dancer, or musician, consisting of a practical demonstration of the candidate's suitability and skill

THE X-FACTOR

This is another music competition to find new talent. It's the biggest television talent competition in Europe. Anybody over twelve can audition. Contestants are divided into four groups: female solo artists under thirty, male solo artists under thirty, singers over thirty and bands. Each judge takes one group and coaches them during **rehearsals**. The prize is a five-million-pound recording contract.



Read the text and answer the questions

How are contestants eliminated from Survivor?

- How can viewers vote for their favourite contestant in American Idol?
- How many judges are on the panel in American Idol?
- How old do you have to be to audition for The X Factor?
- How do judges help the contestants in The X Factor?
- What can you win on each show?

Listen again and answer the questions.

Write P (Presenter) or R (Ruth Wilson).

Who thinks that reality shows:

- 1 are absolutely fascinating? ☐
- 2 have contestants who are rather unpleasant? ☐
- 3 have contestants who are absolutely awful? ☐
- 4 aren't as enjoyable as a really good detective series? ☐
- 5 are quite similar to a well-written TV series? ☐
- 6 have contestants who are extremely talented? ☐



- Do you agree or disagree with these opinions?
- Which are the best or worst reality TV shows in your country?



Listen to an interview

Listen to an interview with a media expert and choose the correct answer, A, B or C.

According to the interview, people watch reality TV because ...

- A they like watching talented people.
- B they don't like regular TV series.
- C they are interested in the characters.

