UNIT 12 QUIZ B AUDIO SCRIPT

Listening 1 Exercise A

Moderator Today, our debate teams will be discussing whether our personalities are more influenced by nature or nurture. Is our behavior and the way we think mainly shaped by the genes we receive from our parents? Or do environmental factors, such as the place where we live and the people we live with, influence our personalities more? So, please welcome Miranda and Derek, who are going to be discussing the topic and giving us their opinion. Miranda, could we start with your point of view?

Miranda I strongly believe that we are who we are due to nature. I don't deny that our environment can also have a powerful effect on how we think and behave, but I firmly believe that genetics plays a much more important role on our personality.

Take my family, for example. All my grandparents were musicians, and both my parents ended up being exceptionally musical. They both started their careers as concert pianists at a very early age. And, although my sister and I are not as talented as our parents, we have also played an instrument since we were young children.

People may argue that our grandparents encouraged our parents to study music, and that they, in turn, encouraged us to do the same – which would explain why our family is so good at playing music. However, that would not explain why some of us were so talented at such an early age.

I do believe that the existence of people exceptionally gifted at something from an early age demonstrates that nature is the main influence on our personality, our views on life, and our behavior.

Moderator Thank you for your views, Miranda. Derek, do you agree with Miranda?

Derek I'm afraid that I don't entirely agree with Miranda's views. My opinion is that people can also become extremely good at something simply by studying and practicing. They don't need to be born that way. If your parents encouraged you to study music from an early age and you devoted enough hours to practice, there is no reason why you wouldn't become an exceptionally skilled musician too.

Miranda I agree that people can learn to be highly competent at most things through practice. However, there is a difference between being competent and being talented. And I don't believe you can learn to be talented.

Derek I think that the difference is very subjective.