

8b A radical proposal

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Student A

1 You have been asked to give a presentation about the following topic. Read the information below.

Domestic Tradable Quotas

- At a recent climate conference it was agreed that countries must cut emissions of greenhouse gases by 12.5% over the next 10 years. Greenhouse gases, largely created by human activity, contribute to global warming.
- Your company, QuotaCo, has developed a new scheme – Domestic Tradable Quotas (DTQ). Under the scheme, everyone in the country would receive a ration of carbon units (CUs) each month. The quota would be based on present emissions and gradually reduce. The government would issue the CUs, and would therefore know if targets were being met. About half the units would be auctioned to companies, and the other half would be divided equally between everyone in the country.
- Everyone would be allocated a smart card. Your carbon account would be debited whenever you used fuel with a carbon content, at a petrol station or when paying the gas bill, for example.
- Once the CUs had been issued, the market would operate. People who used less than their quota could sell their surplus on the open market to those who wished to have more. A central register would monitor who had used what.
- The DTQ scheme would not interfere with people's freedom to choose their lifestyle, but there would be economic incentives for businesses and individuals to be energy-efficient and help the environment.

2 Make notes for your presentation. Think about these key questions.

- Who are you?
- Who is your audience?
- What is the problem?
- What is the cause of the problem?
- What is your proposed solution?

Student B

1 You have been asked to give a presentation about the following topic. Read the information below.

Burying carbon dioxide

- At a recent climate conference it was agreed that countries must cut emissions of greenhouse gases by 12.5% over the next 10 years. Greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide is one of these), largely created by human activity, contribute to global warming.
- Your company, GasBed, has created a new technique: burying carbon dioxide emissions from industrial processes beneath the sea in huge underground reservoirs.
- The technique can also be used to pump millions of tonnes of carbon dioxide into oilfields, and so help bring out any remaining reserves of oil. The value of the recovered oil would probably make this a cheaper way of disposing of the pollution than just pumping it down and storing it.
- An extensive network of underground pipes would need to be set up to carry the waste gas large distances to the coast, and the huge cost of setting up the infrastructure would require a partnership between oil companies, power generators and national governments.
- Critics say that the scheme is dangerous and expensive and that the money should instead be spent on investments in cleaner, renewable forms of energy.

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- Who are you?
- Who is your audience?
- What is the problem?
- What is the cause of the problem?
- What is your proposed solution?