

INTERMEDIATE B : ROUND 4

TOPIC : *that we regret the rise of fast fashion*

1. Type of topic

This is an empirical, or counterfactual debate.

In this type of debate, neither team has the right to define the policy being debated, instead, this topic asks teams to compare the world as it is against what it could be without the policy.

The best interpretation of this topic is, that in a world in where the rise of fast fashion did not exist would be better than a world in which fast fashion did exist.

The affirmative team needs to explain why they would prefer a world where the rise of fast fashion **did not exist** and what that world would look like without it. A model is not required but the concept needs to be explained really well. The affirmative team then builds their case around the world without fast fashion.

The negative can contest the affirmatives team characterisation that fast fashion is detrimental and argue whether the affirmative teams comparison would actually exist and provide reasoning as to why the world is better with fast fashion.

2. Context/Background

Fast fashion is the term used to describe clothing designs that move quickly from the catwalk to stores to take advantage of trends. To achieve this, the clothes are produced quickly and inexpensively, making them cheaper for consumers but also meaning they don't last as long.

Fashion clothing produced in a traditional manner involved fashion companies creating collections of garments and release them seasonally. The garments were designed to be well made and for longevity. Consumers purchases would be well considered. However, during the late 1990s consumers had greater disposable income and shopping became a leisure activity. Many consumers looked towards celebrities and social influencers, wanting to have the same fashionable outfit, giving

rise to fast fashion. Fast fashion garments were mass produced, usually low priced but stylish. The garments were produced quickly in high numbers and at a lower cost and quality to that of the traditional fashion methods, thereby allowing consumers to purchase clothing at an affordable cost. However, the garments were not made to last more than the current fashion season.

Examples of fast fashion companies include Zara, Supre, H&M, Uniqlo,.Target, K-mart

3. Questions to consider

- What are the differences between traditional fashion and fast fashion?
- What are the economic impacts of fast fashion?
 - How does fast fashion affect fashion businesses?
 - Does it benefit or harm small businesses?
 - Does it lead to more or less competition between clothing companies?
- How does fast fashion affect clothing quality?
- What are the impacts of fast fashion on the manufacturing process?
 - How are the workers that produce the clothes affected?
 - How are the designers affected?
- How does fast fashion affect consumers?
 - Does it make clothing more or less affordable?
 - Is fast fashion better able to meet the demands of consumers?

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