

FINAL TEST LISTENING SCRIPT

Aaron: Sarah, I can't believe the government is considering reinstating mandatory conscription!

Sarah: I know. But isn't it only fair that everyone serve in the military... especially since most soldiers who voluntarily join come from poorer families?

Aaron: Well, yes. The current situation of having an all-volunteer army has certainly put a disproportionate stress on the families of soldiers, which is particularly disturbing since a lot of soldiers enlist out of financial necessity, whether it be for educational or economic purposes. However, I don't think the solution is to *force* people to join the army for a year or two, or whatever the politicians are suggesting.

Sarah: I see your point. Then what's your solution?

Aaron: First and foremost, I would stop deploying so many troops overseas and reduce the size of our army! It's more important that this country spend the money it invests in the military on more useful things, like infrastructure development and education. Don't you think it's a bit ridiculous that people are essentially forced to risk their lives just so they can get a debt-free education?

Sarah: Sure, most people would agree with that.

Aaron: I also can't support the fact that politicians are proposing that only adult males will be required to serve in the military. How absurd is that? Females have proven their resiliency in combat time and time again, both under the command of our armed forces and under that of other nations. Were the government to require both men and women to serve, would you have a different opinion?

Sarah: Quite frankly, no, I would still support mandatory service. I think that the military is best equipped both to deal with terrorism and to face the challenges posed by global warming. It's certainly better than the government's hiring private contractors that overcharge the government to do work abroad. Because of the hierarchy of the military, its engineers can quickly and effectively develop infrastructure for at-risk nations affected by climate change. In terms of conflict, mandatory conscription will certainly force politicians to think twice about voting for wars, as it will be their sons and

daughters that will have to do all the fighting, not just the children of poor and working-class families.

Aaron: I totally agree with you there. But don't get me started on climate change.

Sarah: OK, then I won't. So how are things going with you otherwise?

Aaron: Same old same old. You?

Sarah: Ehh, I can't complain. I'm quite busy with work plus I just started graduate school and am taking two courses this first semester.

Aaron: How's that working out for you?

Sarah: It's been ok. Actually, I'm a bit bored with all of the work. It's not all that challenging and the readings are a bit dry. While it's certainly practical, I can't say that it's the most intellectually challenging. My undergraduate degree in chemistry was certainly harder. Having said that, I still do my best to focus and retain all the information—I lead study groups, organize my time well, and of course, commit a few hours every week to reading at the library.

Aaron: Yea, if I had to do it again, I probably wouldn't get my MBA. Most of what I learned doesn't apply to my tech startup.

Sarah: Yea, if my company wasn't paying for it, I don't think I'd be doing this. But, having an MBA is important in the corporate world. Most of upper management in my company seem to have them.

Aaron: Yea, I'd definitely take that opportunity if I were you. There's nothing better than a free education.

Sarah: It's not exactly free, Aaron. I have to work for my company to receive the tuition reimbursement, and I have to continue working for two years after I graduate. Otherwise, I have to pay them back for part of it. And I also have to pay taxes on that sort of benefit, which is a pain as it makes my taxes unnecessarily complicated.

Aaron: Well, it's better than having to go to war for it.

Sarah: Ehh