**Series 3 Episode 1**

What does Lacie spend her morning doing?

What is her brother more interested in doing?

What is going to happen to the flat?

What do all the people at the coffee bar have in common?

Why does she smile and look happy?

05.05

How does Lacie engage in conversation with Beth (the woman in the lift)?

Why is today special for Beth?

Why is nobody at the office speaking to Chester?

What will happen to Chester if his rating drops below 2.5?

Why do you think Lacie’s ratings started to fall in the office?

08:26

Why is she looking at the new apartment?

What rating does she need to get a discount?

What is her brother sceptical about?

What does the social network adviser say she needs to get her ratings up?

How does she try to improve them?

Why can’t Chester get into his place of work?

13:50

What does she offer Beth in the elevator?

How does Naomi react to Lacie’s picture of the doll?

What does Ryan think of Lacie’s Tapenade?

Who calls Lacie and why?

What does Ryan remember about Lacie’s relationship with Naomi?

21:21

What does her social network advisor think about her prospects now?

What does Lacie do as a consequence?

What is Lacie practising?

What is her brother’s opinion about the housing estate she is going to live in?

What do Lacie and her brother do when they are angry with each other?

26:03

Why has Naomi called?

How does the taxi driver respond to Lacie’s tip?

What has happened to Lacie’s flight?

Why can’t Lacie get on the standby flight?

What happens when she gets angry?

30:15

Why is she unhappy with the car?

How does Naomi react to Lacie being late?

Why does she have to stop driving?

What is the nature of the next problem?

36:30

What does she do to continue on her journey?

Why don’t the couple in the car give her a lift?

Why doesn’t she want to get in the truck?

What surprises Lacie about the truck-driver?

What rating did the truck-driver used to have?

Why did the truck-driver start losing her rating?

43:34

What did the truck-driver put in Lacie’s suitcase?

Why are the people in the RV suspicious of Lacie?

Why doesn’t Naomi want Lacie at her wedding?

Why does Lacie get thrown out of the RV?

How does she get to the wedding?

49:00

How does the wedding speech go?

Who does she threaten to kill?

Why is Lacie finally happy?



**Characters**

**Lacie Pound** = The main character

**Ryan Pound** = The main character’s brother.

**Naomi** = Lacie’s friend





**The Real Black Mirror: China’s Social Credit System**

Adapted The Sun March 2018



Insert the correct words into the text from the choices below.

China’s 'social credit' system blacklists "lazy" citizens who get into debt or spend their time just playing video games in a **(1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** initiative that could have come straight out of Black Mirror. Analysing users' social media habits and online shopping purchases, the nightmarish system also grants real financial credit to citizens whose lifestyles are deemed to be more wholesome.

While the social credit scheme will become mandatory in China in 2020, it is currently being tested in **(2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** schemes which have been rolled out through private financial companies. The most high profile of these is Sesame Credit which has been developed by Ant Financial and uses computer algorithms to score people from 350 to 950.

Likened to an episode of dystopian horror series Black Mirror, *Sesame Credit* rates people on factors including “interpersonal relationships” and consumer habits including buying video games. It appears the **(3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,** one-party state believes that someone who plays a PlayStation or an Xbox is an “idle person.” Those with a low-rating are excluded from many “privileges” and “freedoms” enjoyed by other citizens meaning that in some cases they are unable to book a plane flight, are prevented from renting or buying property and are unable to **(4) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** a loan or stay in a luxury hotel.

One of the largest schemes currently operating is in Shanghai where jaywalking, traffic violations and skipping train fares can get you **(5) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**. But that’s not all. Citizens who do not visit their elderly parents or do not sort out their garbage into the appropriate recycling bins can also be penalised and effectively **(6) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** out by the state.

Businessman Xie Wen claims he was put on a blacklist following a financial **(7) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_** in which he never paid a debt to a client who then sued his company. He was then added to the Chinese Supreme Court’s list of “discredited” people. Wen said: “It hurt my business. My clients didn’t trust me. I didn’t get much work.”

Not only was Wen **(8) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** from going on a plane or a high speed train, but he was unable to send his child to private school. The same report published in February this year says that since October 2013 nearly 10 million people have been added to the same list.

At the moment, it is only China that has plans to bring this system into effect. However, a local council in England has been looking at the system with interest. “I think some kind of point-based merit system could be very **(9) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** in controlling anti-social behaviour,” said the Mayor of West Walton in Norfolk. Perhaps the voters will have something to say about that.

1. A) supernatural B) gruesome C) mysterious D) creepy

2. A) pilot B) driver C) proving D) mock

3. A) authoritarian B) fussy C) officious D) demanding

4. A) save B) borrow C) secure D) lend

5. A) blackbrushed B) blacklegged C) blacklisted D) blackmailed

6. A) frozen B) cooled C) thrown D) given

7. A) commotion B) dispute C) fight D) bickering

8. A) banned B) disqualified C) abolished D) ended

9. A) engaging B) lucrative C) recompensing D) beneficial

You are attending a Town Hall meeting to debate the uses of a proposed social credit system for local residents. Read the letter below and then read your personality card. Debate the question that is being discussed according to your personality card with the other attendees.

**SOCIAL CREDIT SYSTEM DEBATE**

**West Walton Town Hall **

To: West Walton Town Councillors

From: The Town Hall

Date: 07/03/18

Re: Community Meeting

Dear councillors,

As you all know from our previous meetings and numerous articles in the local press, the government has finally decided to give us the go-ahead for the introduction of the new digitally supported Social Credit System app. I am aware that this decision is been met with considerable opposition from some quarters within the council and, as a result, we have decided that the matter should receive further debate.

As such, a town hall meeting has been convened for this week on Friday morning at 10am. Please bring you smart phones with you, as we would also like to use this opportunity to show how the system operates.

We will not initiate the system until we have a majority decision from all councillors so your attendance is of the upmost importance. Failure to reach a clear agreement this Friday will result in a further meeting being convened at a future date.

Warmest regards

Stan Down





You are a councillor and own several local businesses, two of which are restaurants. You have had problems with restaurant review websites that resulted in your establishments being given bad marks. When you investigated, you found the problems were exaggerated out of all proportion and in one case it was a rival restaurant deliberately giving you bad marks so that they would take your business from you. You do not trust this sort of system.

You are a councillor and an ex-police officer. While a serving officer, you found the most difficult task was policing the parks and areas where young people tended to congregate. You found that they had no respect for the law and their behaviour was very anti-social. There was not much you could do because of laws that are in favour of people under the age of 18. As such, you see the proposed system as an opportunity to finally take action against this anti-social element.

You are a councillor and a teacher in the local school. You think that the proposed system is a wonderful idea. In fact, you hope that the education department can be incorporated into this new merit based system. As far as you are concerned, teenagers today, and some even younger children, have no respect for their elders and their behaviour is simply uncontrollable. You blame the parents mostly but you also think that society no longer wants to assume its responsibilities in educating, and punishing, its youth.

You are a councillor and a social worker. You don’t think the proposed system takes the socio-economic background of citizens into account and you firmly believe that this could stigmatise people for coming from underprivileged or disadvantaged circumstances. In fact, you strongly suspect that this could lead to a polarising social phenomenon which could in turn lead to serious social unrest and civil disturbance.

You are a councillor and a doctor. You think that poor health choices should be punished, particularly in the case of parents that give their children sugary food and drink. As far as you are concerned, this could reduce health service bills in the long term and you regard this as a positive use of the system. You think that people who are against the system are behind the times and are not facing up to the realities of modern life.

You are a councillor and a serving police officer. You have a good relationship with the young people in the area and know by experience that many of the youngsters in town are experiencing very difficult situations at home. You think that the young people in the town are misunderstood and have a lot of potential. Consequently, you think that the new system will be used to punish the town’s youth unfairly and will create a bad atmosphere and polarise the citizens.

You are a councillor and a retired doctor. You think that people drink too much and this is costing the local authority too much money in policing and in the resulting health consequences. You see the introduction of this system as a golden opportunity to punish people for drunkenness and anti-social behaviour resulting from the consumption of alcohol. In fact, you think the owners of bars and restaurants should also be held responsible for the behaviour of their customers.

You are a councillor and own a local pub. The police are often called to your pub on Saturday nights to break up minor scuffles and there have been a couple of complaints although nothing series. You make a good deal of money at the pub but you suspect that if there is further control over people’s behaviour and social life, this could result in the loss of customers and smaller profits. You think that the council needs to grant a little more personal freedom to people enjoying themselves on a Saturday night.

**Choose one of the personality cards above and then use this as your motivation in the role-play.**

**Answers**

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One of the largest schemes currently operating is in Shanghai where jaywalking, traffic violations and skipping train fares can get you **(5) blacklisted**. But that’s not all. Citizens who do not visit their elderly parents or do not sort out their garbage into the appropriate recycling bins can also be penalised and effectively **(6) frozen** out by the state.

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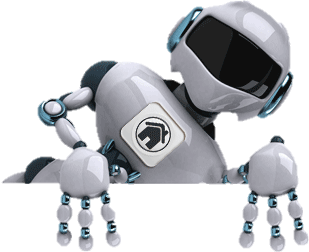
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**The World's Most Depraved Gadget Designers**

Adapted from Inverse.com 2016 By Jordan Zakarin

Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line. There is an example at the beginning (0).

**(0) SPECULATION**

**(1) DESIGN**

**(2) PLEASE**

**(3) SIMPLE**

**(4) NAVIGATION**

**(5) LIMITATION**

**6) CONVERSE**

**(7) DECISION**

**(8) MOVE**

**(9) APPEARANCE**

The near-future technology depicted in Black Mirror can control minds and commit mass murder, but none of the show’s (0) *speculative* devices looks all that complicated. The forms are consistently simple, which adds to the horror of the applications. These are the most easily abused weapons imaginable.

When imagining new technologies for Season 3, the show’s producers and

**(1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** had to meet very different demands. First and foremost, they had to create gadgets that wouldn’t distract from the story. They did this by thinking about consumer tech companies as well as engineering and asking this question: *How would future hardware companies design* trojan horse *products for the mass market*?

“We try to keep things understated in the technology,” show creator and mastermind Charlie Brooker explains. “It has to feel like it works, and it has to feel like it would be a **(2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** to use. We try to make it have that inherent seductive quality, so it looks like it’s pleasant for the people using it.”

The six new episodes currently on Netflix continue the Black Mirror tradition of presenting hardware and interfaces with an aesthetic **(3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** that contradict their terrifying capabilities. The episode *Nosedive*, which Brooker describes as taking place 5 to 10 years from now, imagines a new social media network and set of physical controls used to **(4) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** it. It is similar to *Tinder* (a popular dating app), but for rating literally everything about a person and converting that to merit points that are almost as valuable as money. Joel Collins, the series’ production designer, says that idea led to a crucial design question: “How much information do you have on there?”

Collins points out that it had to be a lot more than current social networks, but that there’s also a **(5) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** to how much a human can scroll through. It became a balancing act. Collins said he imagined at one point a user being able to scroll three different directions at once, though the network’s medium — a thin blue or pink phone — was significantly scaled down.

Then they had to figure out how people would interact with that comforting design. “We had a lot of **(6) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** about the gestures they do, the logic of them,” Brooker said. “Sometimes it was a ring you’d wear on your finger, which is visually interesting but you’d say ‘I wouldn’t use that,’ because you’d be worried about it dropping or it snapping.”

So a wearable device was out of the question, as was any sensor that required big, bold movements. That’s part of the reason they ultimately **(7) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** on something more natural, in this case a smart phone, which made it both easier for the viewer at home to buy into the story, and also for the characters in the story to accept.

“We decided on swipe and casting because there’s always a logic to it,” Brooker said, describing the subtle **(8) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** that everyone in the episode performs on their phones as they absentmindedly rate their peers. “And at the end, when she doesn’t have her phone, she is operating on muscle memory when she tries to swipe and cast.”

It may all seem rather far-fetched, but Black Mirror has a solid — and terrifying — track record of predicting the future. “When we started, sometimes Charlie would say, ‘What would this tech be like five years from now?’” Collins recalls. Now, 5 years later, a lot of what **(9) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** in the first and second series is starting to feel uncomfortably familiar. And as for the world of politics … but that’s a different story.

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Answers

Text here

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