**Cambridge English B for the IB Diploma: Teacher resource**

**Audio scripts**

**Audio track 20**

[Paper 2 Higher level - Text B]

**Text B**

You are going to listen to an interview with Cameron Rouge, a fiction, famous model.

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**Interviewer**: We have a special guest on the show today. Cameron Rouge has been a supermodel for the past ten years. It’s very likely that you have seen photographs of her in magazines and billboards, advertising everything from lipstick to clothing. But you’ve probably never heard her speak. And these days, that’s exactly what she’s doing: she’s speaking out. Her latest book, titled *Image Is Superficial*, is a new best seller. Please give her a warm welcome to the show – Cameron Rouge!

**Cameron:** Hi everyone. I can’t believe I’m here. I’ve watched this show for years, and now I’m actually on it!

**Interviewer:** It’s OK. Take a deep breath, have a seat. You’re not camera shy, are you?

**Cameron**: No no, I’ll be fine. But it is a bit nerve-wracking.

**Interviewer:** What’s nerve-wracking, if it’s not the cameras?

**Cameron:** Well, I just feel that since the book came out, I’ve received a lot of attention, both positive and negative. This is certainly a new stage in my career, where I’m putting myself out there to be judged on something other than my looks.

**Interviewer:** Well, maybe we should start with that then. Cus I gotta say dear: you are lookin’ fabulous.

**Cameron:** (nervous laugh)

**Interviewer:** No, no, no. Really, really I’m just teasing you.

**Cameron:** No that’s OK. I know. I hear it all the time. But that’s what I’m here to talk about after all: looks. I suppose that’s the underlying message of my new book. People spend way too much time on image and looks.

**Interviewer:** OK, so let’s start with your book then. Haven’t you been worried about a kind of backlash from the industry that you’re part of? I mean isn’t the expression ‘don’t bite the hand that feeds you’ applicable here?

**Cameron:** Well I’m not sure that’s what I’ve done. I’m getting modelling gigs all the time. And I don’t think I’ve been overly critical of the modelling industry. It’s not like I’ve exposed any secrets. Everyone knows that photographs are retouched. In fact I’ve included a few interesting before-and-after pictures in the book to prove the point. But the main message of the book is not about the industry at all. It’s about the world around us. It’s about the way people enable the fashion industry.

**Interviewer:** That’s an interesting choice of words. What do you mean by ‘enable’?

**Cameron:** Well, in the book I talk about a legacy of beauty. Look, biologically speaking it’s been proven that humans like to look at symmetrical faces. But what about short people? What about dark-skinned people? It seems that they’re not modelling material.

**Interviewer:** But what about the plus-sized models you see on *America’s Next Top Model*? What about people like Tyra Banks?

**Cameron:** Did you know that non-white models only account for four percent of the girls on the runway? Sure, we sometimes see diversity on TV, but in reality people are only hiring white models. And that’s what I mean about people ‘enabling’ the fashion industry. If we let that go unchecked, racial discrimination will continue.

**Interviewer:** No offence Cameron, but you hardly seem like the perfect spokesperson for short, black people.

**Cameron:** I don’t know about that. I’d argue the opposite: it takes someone as privileged as myself to spread awareness about racial bias in the industry.

**Interviewer:** Can you speak more about that? I mean as a black woman myself, I was rather moved by your chapter on racial profiling.

**Cameron:** Yes, it’s a serious problem in America. In some parts of New York, eighty-five per cent of black men have been pulled over by the cops for no apparent reason. I, as a white woman, am statistically far less likely to be pulled over in my car than a black man.

**Interviewer:** Yeah I read those statistics and I was shocked. But there are others who criticise you for taking up their cause. They don’t think you have a right to speak up for them, because you have enjoyed such a privileged life.

**Cameron:** Well, I’d encourage them to read the book. I think they’d be surprised.

**Interviewer:** What would surprise your critics exactly? Isn’t your life so good? Don’t you have it all?

**Cameron:** Well I am grateful for all the opportunities that have been handed to me for no other reason than I’ve won the genetic lottery. I could pay for college, which is not something everyone can say in this country. I’ve met amazing people and wined and dined in fun, exotic parts of the world. I admit that.

**Interviewer:** But...?

**Cameron:** But try applying for a serious job when the only thing on your CV is ten years of modelling. People ask me what it’s like to be a top model all the time. And they ask it like it must be the most amazing thing. But I wouldn’t recommend it to anyone. It’s not a career path. It’s not a profession that requires a lot of skill to be honest.

**Interviewer:** OK. I can appreciate that – your honesty. Let’s talk about that some more. In the book you’re very open about your own insecurities. Of course, I see you’re exuding confidence now. But in your everyday life you say you struggle with self-esteem. How can you explain that, coming from someone as beautiful as you?

**Cameron:** What I’m saying is that while everyone says I have a great body and nice legs, I always wonder if they’re just saying that to be polite. And what if that’s all I am: a great body with nice legs? And what if I want to have that candy bar or bag of chips? What if I don’t wear the right dress? What if I say the wrong thing? I struggle with all of that too, you know.

**Interview:** But isn’t that a little hypocritical? I mean, in your book you describe how the media depict an unrealistic version of ‘beauty’ and yet, you yourself are suffering from the same pressures that you’re helping to create?

**Cameron:** Yes, I realise that. And that’s why I wrote the book: to spread awareness and show how this fashion machine is not good for the well-being of the models and the little girls who want to be models.