

Listen!



12 

Cosmetic surgery



Let's Think

1. Can you name three countries in which cosmetic surgery is popular?
2. What do you think about cosmetic surgery?

You are Hannah. You are reading a debate speech against cosmetic surgery.



5 Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. The topic for our debate today is that cosmetic surgery should be banned. We, the affirmative team, believe the motion is true.

10 To begin with, cosmetic surgery can be addictive. After a person has gone under the knife for the first time and then seen the expected improvements, he or she will be driven by the desire for perfection, and go for another round of cosmetic surgery. Joan Rivers, a late American comedian best known for her face, had a total of 348 cosmetic operations throughout her life. 15 According to her daughter, Rivers was never satisfied with her look. From Rivers' case, we can see how one can be addicted to cosmetic surgery.

20 Second, the results of a cosmetic procedure are usually irreversible but no surgeon can guarantee that the surgery will be faultless. Once a change is made to a facial feature, the change usually cannot be undone. In other words,

that facial feature mostly cannot go back to how it originally was. For this reason, disappointed patients have only two options to choose from: to regret their decisions or to make another appointment with the cosmetic surgeon. In a study published last year, it was revealed that about one-third of patients who had undergone facelift surgery, an operation to reduce facial signs of ageing, were let down by the surgery's results. Due to the desire for perfection, many would therefore be driven into a vicious cycle of repeated operations.

Moreover, cosmetic surgery is not cheap and always involves risks. There are many complications resulting from cosmetic surgery, including blood loss, nerve damage, organ damage and infection. In addition, awful pain may follow immediately after the surgical operations. Most of these potential dangers are not thought through by people wanting to change their appearance through cosmetic surgery... (289 words)

Part A

Answer the following questions using the information from the speech. Choose the **BEST** answer and blacken **ONE** circle only.

- Which of the following statements reflects the debater's stance on cosmetic surgery?
 - 'Many people falsely think that it is completely safe.'
 - 'Increased confidence is one of its many benefits.'
 - 'Both men and woman can benefit greatly from it.'
 - 'It is not as bad as you think.'
- In line 12, the adjective 'late' means '_____'.
 - happening after the necessary, expected or usual time
 - happening near the end of a period of time
 - near the end of an evening or night
 - no longer alive
- Joan Rivers _____.
 - was a British comedian
 - was rarely happy with the results of her cosmetic operations
 - had more than 400 rounds of cosmetic surgery
 - was not famous at all before she had cosmetic surgery
- Which of the following is **NOT** a factor in some people's lasting interest in cosmetic surgery?
 - constant dissatisfaction with their appearance
 - the desire for perfection
 - disappointment in cosmetic surgeons
 - addiction to cosmetic surgery
- The debater presented the arguments to mainly _____.
 - prove that females care too much about their appearance
 - show that the younger generations are addicted to cosmetic surgery
 - argue that cosmetic surgery is problematic
 - offer more detailed information, such as statistics, about cosmetic surgery

Grammar Corner

We can use the connectives '**moreover**' and '**in addition**' to introduce a piece of new information relevant to what has just been said.

e.g. *Moreover, cosmetic surgery is not cheap and always involves risks.*
(Lines 38-39)

e.g. *In addition, awful pain may follow immediately after the surgical operations.*
(Lines 43-44)

Part B

Answer the following questions using the information from the debate speech. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

1. Find an idiom that means ‘has had a medical operation’.

2. Find words in the debate speech that can replace the following. Fill in each blank with only one word.

during the whole period of	(a)	(<i>prep.</i>)
promise	(b)	(<i>v.</i>)
made known	(c)	(<i>v.</i>)
extra medical problems	(d)	(<i>n.</i>)

3. Why does the debater say that patients who are disappointed with the cosmetic operations’ results can only ‘regret their decisions’ if they do not want to make another appointment with their cosmetic surgeons? Explain your answer.



4. The negative team has presented their arguments. Fill in each blank in the following summary table with one word only.

Topic: Cosmetic surgery should be banned



The affirmative team

- One can be (a) _____ to it.
- Its outcomes are often (b) _____.
- There are potential dangers, including complications and (c) _____.



The negative team

- It helps people with severe (d) _____ injuries regain confidence.
- All (e) _____ operations involve risks.
- Patients should be well aware of the risks involved in any cosmetic surgery.

Vocabulary Bank

The following are some of the aims of the treatments for certain bodily imperfections. Match them with the correct pictures. One of the words is not used.

- remove dark eye circles exfoliate skin get rid of belly fat
- combat acne reduce crow's feet reduce puffy eyes
- deal with freckles shrink large pores moisturise skin



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



Let's Discuss

1. Would you undergo cosmetic surgery if it was free? Why or why not?
2. In your opinion, what makes people want to have cosmetic surgery?