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Student

TED Talks comprehension questions

Time: *Approximately 1 hour*

1. Read the title

- Try to predict the content of lecture
- Write down key terms / ideas
- Check key vocabulary using a dictionary

Try to listen ONLY two times

Three types of lesson

Lesson#1: [hard]
1. Listen once – take notes
2. 5 minutes to tidy notes
3. Listen again and add to notes (use a different colour pen).
4. Answer questions – set 15-20 minutes to answer.
5. Check answers
6. Listen again to check answers

Lesson #2: [medium]
1. Listen once – take notes.
2. Answer questions: 10-15 minutes
3. Listen again – answer the questions as you listen
4. Check answers
5. Listen again to check answers

Lesson #3: [easier]
1. Read questions – highlight key terms
2. listen once and answer questions
3. 5 minutes to tidy notes
4. Listen again answer missed question
5. Check answers
6. Listen again to check answers

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Teacher

TED Talks comprehension questions

Lesson Plan

Aim: *to develop the students' ability to listen to a 10min + lecture, to take notes and then use those notes to answer a range of open comprehension questions types.*

Lesson Time: *Approximately 1 hour + 20 minutes Critical thinking*

Lesson Plan

1.Lead in

- Ask Students to discuss the 'title' and predict the content of lecture
- Ask students to write down key terms / language from discussion
- Feed in / check key vocabulary

Three types of lesson

Lesson#1: [hard]
1. Students listen once – take notes
2. Give 5 minutes to tidy notes
3. Listen again and add to notes (use a different colour pen).
4. Give out questions – set 15-20 minutes to answer.
5. Feedback answers (give out answers or go through on board)

Lesson #2: [medium]
1. Students listen once – take notes.
2. Give out questions: Set 10 minutes for students to answer questions from notes
3. Listen again – students answer the questions as they listen
4. Give extra 10 minutes to consolidate answers
5. Feedback answers (give out answers or go through on board)

Lesson #3: [easy]
1. Give out questions - students have up to 10 minutes to look at questions
2. Students listen and answer questions
3. Give 5 minutes to tidy notes
4. Students listen again – check answers and answer questions missed
5. 5-10 minutes to tidy answers
6. Feedback answers (give out answers or go through on board)

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Behind the great firewall of China

[listening comprehension questions]

Author: Michael Anti

Date: Jun 2012

Time: (18:51)

Location: TED TALKS

Level: ***** [B2/C1]

Link: h http://www.ted.com/talks/michael_anti_behind_the_great_firewall_of_china

Check these words before listening:

Key vocabulary

1. BRIC - Brazil, Russia, India and China
2. SICK - Syria, Iran, China and North Korea.
3. Game of Thrones (TV Series) (google it)
4. Invaders
5. A dead land / a wasteland
6. Censorship
7. Netizen
8. Baidu / Weibo / Renren / Youku or Tudou
9. A copycat
10. Block and clone
11. A server (Internet)
12. Tunisia (Country) Tunisian
13. A public Sphere
14. Wenzhou (a city in China)
15. Criticism
16. An embassy
17. Shakespeare – Hamlet
18. Microblog / micro-blogger
19. An online petition
20. Chinese president – Hu Jintao / Chongqing (Chinese city)
21. A threat
22. A regime
23. A scenario
24. To bribe
25. To purge
26. A privilege
27. A mind-set
28. Different fractions

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Behind the great firewall of China

TED TALK: Michael Anti [Jun 2012. 18:51]

Explain what you understand

1) What's BRIC and SICK?

2) How does the great Wall connect to modern technology?

3) Why is Chinese Internet booming even with such control and censorship?

4) Why have Arab countries been toppled when they prevented Internet access?

5) What 2 examples does he give to support his views of micro-bloggers strength and changes in freedom of speech?

6) What's significant of the Chinese Language in respect to Tweeting?

7) What is social networking changing in Chinese life?

8) How are the micro-bloggers avoiding using 'sensitive' words?

9) Is Weibo a threat to the Chinese government?

10) What is the problem between local governments and central government?

11) What's the overall summary?

12) Critical Thinking: *What did you think of this lecture? Do you agree with the ideas? What will happen in the future? Will the Chinese become more democratic? Will freedom of speech become a birthright? Should governments control its people through fear and domination? Should some content be restricted? What do you think?*

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Behind the great firewall ANSWERS

1) What's BRIC and what's SICK?

Intro

Chinese Internet. / China is complicated. / not a one sided story.

[+]China is a BRIC country. BRIC country means Brazil, Russia, India and China - helping the revival of the world economy.

[-] China is a SICK country, the terminology coined by Facebook, - Iran, China and North Korea / no access to Facebook.

2) How does the great Wall connect to modern technology?

The wall

China and Chinese Internet / the wall / Game of Thrones = important a big wall is for an old kingdom. It prevents weird things from the north.

The great wall, 'Chang Cheng.' It protected China from invaders for 2,000 years. China also has a great firewall = biggest digital boundary in world / defend the Chinese regime from overseas, from the universal values, but prevents citizens access to separate themselves into blocks, not united.

3) Why is Chinese Internet booming even with such control and censorship?

The Internet

Two Internets. 1) the Internet, 2) the Chinanet.

500 million Internet users / biggest population of Netizens /although censored Internet = internet society booming.

It's simple. Google, / Baidu. Twitter / Weibo. Facebook / Renren. YouTube / Youku and Tudou.

The Chinese government blocked every single international Web 2.0 service, and we Chinese copycat every one.

4) Why have Arab countries been toppled when they prevented Internet access?

Chinese Policy

Smart censorship / Chinese national Internet policy is very simple / Block and clone. Control of server in Beijing - can access the data any time they want.

Other Arab governments who have tried to prevent access have been toppled (ex. Mubarak / Ben Ali) because they have tried to deny internet access rather than control of server.

5) **What 2 examples does he use to support his views of micro-bloggers strength and changes in freedom of speech?**

Social media and micro-bloggers

Social media is problem for officials – micro-bloggers are strong. A change in Chinese history.

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Ex. 07/ 2011, train crashes in Wenzhou / authorities tried a cover up / 10 million criticisms of the posting on social media, - the rail minister was sacked and sentenced to jail for 10 years / never happened before.

Ex. And also, Beijing Environment Ministry and the American Embassy over air quality data of Beijing. 99 percent of Chinese micro-bloggers on the Embassy's side.

6) What's significant of the Chinese Language in respect to Tweeting?
Language:
Why is Chinese social networking, booming? = Chinese languages.
140 characters, a paragraph, a story. One Chinese tweet = 3.5 English tweets. Chinese is always cheating, right? Microblogging is a media, not a headline.

Twitter
"Weibo" translation for "microblog more like Facebook, rather than the original Twitter.

7) What is social networking changing in Chinese life?
Change
Social media changing Chinese mindsets and Chinese life. the voiceless / people a remedy outside the judicial system. In the past people tried to revolt but put in prison now "Weibo" to petition

Popular Micro-blogger
Yao Chen, she is the most popular micro-blogger / 21 million followers. Discusses sad stories and keeps 300 million people every day chatting together, talking together / even in censorship.

8) How are the micro-bloggers avoiding using 'sensitive' words?
Censorship
Sensitive words on Weibo. Ex. the president, Hu Jintao / city of Chongqing / you can't search the surname of top leaders. So, puns and alternative wording and even memes. Weird phrases and words… that the micro-bloggers use are unknown to authorities.

9) Is Weibo a threat to the Chinese government?
Control
Weibo convinced the Chinese government not a threat to the regime. Ex. posts "get together" or "meet up" or "walk," automatically recorded / data mined and reported for further political analyzing. So the crackdown is very serious.

10) What is the problem between local governments and central government?
Change in local government:
Local governments do not always talk to central government
Past three years, micro-blogging social movement changed local government, / more transparent, because they can't access the data. The server is in Beijing. The train crash

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example, why the Chinese central government allowed the five days of freedom of speech online?? It's never happened before. Perhaps, top leaders wanted a reason to sack the minister

Rumors – be careful
Fine to tweet about - Bo Xilai (princeling). Dare to retweet or mention any fake coup about Beijing, you definitely will be arrested. So this kind of freedom is a targeted and precise window.

Technology
Technology is very new, but technically is very old / made famous by Chairman Mao, Mao Zedong, who mobilized millions of Chinese people in the Cultural Revolution to destroy every local government / Chinese central government doesn't lead the public opinion - give them a target window to not censor people. Not censoring in China has become a political tool.

11) What's the overall summary?
Summary
Game, cat-and-mouse. Social media changed Chinese mindset.
Embrace freedom of speech and human rights as their birthright, not some imported American privilege.
A national public sphere for people to, it's like a training of their citizenship, preparing for future democracy.
But it didn't change the Chinese political system, and also the Chinese central government utilized this centralized server structure to strengthen its power to counter the local government and the different factions.