SCRIPT 3 – Should Welsh be a Compulsory Subject?

CUE: In Wales, just like Maths, English and Science, Welsh is also a Compulsory Subject at GCSE Level due to a decision by the Welsh Government. Many students have a mixed view on this, but with the number of welsh speakers falling to only 19% of the Welsh population, is it important to keep our language alive through education? P1 and P2 report.

PRESENTER 1: Welsh is a subject, just like every other, that you take up until Year Ten. In Year Ten, it’s time to start those dreaded GCSEs, time to start realising that what you do from now on really does affect your future.

PRESENTER 2: Although, with Welsh, you don’t have to talk to your parents or teachers about whether this is the right subject for you; or whether it will benefit your future. Instead, it’s compulsory. You must continue with Welsh – whether that’s by taking the Short Course or Full Course Option – until you leave school.

PRESENTER 1: For young people, Welsh can be the bane of their existence. A subject that they cannot achieve in, or even enjoy. One that they fail to understand, and cannot grasp. For others though, they love the language, and it being compulsory allows them to take different subjects, knowing they can still learn Welsh.

PRESENTER 2: With the number of Welsh speakers in Wales falling every year, now only 19% of us can actually speak the language Just like other countries around the globe, isn’t Welsh a part of our heritage? A part of our history? So, shouldn’t we all be trying to learn it?

PRESENTER 1: It is thought that the way to make sure there are Welsh speakers in the future is through education. Making Welsh Compulsory means that, not only do we have the next generation of welsh-speakers, but some of these young people may move on from GCSE Welsh by taking it at A Level, and possibly as a Degree.

PRESENTER 2: If young people are planning to work in Wales, having a Welsh GCSE is invaluable. When working, you can’t avoid the fact that being able to speak Welsh is going to make you stand-out from the other people going for a job.

PRESENTER 1: More people learning the language may be a good-option, but what about those that would prefer to be elsewhere? Those that, since they didn’t choose it, feel like it’s unimportant and never try? Wouldn’t it be better to let the ones who want to learn Welsh choose it, to have a class that listens?

PRESENTER 2: Our fellow BBC School Reports decided to quiz the teachers from our school’s Welsh Department about making Welsh Compulsory, and how important it is that young people continue to learn Welsh for as long as possible. Over to you!