



Shopping and Consumer Life

Short-answer questions: Depop and second-hand fashion | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0510/0511

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you read.

1. Would you buy second-hand clothes online?
2. What makes a shopping app attractive to teenagers?
3. Can fashion be both affordable and sustainable?
4. What risks are there when buying from strangers online?

Exercise 1 at a glance

Read one factual text. Answers are in the text. Copy exact words and check the question carefully before choosing your answer.

2. Read for overall understanding

Read the text. Why has Depop become popular with young shoppers?

Depop and Second-hand Fashion

Depop is a shopping app where people buy and sell second-hand, vintage and handmade fashion. It was founded in 2011 and later became especially popular with younger users. The app looks partly like a social media platform: sellers post photos, write descriptions and build a small shop around their personal style.

Second-hand shopping existed long before apps, but Depop changed the way many young people saw it. Instead of searching through a traditional charity shop, users could look for a specific brand, size or style on their phone. They could also follow sellers whose taste matched their own.

For buyers, one attraction is price. A person may find clothes that are cheaper than buying new. Another attraction is individuality. Vintage jackets, reworked jeans or unusual accessories can help someone create a look that is not available in every high-street shop. This matters to users who want to express their own identity through fashion.

For sellers, Depop can be a way to clear out a wardrobe, earn extra money or start a small business. Some sellers photograph items carefully, answer questions quickly and build a loyal group of customers. Others use the app more casually, listing a few items they no longer wear.

Presentation matters on the app. A clear photo, accurate measurements and an honest description can make buyers feel more confident. Some sellers style clothes in creative ways, while others show small faults such as a missing button or faded colour. This is important because buyers cannot touch the item or try it on before paying.

Trends can move quickly on resale apps. A style that becomes popular on social media may suddenly appear in many searches. This can make second-hand clothing feel current rather than old-fashioned. At the same time, it can push prices up if many people want the same brand or vintage item.

There are also trust issues. A buyer may worry that an item will not match the photos, while a seller may worry about late payment or unfair complaints. Reviews, messages and clear shop policies help reduce these problems. Successful users learn that online shopping is not only about finding a bargain; it also depends on communication.

The app also connects with concerns about fast fashion. Buying second-hand can give clothes a longer life and reduce demand for new items. However, it is not a perfect solution. Packaging, delivery and over-buying can still create waste, especially if people treat second-hand shopping as another way to buy too much.

Online shopping also requires care. Buyers need to check descriptions, sizes, seller reviews and return rules. Sellers need to describe items honestly and send them on time. Depop shows how consumer life is changing: shopping is not only about price, but also about style, community, sustainability and trust.

3. Strategy focus

Check who the question is about

Some answers are about buyers and some are about sellers. Before answering, check which person or group the question asks about.

4. Exam-style short-answer questions

Answer the questions using words from the text.

1. What does the app look partly like? [1]

2. What can sellers build around their personal style? [1]

3. What could users follow besides brands or sizes? [1]

4. What can help someone create a look not found in every high-street shop? Give one example. [1]

5. What should sellers do honestly? [1]

6. According to the text, what are three reasons people may use Depop? [3]

5. Vocabulary notebook

Underline five useful words or phrases. Check their meaning, then record them in your vocabulary notebook.

6. Follow-up tasks

1. Discussion: Is second-hand shopping always sustainable?

2. Summary: Summarise Depop in about 50 words.

3. Creative task: Write a clear description for a second-hand jacket.

4. Research: Find another resale app or website.

Shopping and Consumer Life

Short-answer questions: Depop and second-hand fashion

4. Exam-style short-answer questions

1. a social media platform
2. a small shop
3. sellers whose taste matched their own
4. Any one from: vintage jackets; reworked jeans; unusual accessories.
5. describe items
6. Any three from: buy second-hand fashion; find cheaper clothes; express their own identity; clear out a wardrobe; earn extra money / start a small business; give clothes a longer life.

Notes for checking

1. Answers should be short and clearly based on the text.
2. Accept bracketed or optional wording if the meaning is clear.
3. For the final question, learners need three separate details.