**The Sounds of AUS**

**Part 1 The Accent**

1. What are the three types of Australian accent?
2. What advice did you hear in the episode about how to create an Australian accent?

**Part 2 Origins and Regionalism**

1. What sort of accents would have been heard on the First Fleet?
2. What role did children play in the development of the Australian accent during the period of early settlement?

**Parts 3 & 4 The Great Divide and Speaking Properly**

1. Why was ‘The Bulletin’ significant for the Australian accent?
2. What did the Australian accent sound like in the 1890’s?
3. What is surprising about the accent in the recording of the man who was born in 1870?
4. What happened in Australian schools in the mid 1880’s? What change did this represent in attitudes to the Australian accent?
5. At what period was the divide between broad and cultivated accents the greatest?
6. It is suggested that the cultural cringe began in earnest in the 1940’s. What was happening at the ABC and the Australian film industry which illustrates this?

**Part 5 Change**

1. John Clarke describes the mid 1950’s as the beginning of something ‘exciting’. Who were the people, the books and the films that played a role in this exciting period, and how did they achieve this?
2. What events marked the so-called Cultural Revolution in Australia (1968-1972)? How did these events affect people’s attitudes to the Australian accent?
3. Identify the Australian accents of these politicians:
4. Malcom Fraser
5. Bob Hawke
6. John Howard
7. Pauline Hanson

What does this mean about what type of Australian accent is acceptable in politics?

1. What is Aboriginal English? Stan Grant says the accent he uses now is ‘a long way from the accent that I started life with.’ What observations does he make about his accent and the influences on language in the Indigenous community in which he grew up?
2. How do Santo Cilauro and Akmal Saleh explain the peculiarities of the Italian-Australian and Lebanese-Australian accents?
3. Victoria Mieleskwa notes that ‘the Australian accent takes a number of different faces. There isn’t one classic Australian accent.’ What makes her say this? Do you agree with her?

**Part 6 The Future**

1. Do you think the United States or the United Kingdom has had a greater influence on the Australian accent?
2. What effect might globalization have on the Australian accent? Do you think the Australian accent is under threat?
3. It was said in the film that the Australian accent is ‘utterly resilient’, ‘bullet proof’ and that it ‘simply refuses to change’. Do you think this is so, based on what you saw in the film?