The Apprentic (BBC, UK), S01E11 "The Interviews"

Introduction (00:00 - 03:15)
Watch the introduction to the British programme *The Apprentice*. Make notes on what the programme involves and what happened in the last task.

Do you have a similar programme in your country?

Would you watch this programme? Why (not)?

Do you think this is a good way to find a new employee?

How do you think you would do on a programme like this?

The Next Task (06:30 - 09:15)
Watch the next part of the episode in which Sir Alan gives details about this week's task.

What does the task involve?

What do you think the word "gruelling" means when Sir Alan describes the task as a "gruelling interview"?

Do you think it will be an easy or difficult week for the candidates?

The Interviews and Feedback (09:15 - 27:32)
Read the following extracts from the next part of the episode and decide if you think they are positive or negative things to say in a job interview. Then watch the extracts and decide if the interviewer has a positive or negative reaction to the candidate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quote from candidate</th>
<th>Your opinion: positive or negative</th>
<th>Interviewer's opinion: positive or negative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;In order to get a foot through the door I had to make sure that I wasn't discriminated against in any way...I'm not prepared to lie [on my CV], I'm prepared to bend the rules within reason.&quot; (09:55)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;What's unique about me is that...my personality is effervescent, it's magnetism, do you know what I mean? I can work with anybody from shop floor to boardroom...erm, on the street, in an office, whatever it needs and I can mix with everybody because of where I've come from.&quot; (12:15)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
"There’s times when I lose my temper, definitely...I’ve had my collar felt twice...it was a Section B Public Order offence, [but] nothing to do with being drunk and disorderly." (13:12)

Responding to the question, "What don’t you like?" "This is very rude but nevertheless HKLP is actually "holds knife like pen" and I was always told to hold my cutlery in a certain way and it just brings me out in bristles when people don’t!" (17:10)

"I don’t think that [being impulsive, impatient, unreasonable, stubborn and confrontational] are negative skills. People can look at those [skills] and say, well, y’know, blimey I can’t handle that...put me in a business situation, those skills then become quite important." (19:10)

"[My drives comes from] my mother. She brought three kids up by herself and she never complained working three jobs, erm, with three kids and making sure that she gave [us] everything that was necessary. To turn around now and be a lazy bum would be disrespectful to my mother." (21:00)

"Tim doesn’t stop...Tim doesn’t go to the toilet, Tim doesn’t eat, Tim doesn’t smoke; Tim just goes full-on" (21:45)

"What I’ve said is utterly the truth, the fact that I’m not prepared to discuss finance should lead you to think that I’m not here for the cameras but that I’m here, y’know, for..." (23:30)

Re-cap: Describing the Candidates

James  Saira  Tim  Paul

Look at the following adjectives and nouns which have been used to describe the four candidates between 09:15 - 27:32. Are they positive or negative? Which of the candidates do you think they were used to describe? Choose whether you want to watch that part of the video again to check.
Now discuss which candidate you think is the most employable. Try to use some of the words above in your discussion.

Sir Alan Grills the Candidates (30:30 - END)

In the next part of the video the candidates speak directly to Sir Alan and he asks them one final question each. Before you watch, the four questions are below but the order of the words is wrong. Sort out the words to form the questions (it's very difficult but not impossible):

1. take on pay to earth you Why cut? do want a
2. do for come What to want you work for? me
3. experience, lack along you commercial would that? with go You
4. going off Are piss you works to everybody for that me?

Now think about how you would answer the questions above. Choose one of the questions and prepare an answer. There are four piece of vocabulary below that the candidates use when explaining themselves to Sir Alan, make sure you understand what they mean and try to use some of them in your answer. When you have you answer prepared, role play the question. Ask any extra questions to "grill" the person being interviewed.

"my CV talks volumes"
"a brave move"
"a springboard"
"a wide array of business activities"

Now watch the video to the end. Do you think the answers your class prepared are better than the answers the actual candidates give?

What do you think of Sir Alan's final decision?

Ideas for Further Study

- This worksheet skips over some parts of the episode. Go back and watch the episode again, this time watch the episode in its entirety.
- If you are more interested in American accents/US English, you can try the US version of the show starring Donald Trump.