Which do you think was the most important news story last week? Listen to the news and make notes on each story next to the corresponding picture. Then explain what the stories are about.
The former conservative leader Lord Hague has called for a decisive change in the law on cannabis, suggesting that the government should legalise recreational use of the drug. Writing in The Daily Telegraph, he says the case of Billy Caldwell, the boy with epilepsy whose medicinal cannabis oil was confiscated, shows the current approach is out of date. Lord Hague says the war against cannabis has been comprehensively and irreversibly lost and the only beneficiaries from prohibition are organised criminals trading in unregulated drugs.

The head of GCHQ has said the surveillance agency helped to foil terrorist plots in a number of other European countries in the past year. Jeremy Fleming said it was important that the UK and the EU continue to cooperate on security issues after Brexit.

Addiction to computer games has been formally recognized as a medical disorder by the world health organisation. As a result of the condition being listed in the latest edition of the international classification of diseases, sufferers will be eligible for treatment on the NHS.

A union representing lecturers has called for an overhaul of the way university places are offered to students. Saying the reliance on predicted grades is out of step with the rest of the world. The university and college union says no other developed country uses an admission system based on forecast results, most of which turned out to be wrong.

The parliament in Hungary is expected to pass new laws today to make immigration more difficult and to prevent migrants being relocated from other EU countries. The government says the legislation is needed to protect national security. Critics say the measures will demonise asylum seekers and criminalise human rights groups trying to help them.

President Trump is facing pressure to change his zero tolerance immigration policy which is leading to migrant children being separated from their parents after they cross the border into the United States. His own wife, Melania Trump, has expressed concern. The former Republican first lady, Laura Bush, has compared children’s detention centres to internment camps.

The accountancy firm KPMG has been rebuked by the UK regulator for what it’s called an unacceptable decline in the quality of auditing. The financial reporting council is already investigating KPMG’s role as an auditor of Carillion, which collapsed earlier this year. It also found failings at other leading accountancy firms.

The technology firm IBM has held what is described as the first live debate between an artificially intelligent computer and human. The computer named Project Debater argued for more public money for space exploration and greater use of technology to remotely diagnose and treat illnesses.

Post-listening discussion
Discuss these questions with the students:

Which drugs, if any, do you think should be legal?
Do you think security in Europe will be worse after Brexit?
Do you agree that addiction to computer games is a medical disorder?
How are university places offered to students in your country?
What do you think of Hungary’s new laws on immigration?
What do you think of President Trump’s zero tolerance immigration policy?
In which other industries do you think the quality of work is declining?
Do you see artificial intelligence as a threat or benefit to humanity?