**Below we have some statements that can both be argued to be valid, depending on how you view a situation and what research you lean on to support your views. One of each is more ‘woke’, the other may be moderate, center-left or conservative. A nuanced view would take into account both sides of an argument, thinking critically about the information before forming an opinion. Can you think critically and with nuance?**

**White privilege:**

1) There is no such thing as white privilege. There is however, such a thing as majority privilege – this depends on the make-up of a country. For example, in China, the Han-Chinese would have majority privilege. The majority group of any country usually have privilege as usually it is that group who make the rules or have the highest vote-count in a democracy. The vast majority of homeless people in the UK are white and cannot be argued to be very privileged. Privilege today has far more to do with how much wealth you are born into than skin colour.

2) There is such a thing as white privilege. We only have to look at the stop and search records of UK police to see that young black men are discriminated against. Coronavirus hit the BAME communities disproportionately too, which raises questions about whether our BAME communities are able to access the healthcare and services they need as easily as white people and whether they are disproportionally represented in face-to-face service jobs. Look at how much the UK is influenced by white culture, compared to that of BAME communities – and at the make-up of our MPs, only 10% of which are non-white.

**Create a nuanced viewpoint by thinking critically about the two viewpoints and adding your own opinion too:**

**Trans rights (a controversial bathroom access argument):**

1) Trans people are the gender they tell you they are, whether they have had surgery or choose to dress a certain way doesn’t matter. Even if a transwoman has a beard and wears men’s clothes, but tells you they identify as a woman, then you must accept this and you should never reject a person’s validity or erase their existence based on your prejudice. Remember, many women do wear trousers, and some have facial hair too. If a trans woman is dressed in such a way and uses a female-labelled bathroom then that is no different from a woman in trousers with facial hair using the toilets. To say otherwise is bigoted and transphobic.

2) If a transwoman really does identity as a woman, they probably should make the effort to shave off their beard and dress in a more feminine way in order to ‘pass’ in society and appear as less of a threat when they use the female bathroom. Some women might feel a bit threatened by what appears to be a male using the female bathroom. If someone can just say they are female, and make no effort to appear as such, how does that stop predators from stating they are female for the day just to invade women’s spaces? Real transwomen people commit to appearing feminine and change their appearance to appear feminine.

**Create a nuanced viewpoint by thinking critically about the two viewpoints and adding your own opinion too:**

**The idea of truth:**

1) Truth is very much dependent on culture. We tend to think of there being scientific truths – water boils at 100 degrees, 2+2 =4, there is nothing colder than absolute zero. In western culture we also have clear ways of defining if something is alive or not. However, in some Native American cultures, for example, their truth different to ours. They recognise certain tribal artifacts to be alive and treat them as such, as they contain the spirits ancestors. This is not a belief, this is a truth, just as valid as any other. For white western culture to state this is a belief and not a truth is a marker of white privilege.

2) Scientific truth is not subjective. Whether something is alive or not is not a matter of opinion, based on culture. We can respect beliefs of other cultures, such as religious ideas, but there are fundamental truths that transcend culture. Whether something is alive or not is one of those fundamental truths and it is not a marker of white privilege to say so. Even if there were no humans to dispute maths, 2+2 would always be 4.

 **Create a nuanced viewpoint by thinking critically about the two viewpoints and adding your own opinion too:**

**The abilities and careers of males and females:**

1) Women in the STEM subjects are vastly underrepresented. Females are just as good at maths and science as males, so this should not be the case. This must mean that society is somehow subtly dissuading girls from pursuing STEM careers. There could be a number of reasons for this – sexism from employers when hiring, the reputation of some careers as being more male oriented, such as engineering - as women may feel intimidated by being the only female in the workplace. The conditioning that works against women entering STEM starts at an early age, when we hand little boys cars to play with and little girls, Barbies.

2) There is nothing to stop women from entering STEM careers. Some studies have shown that if we were to plot the amount of males and females on a graph according to their maths and science ability, there would be more males in the very good part of the graph, yet also more men in the very poor part of the graph. The females made up a large spread in the middle, with fewer on the extreme ends of the spectrum. This could account for the very top STEM positions being mostly taken by men. We should also take into account that it is harder, generally, for women to work themselves to the very top of any sector as they often take time off for maternity and after this, often take on the majority of childcare. They may also not choose to work in high pressured careers as a personal preference too.

**Create a nuanced viewpoint by thinking critically about the two viewpoints and adding your own opinion too:**