Which is the correct modal?

1 Choose the correct modal to fit the gap in each of the sentences below.

a) Melissa can/can’t/couldn’t be thinking of pulling out of the play at such short notice!

b) I must/will/might as well just carry on working as nobody’s called to arrange tonight’s dinner.

c) There’s no pressure, we don’t have to/mustn’t/won’t turn up at the party at all if we don’t feel like it.

d) I do like Alfie but sometimes he should/could/can be so indifferent to life. I don’t understand it.

e) People working under enormous pressure are likely/are supposed/need to wear themselves out if they’re not careful.

f) I mustn’t/will/shouldn’t think the journey to the coast will take more than two hours.

g) Knowing our luck it’s will/should/bound to pour down with rain when we go on holiday!

h) It looks as if the meeting will go on quite late. We should/mustn’t/might need to get a taxi home.

i) You will/should/ought to see a play or a musical in London before you go home.

j) Must/Need/Can I borrow your car tomorrow, please, David?

2 Now discuss the questions below with your partner. Give reasons for your answers.

a) Is there anything you need to do this weekend?

b) Are you likely to visit a town, city or country that you’ve never been to this year?

c) If a friend were to give you a piece of advice at the moment, what would it be? Complete the sentence: You should...........................................

d) Describe a characteristic of one of your friends: He/She can be...........................................

e) Are you supposed to do anything today that seems like a big effort?
Which is the correct modal?

TEACHER’S NOTES:

Aim: to provide further practice of modals. This worksheet is designed to be used in conjunction with unit 10.1.

Time: 40 minutes

Materials: copy of the worksheet for each student

1. Ask students to work through the sentences and decide which modal best fits the context of each sentence. Elicit answers from the class.

   Answers: a) can’t; b) might; c) don’t have to; d) can; e) are likely; f) shouldn’t; g) bound; h) might; i) ought; j) Can

2. Students discuss the questions, which use modals, with each other. Monitor as they work and ask for class feedback at the end of the activity.