AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC MINISTRY of EDUCATION

AZERBAJAN UNIVERSITY OF LANGUAGES

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SOCIETY
AND SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Manual

Approved and Recommended for Publication by AUL Scientific Council on 28 february 2018 (min. 15)

Baku – Mutarjim – 2018

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Society and Social Behaviour. *Manual.*
– Baku: Mutarjim, 2018. – 184 p.

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FOREWORD

Human nature gives rise to certain basic needs which are physical, psychological and spiritual in character. These characteristics of person impel people to satisfy their needs by establishing a society.

The given subject is the integrated study of the social sciences and the humanities to promote civic competence and the third-year students simultaneously assume a rich source of large vocabulary.

The goal is reached through the active participation of students in discussions, covering the whole course. The individual activity of students in searching and mastering the necessary materials and the discussions, occupying a significant part of the lesson creates the ability of communication. Such communication will be the best way for mastering the English language, espousing to the structure of the language.

The students are offered a variety of interesting activities in which they discuss the topic of the unit and exchange ideas about it. They will learn important new words and phrases which they can use when they carry out the tasks in the unit. The students will build up their confidence in using English and will improve their fluency through interesting discussion activities.

The students' participation in class discussions, role plays and group projects are important and is an essential part of their grade. The students are expected to take an active role in class activities and remember their contribution to the activities.

The students will be required to lead formal presentations. Speaking and listening is the main focus. Reading will be necessary. Writing can be set for homework.

We hope you'll enjoy learning and presenting these topics, communication exercises.

The authors

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIETY
AND SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

In physiology and sociology, social behaviour is behaviour directed towards society, or taking place between members of the same species. Behaviours such as predation which involves members of different species are not social. While many social behaviours are communication (i.e., they provoke a response or a change in behaviour without acting directly on the receiver), communication between members of different species is not social behaviour. Specific social behaviours include aggression, altruism, shyness and scapegoating.

Aggression is overt, often harmful, social interaction with the intention of inflicting damage or other unpleasantness upon another individual. It is a virtually universal behaviour among people. Altruism or selflessness is the principle or practice of concern for the welfare of others. Altruism or selflessness is the opposite of selfishness. Scapegoating (from the verb "to scapegoat") is the practice of singling out any party for unmerited negative treatment or blame as a scapegoat.

The primary defining characteristic of shyness is a largely ego-driven fear of what other people will think of a person's behaviour, which results in the person becoming scared of doing or saying what he or she wants to, out of fear of negative reactions, criticism, rejection, and simply opting to avoid social situations instead.

WORDS USED TO DESCRIBE WAYS OF LIVING

Austere *adj.*	*an austere way of living is simple and not very comfortable*
Back-to-nature *adj.*	*involving a simpler, more relaxed life in which you leave the city, grow your own food, and use less modern technology*
Enclosed *adj.*	*an enclosed community or way of life does not have much communication with the outside world*
Fast *adj.*	*a fast way of life is one in which you travel a lot, meet a lot of people, and do a lot of exciting things*
Monastic *adj.*	*a monastic way of life is quiet and simple*
Nomadic *adj.*	*moving from place to place rather than staying in one place*
Outdoorsy *adj.* *(informal)*	*enjoying outdoor activities like camping and walking*
Sedentary *adj.*	*involving a lot of sitting and not much exercise*

Vocabulary exercise

Find the word reference to the explanation:

A quiet and simple way of life

Simple and not so comfortable way of life

A way of life when you meet a lot of people, travel a lot and do a lot of exciting things

Moving from one place to other rather than to stay in one place

What comes to your mind when you hear the word "society"?

S _____

O _____

C _____

I _____

E _____

T _____

Y _____

Questions for Discussion

What is society?

1. What kind of improvements would you like to see in your society?

2. What makes you angry about today's society?

3. What is a perfect society for you?

4. How has technology changed society?

Answer the following question expressing your ideas in 5-7 sentences.

What do you think are the characteristics of a good member of society?

Sample question:

Is society getting better or worse? Are people less honest, less civilized, and less polite than in the past?

Sample answer:

I think that contemporary society is getting worse. Though the world looks more organized and efficient things are more complex. People have lost each other, everything is done digitally. I think the more dependent we become on things like the Internet, the more dangerous it becomes. In terms of ethics and treatment to people, I believe society is getting much worse. People are rude to each other, children are disrespectful to their parents, and people curse much more freely. Society as a whole is more violent than it was in the past.

IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR
IN MODERN SOCIETY

Social behaviour is a term used to describe the general conduct exhibited by individuals within a society. It is essentially in response to what is deemed acceptable by a person's peer group or involves avoiding behaviour that is characterized as unacceptable. This type of human behaviour primarily determines how individuals interact with one another within a group or society. While social conduct is often modeled to create a comfortable social environment, anti-social behaviour, such as aggression, scapegoating and group bullying, may also be defined as negative social behaviour, particularly in instances where other individuals within a peer group all behave accordingly.

Studies of massive human rights violations have helped illustrate the extent by which harmful, but socially acceptable, behaviours have persisted in some societies. Examples of widespread acceptance of negative behaviour within a peer group include historical incidents of mass genocide and human enslavement.

With the use of specially designed behaviour therapies and programs, doctors, educators and others in modern society can help individuals who are suffering from social disorders, such as shyness or unrestrained anger, learn how to overcome these issues to become more productive members of society. Not only is the study of how social conduct affects members of mainstream society important, but in studying anti-social behaviour, in particular, mental health professionals are able to help people isolated from society become rehabilitated and engage in positive interactions with others.

Questions for discussion:

1. Is there any behaviour that you would not find acceptable?

2. Can you think of a behaviour that is "good" in one culture and "bad" in another?

3. What are the ways of overcoming social disorders?

4. How can anti-social behaviour affect the society?

5. What influences people's social behaviour?

6. Do you think it's possible to change one's social behaviour? If yes, how?

7. Does economic status affect people's social behaviour? If yes, how?

GW *Give examples of two types of behaviour:*

BEHAVIOUR

SOCIAL

ANTI-SOCIAL

AMERICAN SOCIETY

MODERN	**COURAGEOUS**	**GENEROUS**
INTREPID	**INDUSTRIOUS**	**INNOVATIVE**
DIVERSE	**SHARING**	**CREATIVE**
INDEPENDENT	**PROGRESSIVE**	**UNITED**
SECULAR	**SELF-ABSORBED AMBITIOUS**	

Vocabulary exercise:

Here are some ideas collected from sites that discuss Americans with foreigners. Look through, odd out the ones you think can't describe the Americans and then add at least 5 adjectives that can describe them and try to prove it. Here goes:

- ✓ Friendly
- ✓ Generous
- ✓ Hard-Working; Workaholics
- ✓ Slim
- ✓ Uninterested in other cultures

- ✓ Religious;
- ✓ Great disparity between the rich and poor
- ✓ Shallow or superficial (goes along with friendly)
- ✓ Pessimistic
- ✓ Loud
- ✓ Live with lots luxuries
- ✓ Rich/Wealthy
- ✓ Not family-oriented (nursing homes, etc.)

What images spring to mind when you hear about the USA?

What do you think about American people?

American Society

What has the USA given to the world?

What do you know about American culture?

AMERICAN SOCIETY

The society or culture of the United States is a Western culture, and has been developing since long before the United States became a country with its own unique social and cultural characteristics such as dialect, music, arts, social habits, cuisine, folklore, etc. Today the United States of America is an ethnically and racially diverse country as result of large-scale immigration from many different countries throughout its history.

Its chief early influences came from English and Irish settlers of colonial America. British culture, due to colonial ties with Britain that spread the English language, legal system and other cultural inheritances, had a formative influence. Other important influences came from other parts of Europe.

The United States has often been thought of as a melting pot, but recent developments tend towards cultural diversity, pluralism and the image of a salad bowl rather than a melting pot. Due to the extent of American culture there are many integrated but unique social subcultures within the United States.

The cultural affiliations an individual in the United States may have commonly depend on social class, political orientation and a multitude of demographic characteristics such as religious background, occupation and ethnic group membership. The strongest influences on American culture came from northern European cultures, most prominently from Britain, Ireland, and Germany.

GW: 1. *Give examples of influences of American culture over other cultures, including your country. In what way is your culture influenced by the American model? Express your ideas in 5-7 sentences.*

2. List three things that you think are unique, different or interesting about people from the USA. List three reasons why you believe that people are that way.

1. Which aspect of American culture do you like most?

2. What is your idea of a typical American person?

3. What is the USA most famous for?

4. How is your culture different from the US culture? In what way is it similar?

5. For what reasons is the USA ethnically and racially diverse country?

6. What things about the USA do you think Americans are proud of?

7. What cultures had the strongest influence on American culture?

The American Way of Life

SOME MAJOR U.S. AMERICAN VALUES

Individuality: U.S. Americans are encouraged at an early age to be independent and to develop their own goals in life. They are encouraged not to depend (too much) on others including their friends, teachers and parents. They are rewarded when they try harder to reach their goals.

Privacy: U.S. Americans like their privacy and enjoy spending time alone. Foreign visitors will find U.S. American homes and offices open, but what is inside the American mind is considered to be private. To ask the question "What is on your mind?" may be considered by some to be intrusive.

Equality: U.S. Americans uphold the ideal that everyone "is created equal" and has the same rights. This includes women as well as men of all ethnic and cultural groups living in the U.S. There are even laws that protect this "right to equality" in its various forms. The general lack of deference to people in authority is one example of equality. Titles, such as "sir" and "madam" are seldom used. Managers, directors, presidents and even university instructors are often addressed by their first or given name.

Time: U.S. Americans take pride in making the best use of their time. In the business world, "time is money". Being "on time" for class, an appointment, or for dinner with your host family is important. U.S. Americans apologize if they are late. Some instructors give demerits to students who are late to class, and students at most universities have institutional permission to leave the classroom if their instructor is 10 or 15 minutes late.

Informality: The U.S. American lifestyle is generally casual. You will see students going to class in shorts and t-shirts. Male instructors seldom wear a tie and some may even wear blue jeans. Female instructors often wear slacks along with comfortable walking shoes. Greetings and farewells are usually short, informal and friendly. Students may greet each other with "hi", "how are you"? and "what's up"? The farewell can be as brief as: or, "come by some time" (although they generally don't really mean it).

Friendships are also casual, as Americans seem to easily develop and end friendships.

Achievement & Hard Work/Play: The foreign visitor is often impressed at how achievement oriented Americans are and how hard they both work and play. A competitive spirit is often the motivating factor to work harder. Americans often compete with themselves as well as others. They feel good when they "beat their own record" in an athletic event or other types of competition. Americans seem to always be "on the go", because sitting quietly doing nothing seems like a waste of time.

Direct & Assertive: U.S. Americans try to work out their differences face-to-face and without a mediator. They are encouraged to speak up and give their opinions. Students are often invited to challenge or disagree with certain points in the lecture. This manner of direct speaking is often interpreted by foreign visitors as rude.

Looking to the Future and to Change: Children are often asked what they want to be "when they grow up"; college students are asked what they will do when they graduate; and professors plan what they will do when they retire. Change is often equated with progress and holding on to traditions seems to imply old and outdated ways. Even though Americans are recycling more than before many purchased products are designed to have a short life and then be thrown away.

BRITISH SOCIETY

ANCESTRAL **ADDICTING** **FABULUOUS** **CONTENT** **MOODY** **DIRECT**	**SARCASTIC** **CONSERVATIVE** **MODEST** **SUPERSTITIOUS** **SOPHISTICATED** **INTELLIGENT**

Give at least 1 synonym for the following words:
Content

_____

Sophisticated

_____

Intelligent

_____

Fabulous

_____

Direct

_____

UK SOCIETY

What is the first country you think of when you hear the word UK?

How would you describe British people?

What do you know about British culture?
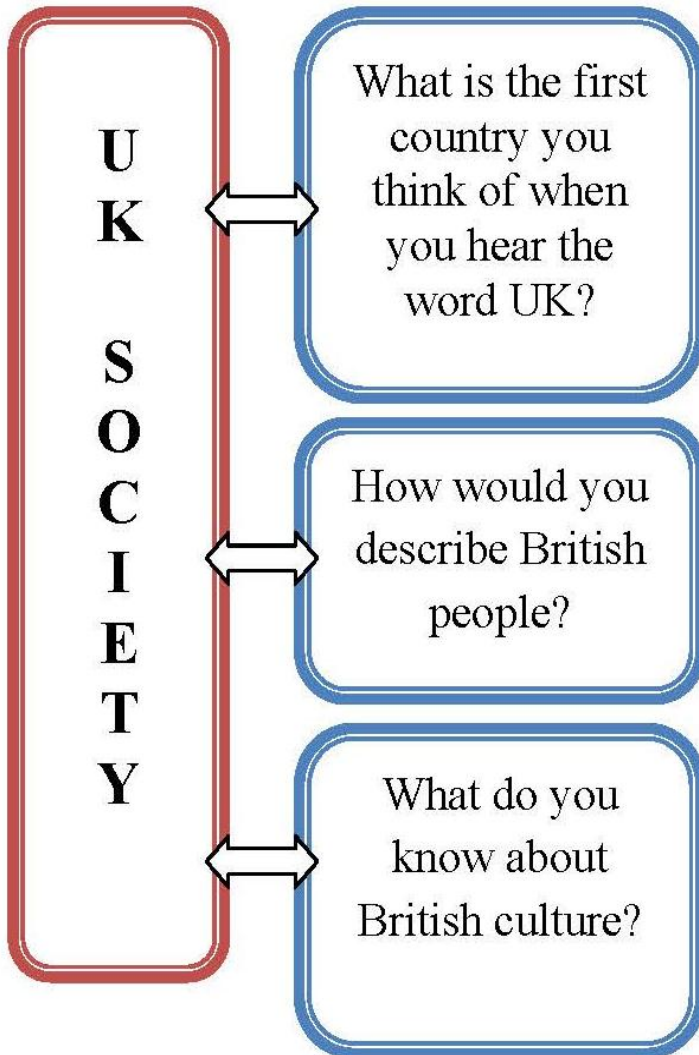
UK SOCIETY

The social structure of the United Kingdom has historically been highly influenced by the concept of social class, with the concept still affecting British society in the early 21st century.

British society, like its European neighbours and most societies in world history, was traditionally (before the Industrial Revolution) divided hierarchically within a system that involved the hereditary transmission of occupation, social status and political influence. Since the advent of industrialisation, this system has been in a constant state of revision, and new factors other than birth (for example, education) are now a greater part of creating identity in Britain.

Although definitions of social class in the United Kingdom vary and are highly controversial, most are influenced by factors of wealth, occupation and education. Until recently the Parliament of the United Kingdom was organized on a class basis, with the House of Lords representing the hereditary upper class and the House of Commons representing everyone else, and the British monarch is usually viewed as being at the top of the social class structure. British society has experienced significant change since the Second World War, including an expansion of higher education and home-ownership, a shift towards a services-dominated economy, mass immigration, a changing role for women and a more individualistic culture, and these changes have had a considerable impact on the social landscape. However, claims that the UK has become a classless society have frequently been met with skepticism. Research has shown that social status in the United Kingdom is influenced by, although separate from, social class.

GW: *What images represent England to you? Work in groups on your top 5 English icons. Compare your answers with your group mates.*

1. How important is social class in Britain today?

2. What important events influenced the social structure of the British culture?

3. Can you think of any examples of how we are influenced by the British culture?

4. Which famous people do you consider to be English icons?

5. How do you think British culture differs from American culture?

The British people as they are

Great Britain is an island on the outer edge of the European continent, and its geographical situation has produced a certain insular spirit among its inhabitants, who tend, a little more perhaps than other people, to regard their own community as the centre of the world. The insularity produces a certain particularism among the numerous groups of whom the whole community is composed. The British look on foreigners in general with contempt and think that nothing is as well done elsewhere as in their own country. The British people have also been known as superior, snobbish, aloof, hypocritical and unsociable.

These characteristics have been noted by people from all over the world, but are they typical of all the Britons? The ordinary Briton was seen to be friendly and sociable. There are indeed two nations, with basically different outlooks and characters, in Britain. The two nations are defined simply as the rich and the poor. The traditional opinion about the British, or the English in earlier centuries, was based on the habits of those Britons who could afford to travel, the diplomats and merchants. English vanity and arrogance grew as England fought off the competition from other European countries and became the world's leading trading nation, going on to industrialize rapidly.

Englishmen tend to be rather conservative, they love familiar things. They are hostile, or at least bored, when they hear any suggestion that some modification of their habits, or the introduction of something new and unknown into their lives, might be to their advantage. This conservatism, on a national scale, may be illustrated by reference to the public attitude to the monarchy, an institution which is held in affection and reverence by nearly all English people.

Britain is supposed to be the land of law and order. Part of the British sense for law and orderliness is a love of precedent. For an Englishman, the best of all reasons for doing something in a certain way is that it has always been done in that way.

The Britons are practical and realistic; they are infatuated with common sense. They are not misled by romantic delusions.

The English sense and feeling for privacy is notorious. England is the land of brick fences and stone walls (often with glass embedded along the top), of hedges, of thick draperies at all the windows, and reluctant introductions, but nothing is stable now. English people rarely shake hands except when being introduced to someone for the first time. They hardly ever shake hands with their friends except seeing them after a long interval or saying good-bye before a long journey.

Snobbery is not so common in England today as it was at the beginning of the 19th century. It still exists, and advertisers know how to use it in order to sell their goods. The advertisers are very clever in their use of snobbery. Motorcar manufactures, for example, advertise the colour of their cars as "Embassy Black" or "Balmoral Stone". Embassy black is plain, ordinary black, but the name suggests diplomats and all the social importance that surrounds them, and this is what the snobs need.

Most people in Britain work a five-day week, from Monday to Friday; schools, colleges and universities are also closed on Saturdays and Sundays. As Friday comes along, as people leave work they say to each other, "Have a nice week-end." Then on Monday morning they ask, "Did you have a nice week-end?"

On Sunday mid-mornings most British people indulge in some fairly light activities such as gardening, washing the car, shelling peas or chopping mint for Sunday lunch, or taking the dog for a walk. Another most popular pre-lunch activity consists of a visit to a "pub" – either a walk to the "local", or often nowadays a drive to a more pleasant "country pub" if one lives in a built-up area. The national drink in England is beer, and the "pub", where Englishmen go to drink to, is a peculiarly English institution.

Much leisure time is spent in individualistic pursuits, of which the most popular is gardening. Most English people love gardens, their own above all, and this is probably one reason why so many people prefer to live in houses rather than flats.

The British people are the world's greatest tea drinkers. They drink a quarter of all the tea grown in the world each year. Many of them drink tea on at least eight different occasions during the day.

The working people of Britain have had a long tradition of democracy, not so much in the sense of creating formal institutions, but in the active sense of popular cooperation to uphold the will of the people.

What exactly is British teatime?

Do the British really get together every afternoon at 4 to sit and drink several cups of tea? I'm sorry to disappoint, but it's simply not true. They drink over 150 million cups of tea a day in Britain, but there is no special time for the nation's favourite drink. British people will drink tea all day whether morning, noon or night. There are reasons for the confusion surrounding 'teatime', however.

'Tea' is widely used as a name for the evening meal. This is more common in Scotland and the north of England but you can hear it all over the country. Usually it is the main meal of the day, eaten between 5 and 7. So, 'teatime' refers to the meal and not the drink. In the south, the evening meal is often called dinner, while dinner in the north is the midday meal. Many heated debates can happen between southerners and northerners about the right name, but in general:

North: Breakfast - Dinner - Teatime
South: Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner

What about tea breaks? Tea breaks are simply an opportunity to have a rest from work for around 10 minutes. In this time you can drink *whatever* you like (which of course includes tea). This is usually with a small snack, like biscuits for dunking. The best time for a tea break is mid-morning around 11 or mid-afternoon around 3.

But what about tea rooms? A tea room is the perfect place to go with friends and family to enjoy tea, cakes, sandwiches and pastries. This is known as afternoon tea and is usually saved for special occasions such as a birthday or engagement party. In Devon and Cornwall, afternoon tea is served with scones and locally made clotted cream and strawberry jam - they call this a cream tea. While a rare occasion for Brits, tea rooms are very popular with tourists and are definitely worth a visit.

AZERBAIJAN SOCIETY

	HOSPITABLE OPEN MINDED FRIENDLY CONSCIENTIOUS PROUD RESPONSIBLE WELL MANNERED PARTICULAR SYMPATHETIC TO LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE BROAD MINDED TO USE ONE'S INITIATIVE

<u>**Vocabulary exercise:**</u>

The words given in the box can definitely describe Azerbaijanis. Prove each of them giving examples from real life:

	Sympathetic_____ **Hospitable** _____ **Well mannered**_____ **Friendly**_____ **Look on the bright side** _____	

A Z E R B A I J A N   S O C I E T Y

What images spring to mind when you hear the country Azerbaijan?

What contributions has Azerbaijan made to the world?

What should Azerbaijanis be proud of?

AZERBAIJAN SOCIETY

Azerbaijan, a miraculous country with its unlimited natural resources, centuries-old culture, history and ancient people attracts everybody's attention. Its lifestyle presents a unique and harmonious combination of the traditions and ceremonies of different cultures and civilizations.

Azerbaijan is one of the most ancient sites of humankind. The humankind was present here at every stage of their historical development. There were living settlements in Azerbaijan even at the earliest stages of humankind. Azerbaijan made its own contribution into the establishment of the current culture and civilization, progress and dialectics. The time kept a range of ancient archeological and architectural monuments for us. The ancient headstones, manuscripts and models of carpets, preserved to the present times from the ancient ages, can provide much information to those who can and want to read them. If you wish to understand Azerbaijan and to know everything about it, you need to look at this country and its people with a friend's eyes.

Azerbaijan is a country of ancient culture. The Oghuz tribes which moved here and stayed for ages have found a deeply rooted culture and in their turn enriched it with Turkic national traditions. The talented and creative powers of our nation are personified in such epic monuments as "Kitabi-Dede Gorgud", "Oghuznama", "Koroglu" and many others.

This fertile, generous and friendly land was the home of many thinkers, philosophers, scientists, poets, architects, musicians and artists. A legend tells that Zardusht was born in this land. Azerbaijan also enriched the humankind with such genii as Nizami Ganjavi, Hagani Shirvani, Bahmanyar, Nasimi, Fizuli, Nasreddin Tusi, Shah Ismail Khatai, Mullah Paneh Vagif, A.Bakikhanov, M.F.Akhundov, M.A.Sabir, J.Mammadguluzadeh, Huseyn Javid, J.Jabbarli, Samad Vurgun, Aliagha Vahid, Rasul Rza and others.

Having a rich culture Azerbaijan was immortalized by such talented painters as Sattar Bahlulzadeh, Tahir Salahov, Toghrul Narimanbeyov, Mikail Abdullayev and many others.

Our national music – mugham – inspired such outstanding composers as Uzeyir Hajibeyov, Muslim Magomayev, Gara Garayev, Fikret Amirov, Niyazi, Arif Melikov and others to create their masterpieces, which are still known today throughout the world. It also gave the inspiration to such wonderful vocalists as Bulbul and Rashid Behbudov.

It seems that the famous Azerbaijan carpets are the incarnation of all colours of nature and of all signs of history. Today, these carpets magically pass the borders of time and space and travel from Azerbaijan to foreign countries far away.

The science and the enlightenment in Azerbaijan have a centuries-old history. The Baku State University was founded in 1919. The National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan plays an exceptional role in scientific, educational and cultural development of Azerbaijan. Local scientists are currently studying such important issues as the depths of the Caspian Sea, space exploration and the secrets of human brain.

The existing educational system of Azerbaijan is made of dozens of higher educational institutions and technical schools, thousands of high schools, colleges and lyceums.

Today, state power in the Republic of Azerbaijan is based on the principle of separation of powers and power is divided into legislative, executive and judicial powers. In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, the legislative, executive and judicial powers interact and are independent within their powers. Azerbaijan, being the largest of the states in the South Caucasus in respect of the population, is a democratic, legal, secular, unitary republic. The number of registered political parties in the country as a whole is 51.

PW: *Write about famous Azerbaijanis who have made great contributions to the world culture.*

1. What cultures had influenced Azerbaijani culture?

2. In what way has Azerbaijan changed over the last 10 years?

3. What are some misunderstood aspects of Azerbaijani culture?

4. What traditions and customs of Azerbaijani culture do you like most?

5. What is the main cultural heritage of Azerbaijan?

Famous Azerbaijanis

Azerbaijan is a land best known for its crochets, contrasts and contradictions. But this nation is also home to a string of unusual wonders like world's first fireplace and burning mountain. It is incredible to know that even amid the territorial tensions and war, the country has managed to produce a wad of visionaries, innovators and artistes and claim several Nobel Prizes too, thereby carving a niche for itself in the global map. The country has given the world many notable names to look up to and be inspired by. Here is the life and deeds of such a famous Azerbaijani.

Lotfi Zadeh

Father of Mathematical "Fuzzy Logic"

Lotfi Zadeh, the computer scientist and electrical engineer, who is mentioned in the same breath as Aristotle and Albert Einstein, was born in Baku, Azerbaijan on February 4, l92l. The young Zadeh grew up in Iran. Graduating from the University of Tehran in 1942 with a degree in electrical engineering, he moved to the US and took a Master's degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1946 and a Ph.D. from Columbia (New York) in 1949, where he began teaching systems theory. Zadeh taught for ten years at Columbia, was promoted to Full Professor in 1957, and taught at the University of California, Berkeley from 1959, first in the Electrical Engineering Department where he became Chair in 1963, and later in the Computer Science Division.

Since 1959 Zadeh has taught at Berkeley. Lotfi Zadeh is best known for proposing the fuzzy mathematics in the 1960s. The theory of fuzzy logic caused a revolution worldwide and entirely changed the concept of cybernetics and played an important role in space satellites, cognition and the study of images, the Earth and the Universe, and in research into UFOs.

The essence of fuzzy logic is that the world is a variety of shades - from black to white. To put it scientifically, in this world nothing is absolute in mathematical terms, as everything varies to a certain degree on a scale of 0-1, thus, between zero and one there are dozens, hundreds, of other shades. The word "fuzzy" is used because the borders of white and whitish, scarlet and red are fuzzy; there is a continuous transition from one to the other.

The theory is widely applied in all areas of modern industry - robotics, mechanical engineering, electronics, fifth and sixth generation super computers and defense technology.

The theory of fuzzy logic forms the basis of fuzzy technology throughout the world. The theory plays an important role in the US space program. In Japan camera and video equipment are produced on the basis of fuzzy logic while in Europe a variety of "smart" systems operate on fuzzy logic.

A world-renowned Azerbaijani scientist, founder of fuzzy logic Lotfi Zadeh passed away in California on September 6, 2017 aged 96.

SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN SOCIETY

UNEMPLOYMENT   **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

POLLUTION   **RACISM**

AIDS   **DRUGS**

CONFLICT   **DIVORCE**

FOR FEAR OF
TO BE UNABLE TO THINK STRAIGHT
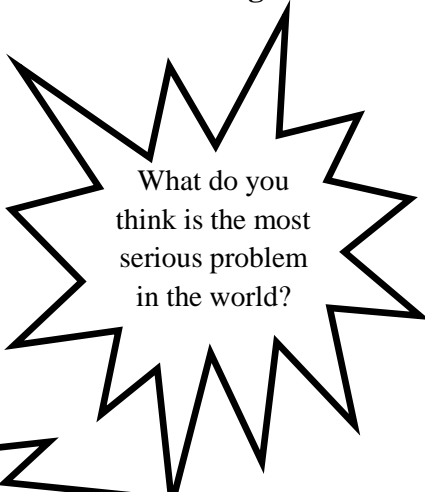**TO HAVE HAD ENOUGH**
TO BE REDUCED TO

Vocabulary exercise:

Answer the following question:

1. **What are the people usually reduced to?**
2. **What haven't you done for fear of your future?**
3. **What have you had enough?**
4. **When are you usually unable to think straight?**

How do you define a social problem?

What do you think is the most serious problem in the world?

What are the biggest social problems affecting your country?

SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN MODERN SOCIETY

Social problems affect every society, great and small. Even in relatively isolated, sparsely populated areas, a group will encounter social problems. Part of this is due to the fact that any members of a society living close enough together will have conflicts. It's virtually impossible to avoid them, and even people who live together in the same house don't always get along seamlessly. On the whole, though, when social problems are mentioned they tend to refer to the problems that affect people living together in a society.

The list of social problems is huge and not identical from area to area. In the US, some predominant social issues include the growing divisions between rich and poor, domestic violence, unemployment, pollution, urban decay, racism and sexism, and many others. Strong disagreements on how to solve problems create divisions in social groups. The issue of massive poverty, food shortages, lack of basic hygiene, spread of incurable diseases, ethnic cleansing, and lack of education inhibits the development of society. It would be easy to assume that a social problem only affects the people whom it directly touches, but this is not the case. Easy spread of disease for instance may tamper with the society at large, and it's easy to see how this has operated in certain areas of Africa. The spread of AIDs for instance has created more social problems because it is costly, it is a danger to all members of society, and it leaves many children without parents.

It's also important to understand that social problems within a society affect its interaction with other societies, which may lead to global problems or issues. The very nature of social problems suggests that society itself is a problem. No country has perfected a society where all are happy and where no problems exist.

GW: *Work with your group mates to consider the following social problems.*

Express your ideas in 5-7 sentences.

1. Immigration

Should new immigrants be limited?

2. **Crime**

How can the rate of crime be reduced?

3. Human rights

What is the most important human right? Why?

4. Poverty

What should be government's role in eliminating poverty or reducing its negative effects?

5. Drugs

Are drugs a danger that must be eliminated?

6. The Death Penalty

Does the execution of violent criminals reduce crime?

7. Animal Rights

Is it ethical to use animals in scientific experiments, to hunt them or to eat them?

Questions for discussion:

1. Are social problems a result of an individual or a social system?

2. What can we do to fix and prevent social problems?

3. What are some ways we can help homeless people?

4. What would be the world like if everyone respected the human rights?

5. Do you find it possible that everyone in the world will have the same rights in the future? Why/Why not?

THE LONELINESS EPIDEMIC

Social pain is as real a sensation for us as physical pain, and research has shown loneliness impacts on health in a greater way than smoking or obesity.

Modern life is making us lonelier, and recent research indicates that this may be the next biggest public health issue on par with obesity and substance abuse. A recent review of studies indicates that loneliness increases mortality risk by 26%.

Loneliness is an increasing problem in modern life. The Church Urban Fund and the Church of England found a rise of 10 per cent in the last three years in clergy members who felt that social isolation was a major problem in their local area. Another survey by the Mental Health Foundation found that in the UK one in ten of us feels lonely often and 48 per cent of people think we are getting lonelier in general. Britain has even been voted the loneliness capital of Europe.

So why are we getting lonelier? Changes in modern society are considered to be the cause. We live in nuclear family units, often living large distances away from our extended family and friends, and our growing reliance on social technology rather than face to face interaction is thought to be making us feel more isolated. It means we feel less connected to others and our relationships are becoming more superficial and less rewarding.

We are social animals and need to feel that we "belong" to others and feel connected to one another. Social pain is as real a

sensation for us as physical pain; researchers have shown that loneliness and rejection activates the same parts of the brain as physical pain.

Loneliness affects all of us at some point in our lives. Relocating to a new area, losing a loved one, and starting a course at university are all key times when people feel lonely. Research suggests that this experience of loneliness is useful to us as it motivates us to reconnect with others and to seek out new friendships to reduce the "social pain" that we feel. But for some, when reconnection is not easy or not possible, if a person is socially isolated, people can remain in this uncomfortable loneliness state for a number of years.

For those that experience loneliness for a long time, research has shown that this impacts on their health in a greater way than smoking 15 cigarettes a day or being obese. Loneliness has also been linked to poor mental health. In a survey by Mental Health Foundation, more than a third of people surveyed had felt depressed as a result of feeling lonely.

There are a number of myths regarding who experiences loneliness. Certainly all of us feel it from time to time, but it is commonly known that loneliness particularly affects the elderly who may be socially isolated due to decreased mobility and loss of friends and partners. But it is not often acknowledged that loneliness also effects people at all ages, including children, and is particularly prevalent in the teenage years. Studies have shown that between 20 and 80 per cent of adolescents report feeling lonely often, which is compared to 40 to 50 per cent in an elderly population.

Another myth is that loneliness is typically associated with being alone, but it also affects people when they are surrounded by others and well-connected socially. This is because loneliness is about the quality rather than the quantity of relationships that we have, so a person may have a lot of friends but still find that their needs for social contact are not met.

What can we do to reduce loneliness?

GENDER PROBLEMS

FEMINISM

TO INSULT

TO TALK DOWN TO SMB

NOT TO DARE

TO GET SMB DOWN

MISERY

RESENTFUL

SPITEFUL

TO LOOK UP TO SMB

Why does gender inequality exist?

Do women in your country earn less than men for doing the same job?

How do the roles of men and women differ in the family in your country?

Are gender differences mainly because of biology or more because of socialization?

GENDER PROBLEMS AND SOCIETY

In addition to age, gender is one of the universal dimensions on which status differences are based. Unlike sex, which is a biological concept, gender is a social construct specifying the socially and culturally prescribed roles that men and women are to follow. According to Gerda Lerner in *The Creation of Patriarchy*, gender is the "costume, a mask, a straitjacket in which men and women dance their unequal dance". As Alan Wolfe observed in "The Gender Question", "of all the ways that one group has systematically mistreated another, none is more deeply rooted than the way men have subordinated women. All other discriminations pale by contrast." Lerner argues that the subordination of women preceded all other subordinations and that to rid ourselves of all of those other "isms" - racism, classism, ageism, etc. - it is sexism that must first be eradicated.

Women have always had lower status than men, but the extent of the gap between the sexes varies across cultures and time. In 1980 the United Nations summed up the burden of this inequality: women, who comprise half the world's population, do two thirds of the world's work, earn one tenth of the world's income and own one hundredth of the world's property. In *Leviticus* God told Moses that a man is worth 50 shekels and a woman worth 30 - approximately the contemporary salary differentials of the sexes in the United States.

The 2006 International Women's Day brought alarming messages from Latin American delegates about the growing rate of "femicide" in their countries. In Guatemala, for instance, more than 2,300 women had been brutally murdered. Similar stories have come from Brazil, Colombia, Peru, and Mexico.

PW: 1. *How would women change the world if they outnumbered men in different areas? Share your ideas.*

2. *Complete the table with your partner*

Women as	How they would change things
Politicians	
Taxi drivers	
Police officers	
Military generals	

3. *What are stereotypical reactions for men and women in the following situations?*
a. When your car breaks down
b. When you are in a car accident
c. When you are lost

Questions for discussion:

1. What professions are commonly associated with females? What professions are commonly associated with males?

2. In developing nations, many girls are still not receiving equal education opportunities. What can people in developed nations do to support education for low-income girls?

3. How have the roles of men and women changed over the last 50 years?

4. Do you think gender roles are the basis for domestic violence?

5. What do men tend to be better at than women? What do women tend to be better at than men?

FEMALE EQUALITY IN AMERICA

What comes to mind when you hear 'gender equality' ?

Why does gender inequality exist?

Why are women's rights so important?

Do you think America is the shining example of equality?

EQUALITY IN AMERICA

Women have long fought the battle of equality and rights. Persevering through times of turmoil and incomprehensible obstacles in the working, social, and political world, they dared to break the constraints, which for so long kept them shackled. Up till now, women had showed the world that they are as every bit capable of anything the men can do. They deserve every victory and praise they get for it as well. The only question is: are they really up to par with the conditions men receive? Is it really safe to say that women are no longer discriminated against? Or have the tables turned: are the men nowadays up to par with the fairness women receive? All these depend on many factors. The battle of impartiality and rights is still up in the air. "Freedom to" and "freedom from" coexist to form a yin and yang uniformity or a weighting balance behaviour.

Many men and women are considered 'free' today. Women are still in danger of so many things, though. They still have to take precautionary actions to ensure they are safe when walking home at night through a park. Current safety systems such as the "Stop Request" on bus transits for women only are being implemented to ensure the safety of women. Although with some complaints newer policies required the same treatment for men. Even in our current society, women still face harsher conditions when compared to men. They are more vulnerable to dangers not present to the male population.

Depending on global locations, the conditions women face seem to differ from place to place. North Americans have developed a more sophisticated system that provides a safer and more tolerable environment.

PW: *Write about American women who have been fighting for gender equality for decades now.*

1. Is female equality in America a myth or reality?

2. In what spheres has America reached female equality?

3. What do you think is the biggest obstacle for female equality in America?

4. What can America do to increase female equality?

5. How do American gender stereotypes differ from those in your country?

For women in America, equality is still an illusion

Jessica Valenti is the founder of Feministing.com and author of the book "The Purity Myth: How America's Obsession with Virginity is Hurting Young Women" published in 2009. This is how she describes female equality in the USA:

Every day, we hear about the horrors women endure in other countries: rape in Darfur, genital mutilation in Egypt, sex trafficking in Eastern Europe. We shake our heads, forward e-mails and send money.

We have no problem condemning atrocities done to women abroad, yet too many of us in the United States ignore the

oppression on our doorstep. We're suffering under the mass delusion that women in America have achieved equality. Because despite the indisputable gains over the years, women are still being raped, trafficked, violated and discriminated against - not just in the rest of the world, but here in the United States. And though feminists continue to fight gender injustices, most people seem to think that outside of a few lingering battles, the work of the women's movement is done. Women in this country aren't doing nearly as well as we'd like to think.

After all, women are being shot dead in the streets here, too. It was only last year that George Sodini opened fire in a gym outside Pittsburgh, killing three women and injuring nine others. Investigators learned from Sodini's blog that he specifically targeted women. In 2006, a gunman went into an Amish schoolhouse in Pennsylvania; he sent the boys outside and opened fire on almost a dozen girls, killing five. That same year in Colorado, a man sexually assaulted six female students he had taken hostage at a high school before killing one of them.
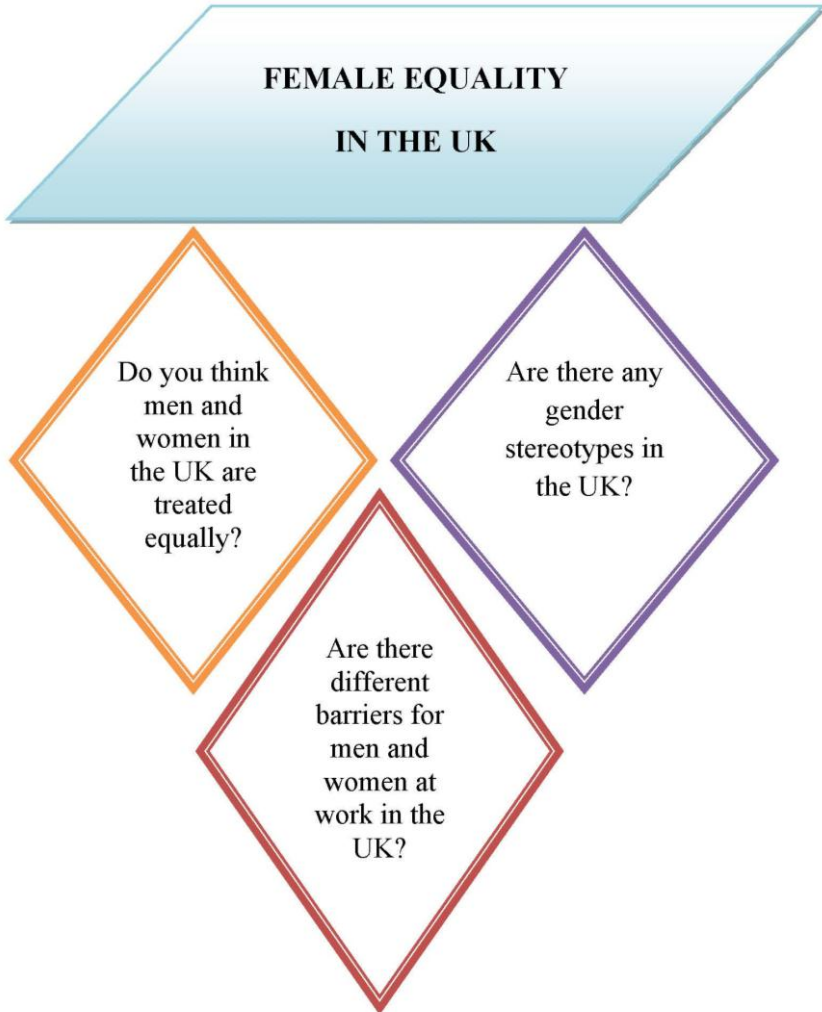
And it's not just strangers who are killing women; more than 1,000 women were killed by their partners in 2005, and of all the women murdered in the United States, about a third are killed by a husband or boyfriend. A leading cause of death for pregnant women? Murder by a partner.

The National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center says the actual number of U.S. women raped in 2008 was more than 1 million.

The distressing statistics don't stop with violence: Women hold 17 percent of the seats in Congress; women work outside the home, but they make about 76 cents to a man's dollar and make up the majority of Americans living in poverty.

This is a far cry from progress; it's an epidemic of sexism. We can fight for our rights while fighting for women internationally as well.

Yes, women today fare better than our foremothers. But the benchmarks so often cited - the right to vote, working outside the home, laws that make domestic violence illegal - don't change the reality of women's lives. They don't prevent 1 million women from being raped or female troops from being assaulted.

FEMALE EQUALITY

IN THE UK

Do you think men and women in the UK are treated equally?

Are there any gender stereotypes in the UK?

Are there different barriers for men and women at work in the UK?

FEMALE EQUALITY IN THE UK

Legislation in force in the UK with regard to gender equality issues is well established and is principally concerned with (a) how men and women are paid and (b) employment and the provision of goods and services. The key legislation is force in the Equal Pay Act (1970) and the Sex Discrimination Act (1975). These Acts of Parliament have been more recently supplemented by the following further legislation: Part Time Workers Regulations (2000); Maternity Leave and Pay Regulations (1975); Paternity Leave and Pay Regulations (2003) and the Flexible Working Regulations (2003).

The Equal Pay Act (1970) gives an individual working in UK the right to the same pay and benefits, as a person of the opposite sex would expect to receive in the same or related employment. This is taken to include 'like work' or 'work that is proved to be of equal value'.

The Sex Discrimination Act (1975) prohibits direct and/or indirect gender discrimination against individuals in the areas of employment, education, the provision of goods, facilities and services.

Maternity Leave & Pay Regulations (1975) entitle women to statutory leave and pay for up to 12 months and applies once a job has been offered and accepted. During the leave period, women are guaranteed an entitlement to return to their own job on the same terms and conditions under which they left. Paternity Leave & Pay Regulations (2003) regulate statutory paternity leave and pay for up to two weeks following the birth of a child.

PW: *Write about famous British women and their accomplishments.*

1. Is there a women's rights movement in the UK? If there is one, how has it helped or hurt society? If there isn't, do you think there should be?

2. What are the typical jobs for men and women in the UK?

3. In what areas of society are men too dominant in the UK?

4. What behaviors are seen as appropriate for men but inappropriate for women in the UK?

5. Are the responsibilities of mothers and fathers the same in the UK families?

Margaret Thatcher

The first female prime minister of Britain

Margaret Thatcher's political career has been one of the most remarkable of modern times. Born in October 1925 at Grantham, she rose to become the first (and for two decades the only) woman to lead a major Western democracy. Born on October 13, 1925, in Grantham, a small market town in eastern England, Margaret Thatcher became Britain's Conservative Party leader and in 1979 was elected prime minister, the first woman to hold the position. She won three successive General Elections and served as British

Prime Minister for more than eleven years (1979-90), a record unmatched in the twentieth century. During her term of office she reshaped almost every aspect of British politics, reviving the economy, reforming outdated institutions, and reinvigorating the nation's foreign policy. Margaret Thatcher became one of the founders, with Ronald Reagan, of a school of conservative conviction politics, which has had a powerful and enduring impact on politics in Britain and the United States and earned her a higher international profile than any British politician since Winston Churchill. Thatcher resigned in 1991 due to unpopular policy and power struggles in her party. Not long after leaving office, Thatcher was appointed to the House of Lords, as Baroness Thatcher of Kesteven, in 1992. She died on April 8, 2013, at age 87.

Theresa May

British Prime Minister, Government Official

Britain's first female PM since Margaret Thatcher and the first to lead the country out of the European Union after its historic "Brexit" (Britain Exit) referendum, which was held in June 2016. She is considered one of the most powerful Conservative women and was the longest serving home secretaries in British history.

Are there more male or female managers and executives in Azerbaijan?

Is it possible for women to join the army in your country?

FEMALE EQUALITY IN AZERBAIJAN

Are men and women treated and paid equally at work in your country?

Are there any female politicians in your country?

FEMALE EQUALITY IN AZERBAIJAN

Women in Azerbaijan nominally enjoy the same legal rights as men; however, societal discrimination was a problem. Traditional social norms and lagging economic development in the country's rural regions continued to restrict women's roles in the economy, and there were reports that women had difficulty exercising their legal rights due to gender discrimination.

As of 2007, several women held senior government positions, including deputy speaker of parliament, several deputy ministers, and deputy chair of the Central Election Commission. There are no legal restrictions on the participation of women in politics. As of 2011, there were 19 women in the 125-seat parliament. The percentage of female members of parliament increased from 11 to 16 percent between 2005 and 2010.

There were no female ministers or heads of executive governments of cities or regions, except for Hijran Huseynova who chairs the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs and Maleyka Abbaszadeh who is the chair of the State Students Admission Commission.

Though the majority of Azerbaijani women have jobs outside the home, women are underrepresented in high-level jobs, including top business positions. Women in Azerbaijan have few opportunities in the field of business. They face difficulties obtaining bank loans because the property they could potentially pledge is usually registered in the name of their male relatives. Banks do not often trust women with loans and in cases when they do, a woman's business is not perceived as serious and cannot compete on the market.

PW: *Answer the following question expressing your ideas in 5-7 sentences?*

How have the roles of men and women changed over the last 50 years?

1. In what areas of society do men outnumber women in Azerbaijan?

2. What are some commonly held stereotypes with regard to women in your country?

3. What are the typical responsibilities of a father and a mother in your country?

4. What needs to change in your country to bring gender equality?

5. What are the typical jobs for men and women of your parents' generation? Your generation?

The Kind Lady of Azerbaijan

"A country without a woman is destroyed and remains helpless but in the hand of woman this world will only have bliss. She will exalt humanity."

This quote from Hussein Javid, the Shakespeare of Azerbaijan, sums up the cultural, economic and political rationale behind the recent appointment of Mehriban Aliyeva, the first lady of Azerbaijan, to the post of vice president. Today, in the Muslim world where women are fighting an uphill battle for gender equality

and a seat at the decision-making table, this Muslim nation of 9 million has taken a historic leap forward.

Mrs. Aliyeva's success can become a model for the rest of the Muslim world to emulate. Thankfully, this wise woman of the East has the ingredients for success.

In many ways, Mehriban Khanum, as she is affectionately called by her countrymen, embodies her nation's core values. First, Mehriban Khanum, whose name literally means *kind lady*, represents the fundamental value of religious tolerance, which is in the DNA of this country. She has been a champion of Azerbaijan's tolerance towards all religions. Members of the Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Bahai faiths live side by side in peace and harmony in Azerbaijan. For example, when the Jewish community decided to build a new synagogue in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, she gave her full and public support.

Not surprisingly, it was Mrs. Aliyeva who represented her country in meetings with the pope to discuss interfaith dialogue. In short, Mehriban Khanum feels that it is in the deeds of a Muslim that one shows one's piety and not intolerance toward members of other faiths.

Mehriban Khanum's second personality trait captures another feature of her nation's core value: namely, being charitable toward those less fortunate. As founder and head of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, the kind lady has championed numerous philanthropic projects around the world. For example, immediately after the 2008 earthquake in Pakistan, she mobilized the resources of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation to rebuild a school in one of the most remote regions of that country.

MEDIA IN SOCIETY

ADVERTISEMENT	**TO SURF THE INTERNET**	**BROADCASTING**
TRADITIONAL MEDIA	**VISUAL**	**MASS MEDIA**
PRINT MEDIA	**CULTURE**	**PUBLIC SERVICE**
ELECTRONIC MEDIA	**MOVIES**	**PUBLIC OPINION**
NEW MEDIA	**TV / RADIO**	**ENTERTAINMENT**
	THE INTERNET	

How do you keep up with world events?

Do you think that keeping up with current events is important? Why?

MEDIA AND SOCIETY

How would you define the role of media?

Does the presence of media affect your life?
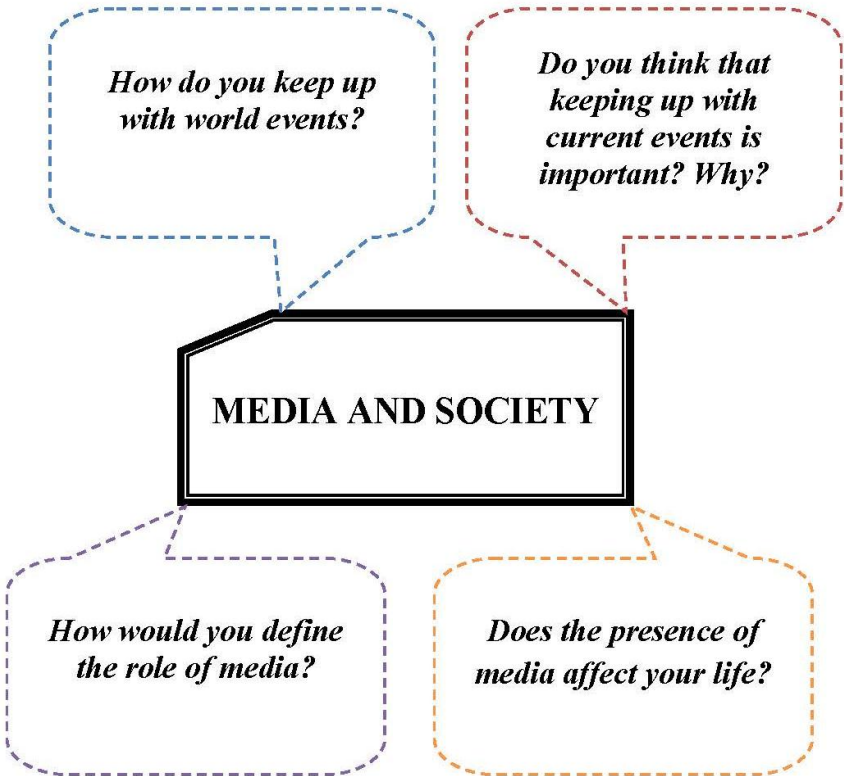
MEDIA AND SOCIETY

In the last five decades or so, the media and its influence on the societies, has grown exponentially with the advance of technology. First there was the telegraph and the post offices, then the radio, the newspaper, magazines, television and now the internet and the new media including palmtops, cell phones etc. There are positive and negative influences of mass media, which we must understand as a responsible person of a society.

Before discussing the influence of mass media on society it is imperative to explain the three basic functions of mass media; they are providing news/information, entertainment and education. The first and foremost function of the media in a society is to provide news and information to the masses, that is why the present era is some time termed as the *information age* as well. People need news/information for various reasons, on one hand it can be used to socialize and on the other to make decisions and formulate opinions. Entertainment would be the other function of the mass media where it is mostly used by the masses to amuse them in present day hectic environment. Educating the masses about their rights, moral, social and religious obligations is another important function of mass media, which needs no emphasis.

The media has a huge impact on society in shaping the public opinion of the masses. They can form or modify the public opinion in different ways depending of what is the objective. Other ways to influence are with polls and trends, especially in political campaigns. The candidates that can pay for more TV and media exposure have more influence on public opinion and thus can receive more votes.

PW: *From the list of types of media given below choose the one which is the best as to you. Explain what it is used for and why you prefer this type*.

Television   Radio   Newspapers

Books   Magazines   Internet

Questions for discussion:

1. How has technology affected the way we receive news?
2. How will people get their news in the future?
3. How would it be different without the mass media?
4. How important are newspapers? What is their future in the age of the internet?
5. What are the advantages and disadvantages of getting the news from the internet?

Violence in the Media: What Effects on Behavior?

Speculation as to the causes of the mass shooting at a Batman movie screening in Colorado has reignited debates in the

psychiatric community about media violence and its effects on human behavior.

"Violence in the media has been increasing and reaching proportions that are dangerous," said Emanuel Tanay, MD, a retired Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Wayne State University and a forensic psychiatrist for more than 50 years.

"You turn on the television, and violence is there. You go to a movie, and violence is there," Tanay told *Psychiatric Times*. "Reality is distorted. If you live in a fictional world, then the fictional world becomes your reality."

The average American watches nearly 5 hours of video each day, 98% of which is watched on a traditional television set, according to Nielsen Company. Nearly two-thirds of TV programs contain some physical violence. Most self-involving video games contain some violent content, even those for children.

Tanay noted, "Anything that promotes something can be called propaganda." What we call entertainment is really propaganda for violence. If you manufacture guns, you don't need to advertise, because it is done by our entertainment industry."

In reality, the number of violent crimes has been falling, but the public's perception is that violence has increased. Yet the propaganda, Tanay said, makes people feel that crime is everywhere and that guns are needed for protection.

The 2 teenage boys who murdered 12 schoolmates and a teacher and injured 21 others at Columbine High School in Colorado before killing themselves, he said, lived in a pathological environment. "Their lives centered around violent video games."

A 2002 report by the US Secret Service and the US Department of Education, which examined 37 incidents of targeted school shootings and school attacks from 1974 to 2000 in this country, found that "over half of the attackers demonstrated some interest in violence through movies, video games, books, and other media."

In 2007 psychologist Craig Anderson, reported on a longitudinal study of violent video games. The study queried children and their peers as well as teachers on aggressive behaviors and violent media consumption twice during a school year. The researchers found that boys and girls who played a lot of violent video games changed over the school year, becoming more aggressive.

"There now are numerous longitudinal studies by several different research groups around the world, and they all find significant violent video game exposure effects," Anderson said.

Despite the links between media violence and aggression, Anderson stressed, "Media violence is only one of many risk factors for later aggressive and violent behavior." Furthermore, extremely violent behavior never occurs when there is only one risk factor present. Thus, a healthy, well-adjusted person with few risk factors is not going to become a school-shooter just because they start playing a lot of violent video games or watching a lot of violent movies."

One of Anderson's colleagues at Iowa State University, Douglas Gentile, PhD, and Associate Professor of Psychology recently published a study that identifies media exposure as 1 of the 6 risk factors for predicting later aggression in 430 children (aged 7 to 11, grades 3 to 5) from Minnesota schools. Besides media violence, the remaining risk factors are bias toward hostility, low parental involvement, participant sex, physical victimization, and prior physical fights.

"I am particularly hopeful that this approach will help the public and professionals realize that media violence is not different from other risk factors for aggression. It's not the largest, nor the smallest," he said. "If there is any important difference at all, it is simply that media violence is easier for parents to control than other risk factors, such as being bullied, having psychiatric illnesses, or living in poverty."

Media Problems and Society

What are the functions of mass media?

What kinds of problems can media cause?

Does the media in your country report the whole truth, mostly truth or mostly lies?

How can media help create a healthy society?

**BIGOTED   TO CAUSE CONFUSION
CRIMINAL   VAGUE   MISLEADING
TO SPEAK YOUR MIND   AMBIGUOUS
PUZZLED   DISILLUSIONED   STRESSED
TO CONDEMN SMB / SMTH   NERVE-RACKING
ILL AT EASE   PANIC
TO PLAY SMTH DOWN**

Translate the following sentences into your native language:

1. She is so bigoted that it's impossible to discuss politics with her.

2. Everyone was puzzled that someone as intelligent as this Prime Minister should want to leave the position after only one year.

3. They are rather vague about their plans – I don't think they know what they are going to do.

4. All these events kept us stressed all week long.

5. It's rather misleading advertisement, as it's not really a free offer.

MEDIA PROBLEMS IN SOCIETY

In some cases media seem to blow many things out of proportion which makes things worse than what they would have been. The media in some ways promote negative actions by continuing to breathe life into the situation. Some criminals thrive on attention and this is what the media gives them constantly. This is true if we consider the "media" to be mainstream media, or the media that the majority of people in a society consume. Alternative media can provide healthy critiques and insights, but it also can be flawed in its own bias. People largely do not have time to do proper investigation, and are generally misled. The mainstream media has a significant role to play in keeping the public distracted and misinformed. The media does make problems in society worse today, because everything is for a profit. There are so many cliffhangers, biases, and fear mongering that it is making people much more cynical than they need to be. There's no more responsibility in the media. The media has the opportunity to make society a better place, but they can also make society worse. This is primarily depends on what kind of news coverage is offered. It is important for the media to report on items in a balanced manner where acts of good faith are covered as well, you will see a benefit to society.

Modern society must strive to make all of its media outlets a powerful tool in which the powerful voices of the oppressed can emerge to challenge different viewpoints on society. When this occurs, this society will move closer to curing ills among the social variables that the current mass media in large part contributes to. The mass media has acted to perpetuate the social problems it covers.

GW: *Work with your group mates to answer the questions below:*

1. If you had your own TV station what would you show on it?

2. If you had your own radio station what would you play?

3. If you had your own website what would be on it?

4. What message do you want your media to convey?

5. Make your own media. State the type of media, the media message, the intended audience, the slogan and the content of the media.

Questions for discussion:

1. Do you think that most newspapers print what's really important or what will help them sell more newspapers?

2. Should media outlets be punished for false information? If so, how? If not, why?

3. Should there be any censorship of the media?

4. Do you think that the media covers too much bad news and not enough good news? How do you think this affects people?

5. Do you think media should be controlled by the government?

FACEBOOK AND TWITTER
"HARM YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH"

Four of the five most popular forms of social media harm young people's mental health, with Instagram the most damaging, according to research by two health organisations.

Instagram has the most negative impact on young people's mental wellbeing, a survey of almost 1,500 14- to 24-year-olds found, and the health groups accused it of deepening young people's feelings of inadequacy and anxiety.

The survey concluded that Snapchat, Facebook and Twitter are also harmful. Among the five only YouTube was judged to have a positive impact.

The four platforms have a negative effect because they can exacerbate children's and young people's body image worries, and worsen bullying, sleep problems and feelings of anxiety, depression and loneliness, the participants said.

The findings follow growing concern among politicians, health bodies, doctors, charities and parents about young people suffering harm as a result of sexting, cyberbullying and social media reinforcing feelings of self-loathing and even the risk of them committing suicide.

"It's interesting to see Instagram and Snapchat ranking as the worst for mental health and wellbeing. Both platforms are very image-focused and it appears that they may be driving feelings of inadequacy and anxiety in young people," said Shirley Cramer, chief executive of the Royal Society for Public Health, which undertook the survey with the Young Health Movement.

The 1,479 young people surveyed were asked to rate the impact of the five forms of social media on 14 different criteria of health and wellbeing, including their effect on sleep, anxiety, depression, loneliness, self-identity, bullying, body image and the fear of missing out.

Instagram emerged with the most negative score. It rated badly for seven of the 14 measures, particularly its impact on sleep, body image and fear of missing out – and also for bullying and feelings of anxiety, depression and loneliness. However, young
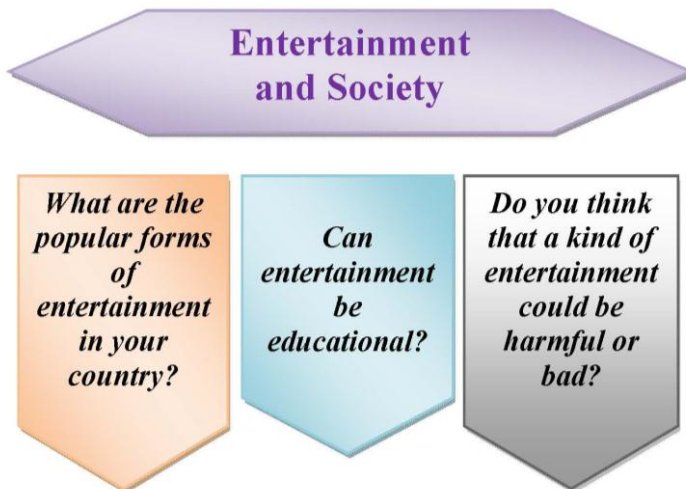
people cited its upsides too, including self-expression, self-identity and emotional support.

YouTube scored very badly for its impact on sleep but positively in nine of the 14 categories, notably awareness and understanding of other people's health experience, self-expression, loneliness, depression and emotional support.

However, the leader of the UK's psychiatrists said the findings were too simplistic and unfairly blamed social media for the complex reasons why the mental health of so many young people is suffering.

Prof. Sir Simon Wessely, president of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, said: "I am sure that social media plays a role in unhappiness, but it has as many benefits as it does negatives. We need to teach children how to cope with all aspects of social media – good and bad – to prepare them for an increasingly digitised world. There is real danger in blaming the medium for the message."

In February, Jeremy Hunt, the health secretary, warned social media and technology firms that they could face sanctions, including through legislation, unless they did more to tackle sexting, cyberbullying and the trolling of young users.

Entertainment and Society

| *What are the popular forms of entertainment in your country?* | *Can entertainment be educational?* | *Do you think that a kind of entertainment could be harmful or bad?* |

ENTERTAINMENT AND SOCIETY

There is no disputing that society is influenced by its choices of entertainment. Some ways in which people are influenced are positive, but others are harmful. In the society we live in the harmful ways always outnumber the positive. If we gravitated toward the positive forms of entertainment a little more often than the negative, then our society would have fewer problems. Popular music has a negative effect on society and endorses a lack of creativity.

Most popular music is neither unique nor creative. Just about all of the music coming out now is generally the same. It lacks creativity because artists are just in it to

make money, not for the love of music. Society is force-fed with this bland music on a daily basis. Through radio stations and the emergence of MTV, new hit songs come out every week and people digest them, claiming to enjoy them just so that they appear to be versed on the latest ''on hit wonder'' groups.

Another harm this entertainment brings to society is it gives the media an easy scapegoat. When some atrocity gains national attention, the first thing that is thought of is music and entertainment.
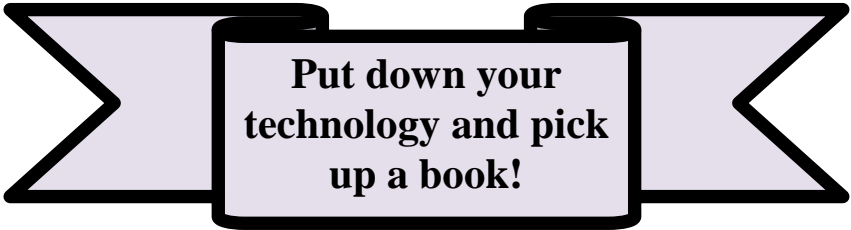
In conclusion, the harmful effects of entertainment seem to get all of the focus, but TV and music are not always the culprits. If we stop blaming everybody else besides the people who need to be blamed, then our society might be better, but until then we are stuck with same finger pointing as before. Parents must understand that the entertainment world is not the major influence in a kid's life, and that the major influence is the parents themselves.

PW: *Write about the negative influence of entertainment on society expressing your ideas in 5-7 sentences*

1. What forms of entertainment have been with us for centuries?

2. What new forms of entertainment have emerged in recent years?

3. What do you think of gambling as a form of entertainment?

4. Should TV be primarily used for entertainment or for education? Why do you think so?

5. What form of entertainment has the most negative effect on society? Why do you think so?

Put down your technology and pick up a book!

Entertainment has been an integral part of human life since time immemorial. People across the world engage in various kinds of activities to break monotony of life. Carnivals, fairs and festivals that people across the world celebrate today resemble the modes of entertainment that our ancestors developed and enjoyed. Apart from fairs and festivals, humans also used birds and animals in their entertainment activities. The tradition of bull fight and cockfight in different parts of the world also started as people looked for different means of entertainment. Thus during different periods of human development mankind has developed its own vision of life and methods to entertain oneself and live in a jubilant way.

Today, we are living in an era where we have many choices and options to keep ourselves entertained. With the advancement of technology, we have multiple choices at hand. However, how we entertain ourselves largely depends on the choice and interest of an individual. Reading books is a widely accepted and chosen mode of entertainment.

The importance of reading books is undeniable and there are a lot of benefits of reading. You will find out that looking at symbols does a lot more than just take you to far-off exotic places: it stimulates your brain, your imagination, and much, much more. Here are a few good reasons why reading books is so important:

MENTAL STIMULATION
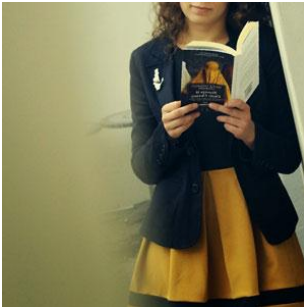
When it comes to reading books, mental stimulation is the first benefit people think about. According to the studies conducted in the field, reading can slow down (or even prevent) Dementia and Alzheimer's. If you keep your brain busy, it won't lose its power. Think of the brain as a regular muscle in the body. If you exercise, it will stay strong and fit. For sure you have heard the phrase "use it or lose it". Some other activities you could engage in include playing games, such as chess, and doing puzzles. Whichever activity you choose, you should never forget about the importance of reading books.

REDUCING STRESS

Some people start jogging or practice yoga to reduce stress in their lives. Regardless of the amount of pressure you might be under, there is nothing a good story can't solve. The importance of book reading is given by the fact that it can take you to lands far away to a time you never dreamed about. Long articles work the same way. A well-written article will distract you and grab you from the everyday reality. This way the tension will simply melt from your body and you will be able to finally relax.

EXPANDING VOCABULARY
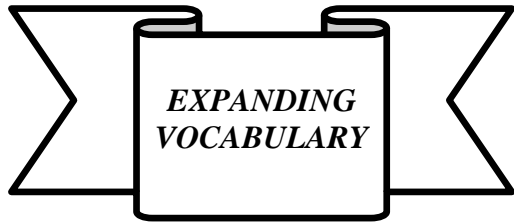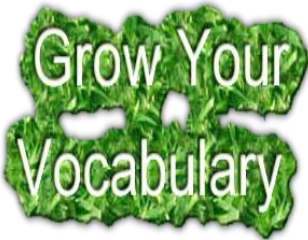
In case you read an article on importance of reading books, for sure you will find this benefit. The mechanism is quite simple: the more frequently you encounter some words, the sooner you will introduce them in your vocabulary. Expressing yourself clearly will help you both in your personal and professional life not to mention that it will give you a boost of self-confidence. As you may have guessed, being well-spoken will help you get a promotion faster and you will gain knowledge as well. If you are thinking about learning a new language, reading will help you see words in context, making learning the language easier. The value of reading gives us

vocabulary practice through repetition. The same advanced words over and over again will make us advanced speakers of whatever language we are reading. Books are perhaps the best way to become fluent in a new language.

IMPROVING MEMORY

The people wondering about the importance of reading books in our life might be concerned about their memory. For sure you don't want to become senile when you get old, so your memory is crucial. When you read a book you have to remember a range of characters, their ambitions, history, nuances, and backgrounds along with sub-plots. This is a lot, if you come to think of it, but the brain has amazing powers when it comes to remembering even vast amounts of information. Every new memory creates new synapses and strengthens the existing ones, improving short-term memory.


ANALYTIC THINKING

In many cases people need analytic thinking for their work and this is another reason for which reading books is important. As interesting as it may sound, reading can improve analytic thinking.

Did you ever read a mystery novel and sorted out who done it before the book ended? This proves you have good skills. You can exercise the same neurons if you analyze the plot of a novel. Was it a well-written one? Were the characters properly developed? If you have friends who like reading as well, you could start a club and discuss the books you read. Aside from exercising your brain, you could also squeeze in some social activities too.
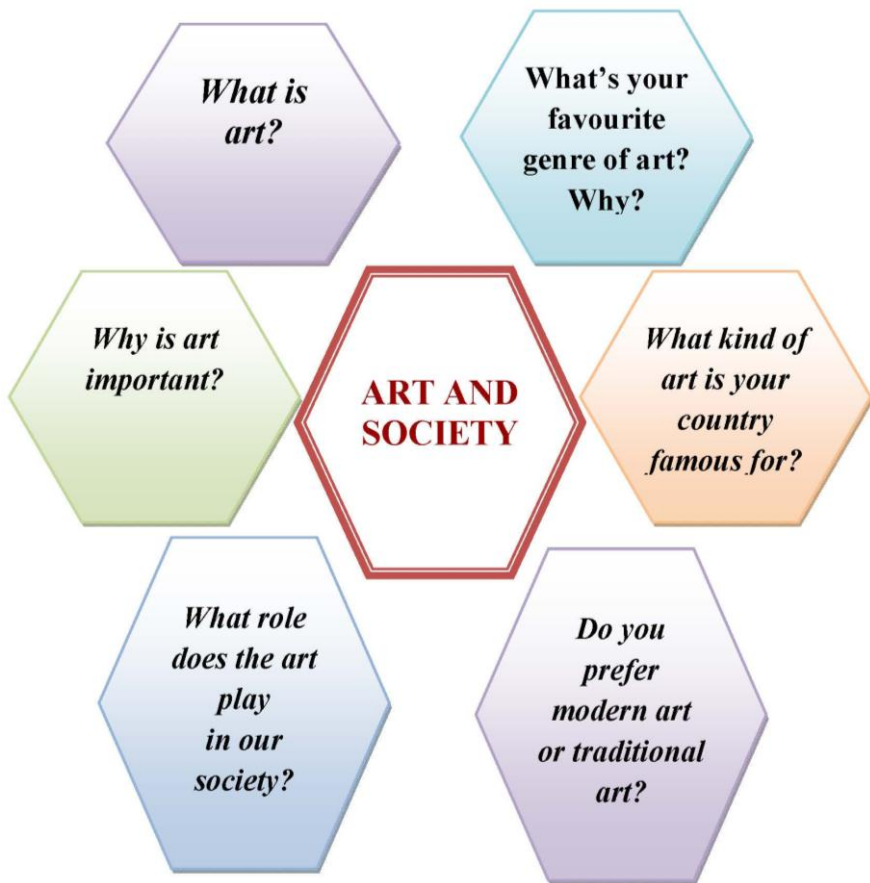

IMPROVING CONCENTRATION AND FOCUS

It is a known fact that in our days people have a very short attention span. In a matter of minutes they work, check tweets, chat with people, check their emails, and check their smartphones. This is where the importance of reading and writing comes into the picture. The ADD-like behavior only makes us more stressful and less productive. When you start reading, you have only one thing to focus on. You should try reading for 20-30 minutes before going to work and you will realize that you will be able to focus for longer periods of time. The more books we read, the less likely we are to be distracted by things outside of our control. People who cannot sit still can be cured of their anxiety through reading a good book for at least one hour every day. The effects of book-reading can have on our body and mind can be quite miraculous. It's an alternative therapeutic cure for our troubles.

ENTERTAINMENT FOR FREE
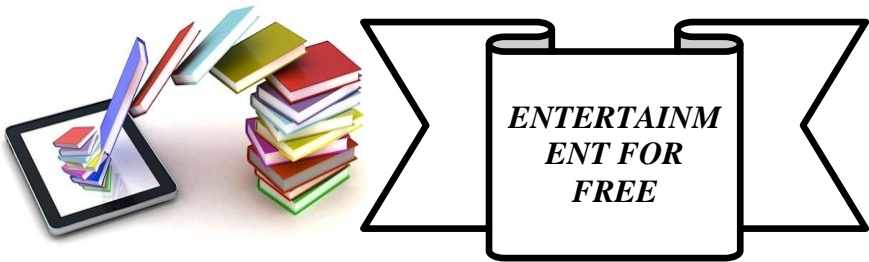
In our days everything costs, so people are looking for free stuff. One of the best things about reading is that it offers free entertainment. Once you buy the book, you can read it as many times as you'd like. There is also the option of reading books online, where you will find millions of books only one click away. You can keep yourself up to date with the latest bestsellers or with the most well-known literary pieces of them all.

Is reading a boring waste of time?

Some people might think that reading is boring and a waste of time, but you can be sure that these people never read a good book. They would be amazed by what a good book can do and they have absolutely no idea on what they are missing.

What is art?

What's your favourite genre of art? Why?

Why is art important?

ART AND SOCIETY

What kind of art is your country famous for?

What role does the art play in our society?

Do you prefer modern art or traditional art?

ART AND SOCIETY

ART   CULTURE   RENAISSANCE

   DISCIPLINE   ETHNICITY

EVOLUTION   FREEDOM   EXPERIENCE

IDEOLOGY   IMAGE   MEMORY

NATURE   STATE   TASTE   VALUE

ART AND SOCIETY

Art is the way in which people choose to express themselves, their feelings, for example, or how they see things around them. Art forms include writing, music, drawing, painting, dance, etc. The relationship between art and society is a two way process. Artworks often show what the society is going through at that moment in time, whether things are peaceful or not, for example, as well as how individual artists are feeling at the time.

If you were to look at visual art from older eras in time you would be able to see that people in a painting, for instance, aren't dressed as we are now. Language used in writing may not be the same either.

Art is molded by society. It can be repressed or encouraged by governments. It can depend on how the people that make up a society are willing to express themselves. The relationship between art and society varies all over the world and during different eras of time.

Art has also molded society throughout the ages. Images help humans to use their imaginations to reshape and build on their ideas. They also help to pass on these ideas to future generations.

Art is like an onion, it has layers upon layers creating a complex structure that when opened will make the strongest of person cry. To analyze art's structure is to box creativity, understand mystery, and harness society. Art is a world adrift, in which rootless men fumble to express the very essence of life in a new meaningful way. This may be what motivates artist, the need to express life, mystery, awe, pain, sentiment to themselves and others in a meaningful manner. Great art consists of being original, using society and culture positively, and the individual viewing the art piece. The artist needs to stand up and fight the battle to use the society to their advantage and not succumb to its greed.

PW: *Express your ideas covering the topic "The interrelation between art and society" in 5-7 sentences.*

1. What's the purpose of art?

2. What makes something a work of art?

3. Who decides what a work of art means- the artist, the critic, the viewer?

4. Is graffiti art? Why/Why not?

5. We often consider art in terms of painting. What other things come under the term "art"?

6. It is sometimes claimed that art must send some form of message to the viewer. What's your opinion?

7. What role does beauty play in contemporary art? Does a work of art need to be beautiful?

The Line Between Art and Photography

For much of its early history, people argued about whether photography should be considered art. Some, including many artists (many of whom used photographs as guides for their own work), considered photography a purely mechanical process produced by chemicals rather than human sensibility. Others said that photography was similar to other printmaking processes like etching and lithography, and no one argued that they were not art. Still, at large expositions, curators usually hung the photographs in the science and industry sections rather than with the paintings.

An 1893 showing of photographs in Hamburg, Germany's art museum still provoked controversy. But that was about to change. In 1902, American photographer Alfred Stieglitz formed the Photo Secession in New York City. The group's shows and publications firmly advocated the view that photography was art. Their magazine, "Camera Works," which used high-quality engravings to reproduce photographs, proved extremely influential, showing that photography could be used for artistic purpose.

Artistic photography reflected many of the same trends as other branches of art. By the end of World War I in 1918 photography became more geometric and abstract. Photographers began concentrating on choosing details that evoked situations and people. Lighter, more versatile cameras enabled photographers to take scenes of urban streets. This interest in spare but elegant depictions of everyday objects worked well with advertising, and many art photographers had careers in advertising or taking glamorous photographs for picture magazines. Landscape photography also flourished. These developments helped give photography a separate and unique identity. The Museum of Modern Art in New York formed a department of photography in 1940, showing that the medium had been accepted as an art form. Since then art photography has thrived with many artists making important contributions in areas ranging from landscape to street photography and surrealist photomontage.

FAMILY SYSTEM IN SOCIETY

Do you get on well with your family members?

Family is……… Give your definition

F
A
M
I
L
Y

How important is your family to you?

When do you need your family most?
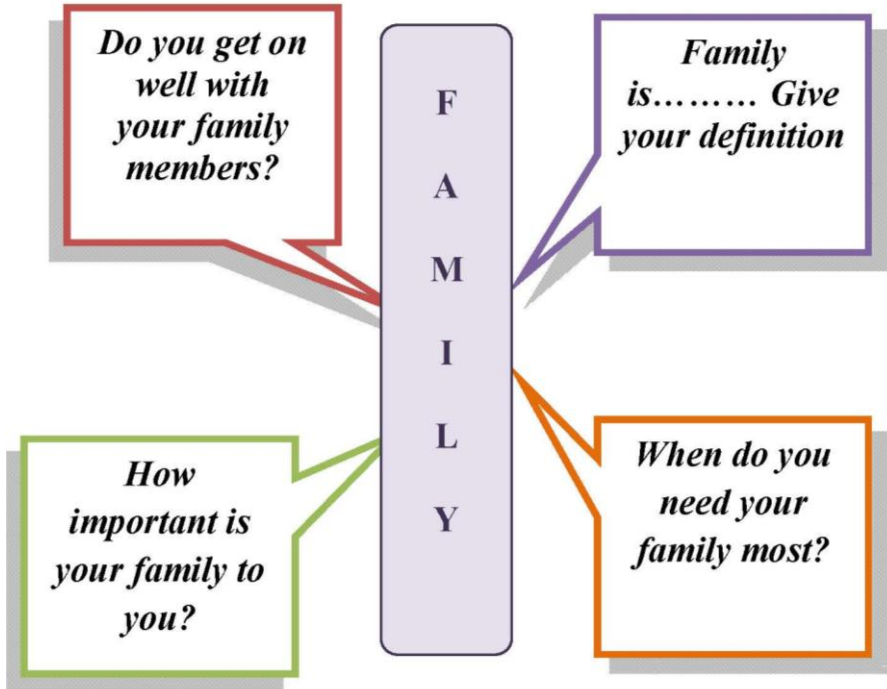
NUCLEAR   SINGLE PARENT BLENDED

CROSS GENERATIONAL   NEVER MARRIED

ADOPTIVE / FOSTER

TO GET DIVORCED

TO BREAK UP   TO LIVE FOR

TO GET ON WELL WITH SMB

MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

RESPECT   SUPPORT

TO TAKE SMB SERIOUSLY

FAMILY SYSTEM IN SOCIETY

The word family itself creates its magic. Family is another name of love, support, hope, optimism, pleasure, cooperation, the most generous, true companion of one, the world's best critics of us, sympathetic, and helpful in every way. A family is a gift of GOD in one's life. No matter how much you are in trouble, your family will never leave you alone and without their help. There is nothing in the world which can be replaced by a family. Having a team of 20 to 25 people, looks like a single unit, having all the ancestral values and traditions, it is really worthwhile to live with your family. Loss of one's family is really a big loss which can't be compensated. Other thing may change but we always start and end with the discussion on own families.

A family plays a fundamental role in one's life. We can consider a family like a spine of a person's life and that is really true. One cannot survive without family's support and love. Everyone in this world needs assistance from his loved ones. In every field of life, in every crucial and critical moment, whether it is sorrow or happiness we need our family at our back. And having this satisfaction meant a lot for a person's courage. We need family because we need love, support, and affection, to pamper us, to guide us, to help us in tough times and to show us the right path.

"If you start feeling like you have the goofiest, craziest, most dysfunctional family in the world. All you have to do is go to a state fair, you will be going, you know, we are alright, we dang near royalty." Jeff Foxworthy

GW: *To what extent do you agree with the following statements? Explain why.*

1. Your family is your social safety net.
2. You can never be lonely if you have a large family.
3. It's healthy for families to argue.
4. My parents have always set a good example.

5. Parents raise sons and daughters differently.

Questions for discussion:

1. What is an ideal family as you see it?

2. In your opinion, what are the most difficult things parents have to do?

3. What are the worst mistakes parents can make?

4. Are there any rules in your family? What are they? Do you think they are fair?

5. What are the advantages and disadvantages of being an only child?

6. How important is it to you to see your parents and relatives regularly after leaving home?

7. What do you think is the most important thing to make a happy family?

Family Quotes and Proverbs

"In time of test, family is best."
Burmese Proverb

"To understand your parents' love, you must raise children yourself."
Chinese proverb

"The strength of a nation derives from the integrity of the home."
Confucius

"The only rock I know that stays steady, the only institution I know that works is the family."
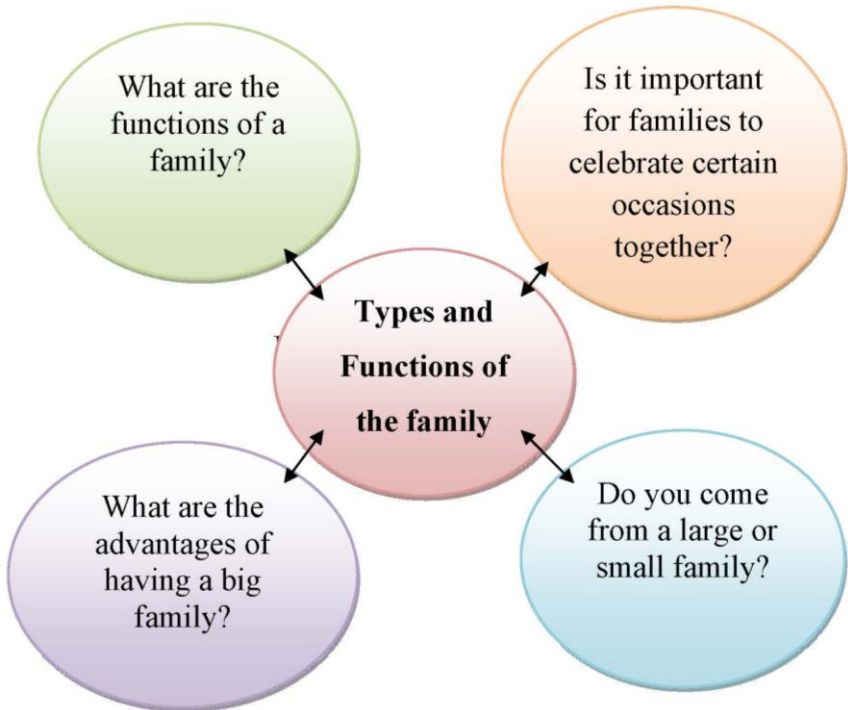*Lee Iacocca*

"If the family were a boat, it would be a canoe that makes no progress unless everyone paddles."
Letty Cottin Pogrebin

"Without a family, man, alone in the world, trembles with the cold."
Andre Maurois

Types and Functions of the Family

What are the functions of a family?

Is it important for families to celebrate certain occasions together?

Types and Functions of the family

What are the advantages of having a big family?

Do you come from a large or small family?

TYPES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE FAMILY

Keeping in view the word family, we are very much aware of the concept of joint family system in the world. In joint family a lot of people live under one roof together. Still we can see this in our villages and small towns. These people are living together enjoying their life at fullest. Another advantage of such a big family in villages is the impact of big family in villages they used to feel proud about having such a large family, so no one can dare to touch them or harm them. Joint family system has its own pros and cons. In joint families, it is true that you have to live according to your elders; you have to consider them first in your every matter of life. Every single activity in home should be done after asking their permission. At the same time in joint family parents can easily bring up their children. One can teach his child all the family values and traditions with the help of grandparents, they can easily inject their culture in their new born. But nowadays one can't witness this joint family system in big cities. Now people love to live independently. The new generation in Pakistan likes the nuclear family system living separately from parents. For our generation living separately means having all the freedom of doing anything and everything.

This concept of nuclear family is growing day by day. People really like this idea of having an independent house. The reason behind the growth of this idea is industrialization. Now people have more opportunities of jobs and work. So many people migrated from town to cities, leaving behind their families. Many people prefer to do these jobs and live independently. This is the biggest reason behind increasing ratio of nuclear families, which is sad but true.

GW: *Find differences and similarities between the three types of families using the Venn diagram.*

Nuclear Family   Single Parent Family   Extended Family

Questions for discussion:
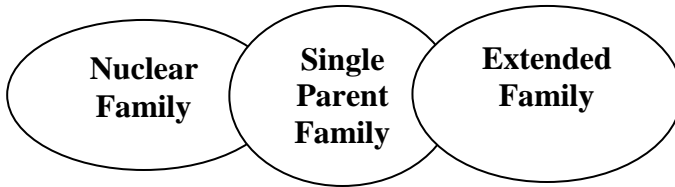
1. How do you think western and eastern families differ?

2. Do you prefer the idea of extended or nuclear families? Why?

3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of these two types of family?

4. Why are single parent families becoming more common these days?

5. Describe a typical family unit and the importance of family in your country.

6. How do you think family life is changing in your country? Is this change good or bad?

7. Are good family or good friends more important? Why?

Family is still important in Hollywood

Family is one of the most important things in a person's life. Loved ones are there to support your dreams, protect you from any harm, and love you unconditionally. Even though they can get on your nerves sometimes, you have to remember your family just wants the best for you! A lot of celebrities have learned the

importance of family over the years when they've gone through hard times. These celebs have become very outspoken about their loved ones and talk endlessly about how much they appreciate their family. They understand that at the end of the day, their family is always going to be there to catch them when they fall.

David and Victoria Beckham

Married: 1999
Children: Brooklyn, Romeo, Harper, Cruz
David Beckham known for: Member of the soccer teams Los Angeles Galaxy, Manchester United
Victoria Beckham known for: Fashion design, The Spice Girls

The Beckhams' attitude to their marriage and family:
"Victoria's success has been really incredible," David Beckham said. "She's a great mother, of course, and she looks after the boys and Harper and that's our priority … but she works really hard."
"I really enjoy being a mum," Victoria Beckham said. "I love my children and I'd do anything for them."

CONFLICT AND SOCIETY

C
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What is conflict?

Is conflict always negative?

Can conflicts be positive or have good endings?

Is there always a winner and a looser in a conflict?

Do you think it's good to try to avoid conflicts?

CONFRONTATION
TENSION
DISAGREEMENT
DISAPPONTMENT
FRUSTRATION
HOSTILITY
LOSS OF CONTROL
MISUNDERSTANDING
NON-CONFORMITY
OBSTINACY
PERSUASION
PETTINESS
VIOLENCE
PROBLEM SOLVING

CONFLICT AND SOCIETY

Conflict refers to some form of friction, disagreement, or discord arising within a group when the beliefs or actions of one or more members of the group are either resisted by or unacceptable to one or more members of another group. Conflict can arise between members of the same group, known as intragroup conflict, or it can occur between members of two or more groups, and involve violence, interpersonal discord, and psychological tension, known as intergroup conflict. Conflict in groups often follows a specific course. *Routine group interaction* is first disrupted by an *initial conflict*, often caused by differences of opinion, disagreements between members, or scarcity of resources. At this point, the group is no longer united, and may split into coalitions. This period of *conflict escalation* in some cases gives way to a *conflict resolution stage*, after which the group can eventually return to *routine group interaction* once again.

Conflict is rarely seen as constructive; however, in certain contexts (such as competition in sports), moderate levels of conflict can be seen as being mutually beneficial, facilitating understanding, tolerance, learning, and effectiveness. Task conflict has been associated with two interrelated and beneficial effects. The first is group decision quality. Task conflict encourages greater cognitive understanding of the issue being discussed. This leads to better decision making for the groups that use task conflict. The goal is to train your team to better solve problems. The second is affective acceptance of group decisions. Task conflict can lead to increased satisfaction with the group decision and a desire to stay in the group. Encourage the group members to respect each other's opinions and to listen carefully. The goal is to train your team to better work together.

PW: 1. *When you hear the word "conflict," what words do you think of? Using the following scale, place a number by each word in the list.*

1= think of this word very often
2= think of this word sometimes
3= don't think of this word much at all

___ difference ___ innocent ___ hurt ___anger
___ win/lose ___ decision ___ normal ___disagree
___ guilty ___ unfair ___ struggle ___ right
___ clash ___ violence ___ fight ___ people
___ learning ___ wrong ___ war ___ ideas
___ agreement ___ against ___ separate ___ change

2. *Think of an intrapersonal conflict you've experienced? What was the issue? How did you resolve it?*

Questions for discussion:

1. What do you think are the main causes of conflicts between people?
2. What kind of conflict can people have with themselves?
3. What are the best ways to resolve conflicts?
4. Can you think of a conflict that helped you learn something about yourself or others?
5. What are the worst ways to approach conflicts?

| What is international conflict? | What are key causes of international conflicts? |

INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT

| Is it possible to convert an international conflict into peaceful conditions by peaceful means? | What international conflicts are going on around the world? |

INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT AND SOCIETY

International Conflict Behaviour is not a spasmodic, aimless, reactive flailing of hostile leaders, bent on simply hurting or destroying each other. Violence is not necessarily stupid or irrational. War is not necessarily insane. Conflict Behaviour is usually calculated to coerce, persuade, or bargain with the other's party's will, or to overcome it through force. Conflict Behaviour is aimed toward the gratification or protection of some interests in opposition to those of others. Such behaviour manifests a balancing of powers with distinct subphases and a determinate outcome--the balance of powers. In Conflict Behaviour we should find, therefore, patterns - regularities. Conflict Behaviour consists of a number of separate and distinct components - patterns underlying the phases and process of balancing. The first component pattern is *antiforeigner behaviour*, the unofficial actions of individuals or groups against another state, its nationals or its property. The second component is *preparations,* involving mobilizing the public for possible confrontations, strengthening forces, alerts, troop movements, and the like. The next component is *negative communications,* an aspect of which involves the verbal or written threats and warnings that usually occur during the coercive subphase of a conflict. A fourth component pattern is *negative actions/sanctions,* which comprises retaliatory acts, physical expressions of displeasure, retortions, and so on. Moving now to the cooperation components there are three. The first of these reflects *bargaining* power. A second cooperative component involves *persuasion:* intellectual power, with authoritative and altruistic powers mixed in. And finally, the last component is *negotiation,* the actual formal or informal attempt to resolve the conflict through mutual accommodations.

GW: *Consider one international conflict that is commonly reported in the media answering the following questions:*

1. What is this conflict about?

2. What does each party want?

3. When did this conflict begin?

4. What triggered this conflict?

5. How long has it gone on?

6. Is there active fighting, and if so, is it violent?

7. Is it confined to specific space or distributed over a large area?

8. Could this conflict spread to neighboring regions?

9. What would be the consequences?

10. What do you think makes this conflict intractable (not easily solved)?

Questions for discussion:

1. In what ways can international conflicts be resolved?

2. What are the hurdles to conflict resolution?

3. What causes conflict resolution to be long-lasting?

4. What conflict prevention strategies do you think are the most useful?

5. When would an international conflict be described as war? Are there criteria which enable us to identify what war is?

Syrian Civil War

The world is a violent place, and for various political, economic, religious and other reasons, wars and conflicts often erupt.

What began as a peaceful uprising against Syria's President Bashar al-Assad six years ago became a full-scale civil war that has left more than 300,000 people dead, devastated the country and drawn in global powers.

Long before the conflict began, many Syrians complained about high unemployment, widespread corruption, a lack of political freedom and state repression under President Bashar al-Assad, who succeeded his father, Hafez, in 2000.

In March 2011, pro-democracy demonstrations inspired by the Arab Spring erupted in the southern city of Deraa. The government's use of deadly force to crush the dissent soon triggered nationwide protests demanding the president's resignation.

As the unrest spread, the crackdown intensified. Opposition supporters began to take up arms, first to defend themselves and later to expel security forces from their local areas. Mr. Assad vowed to crush "foreign-backed terrorism" and restore state control.

The violence rapidly escalated and the country descended into civil war as hundreds of rebel brigades were formed to battle government forces for control of the country.

In essence, it has become more than just a battle between those for or against Mr. Assad.

A key factor has been the intervention of regional and world powers, including Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia and the United States. Their military, financial and political support for the government and opposition has contributed directly to the intensification and continuation of the fighting, and turned Syria into a proxy battleground.

External powers have also been accused of fostering sectarianism in what was a broadly secular state, pitching the country's Sunni majority against the president's Shia Alawite sect. Such divisions have encouraged both sides to commit atrocities that have not only caused loss of life but also torn apart communities, hardened positions and dimmed hopes for a political settlement. Jihadist groups have also seized on the divisions, and their rise has added a further dimension to the war. Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, an alliance formed by what was once the al-Qaeda-affiliated al-Nusra Front, controls large parts of the north-western province of Idlib.

Meanwhile, so-called Islamic State (IS), which controls large swathes of northern and eastern Syria, is battling government forces, rebel brigades and Kurdish militias, as well as facing air strikes by Russia and a US-led multinational coalition.

Thousands of Shia militiamen from Iran, Lebanon, Iraq, Afghanistan and Yemen say they are fighting alongside the Syrian army to protect holy sites.

Multicultural Society

What is multiculturalism?

Is multiculturalism a threat to some countries/your country?

MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Would you prefer your country to be multicultural or of just one culture?

Is multiculturalism good for world peace and understanding?

MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Multiculturalism describes the existence, acceptance, or promotion of multiple cultural traditions within a single jurisdiction, usually considered in terms of the culture associated with an ethnic group. This can happen when a jurisdiction is created or expanded by amalgamating areas with two or more different cultures (e.g. French Canada and English Canada) or through immigration from different jurisdictions around the world (e.g. Australia, Brazil, Mexico, the United States, and many other countries).

Multicultural ideologies or policies vary widely, ranging from the advocacy of equal respect to the various cultures in a society, to a policy of promoting the maintenance of cultural diversity, to policies in which people of various ethnic and religious groups are addressed by the authorities as defined by the group to which they belong. Multiculturalism that promotes maintaining the distinctiveness of multiple cultures is often contrasted to other settlement policies such as social integration, cultural assimilation and racial segregation.

Two different and seemingly inconsistent strategies have developed through different government policies and strategies. The first focuses on interaction and communication between different cultures; this approach is also often known as interculturalism. The second centers on diversity and cultural uniqueness which can sometimes result in intercultural competition. Cultural isolation can protect the uniqueness of the local culture of a nation or area and also contribute to global cultural diversity. A common aspect of many policies following the second approach is that they avoid presenting any specific ethnic, religious, or cultural community values as central.

GW: *Express your ideas on the following questions in 5-7 sentences.*

1. When immigrants arrive in a new country, do you think they should be required to learn the language of that country? Why/Why not?

2. Should countries offer special programs to immigrants to help them adapt in their new country? What do you think such programs should include?

3. Some schools adopt multicultural education where the children are taught about the practices and traditions of different cultures. What are the benefits of such an education?

Questions for discussion:

1. What problems does multiculturalism bring to a country?

2. What are the benefits of multiculturalism?

3. Why do you think some countries' leaders don't want their nation to become multicultural?

4. Where in the world do you think multiculturalism works best?

5. What do you expect to see in a country that is described as "culturally diverse"?

6. What impact does multiculturalism have on a society?

7. Why do people retain their culture in a multicultural society?

Toronto - the most multicultural city in the world

Multiculturalism is part of Toronto's brand as a city. Genuinely embracing diversity, Toronto is home to many different ethnicities and cultures, truly shaping who we are as a collective. If you're from Toronto or if you have visited the city, you know that there's an array of different areas and places that embody various cultures and people.

The wonderful thing about Toronto is that one can literally experience so many cultures in a day. They have Little Italy, Greektown, Koreatown, Chinatown, Little Portugal and Little India - each embracing an authentic lifestyle and cuisine. Over 180 languages and dialects are spoken here.

Toronto being home to so many different types of people is a mosaic of different languages, which truly paints the city in a unique way. A new study by BBC Radio crunched the numbers and declared Toronto the world's most multicultural metropolis. According to the study, 51 per cent of Toronto's population is foreign born, and some 230 different nationalities call the city home.

This city is a melting pot that contains every piece of the world. This alone influences how the people here live and are represented. Toronto is also home to some of the best cultural festivals: Taste of Toronto, Toronto Caribbean Festival, Salsa In Toronto, Taste of the Danforth and others.

Racial Problems

In what ways is racism and discrimination a problem in a society?

In which country do you think racism is the worst?

What's the worst example of racism you've witnessed or experienced?

How are people of a different colour or appearance treated in your home country?

1. "Thug"

Many decades ago, the word "thug" referenced people who engaged in organized crime. But in more recent years, especially in the wake of the murders of Trayvon Martin and even Brown, many whites and others dismissively use the word to describe young, black people – especially black men – implying that they're violent, irrational and shouldn't be taken seriously.

Going further, there's even a clear implication that young black murder victims somehow deserved to die because they're so-called thugs. It's the logic that belies the online fundraisers for Officer Darren Wilson, with some supportive whites praising him for killing a kid that would've "eventually become a problem anyway."

And it was all because of the way they looked, spoke or dressed — in other words, the color of their skin combined with the clothes they wore. The label even extends to Latino males, many of whom end up enduring similar public scrutiny, should they end up being crime victims or identified as alleged perpetrators, regardless of whether they actually participate in gangs.

It's important to note that although the word stemmed from organized crime, it is almost never used in reference to the Ku Klux Klan or the bankers on Wall Street, individuals who effectively brought the economy to a grinding halt while pilfering money from poor and working-class taxpayers.

2. "Inner city"

On the surface, this phrase seems like a casual reference to one type of community, similar to urban, suburban or rural. But beneath the niceties, a typical discussion about people from the "inner city" is actually coded language for African-Americans.

I always laugh when I see inner city black kids in school as if they're going to pursue anything other than a life of crime.

The term reinforces the concept of "white flight," wherein moving to the suburbs functions as an escape mechanism to avoid living among black people, leaving minorities behind in city neighborhoods that inevitably become neglected by government and businesses. But there's more: both "urban" and "inner city" have been used to describe blacks and their communities as people who are lazy, wasteful and slovenly. In recent years, former Congressman Newt Gingrich and even Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) in a speech in March blamed poverty on "inner city" men, directly implying that black men are shiftless, violent and unintelligent people who only want to live on welfare.

That's despite the unfortunate reality that unemployment disproportionately affects black people, and that minorities may become trapped in an endless cycle

of underemployment, necessitating two or even three jobs to support themselves or their families.

3. "Ghetto"

Originally used as a reference to neighborhoods where members of a minority group reside – mostly due to social, political or economic pressure – the term "ghetto" has since become a racist and classist pejorative.

In reality, only people who have lived in these areas can really say what's "ghetto" and what's not. But that's not what usually happens. Instead, "ghetto" has become an adjective used to negatively judge any number of things, from outfits to run-down facilities. In common media tropes, "ghetto" is also associated with black people and their cultural expressions, including braids, gold hoop earrings and rap music. The term has largely become synonymous with being cheap, substandard, undesirable and, yes, black.

However, that doesn't stop many black people, even other minorities, from celebrating a shared experience of living in the ghetto. Songs from artists like James Brown, Stevie Wonder, Janelle Monáe, Common and others are but a few examples of how "ghetto" can be a source of pride for black people, rather than something to be feared or stereotyped.

4. "Oreo"

It may seem like a harmless joke, but there's nothing sweet about "Oreo" in this context, which is used by some to describe someone who is "black on the outside but white on the inside."

Other than an unfortunate food comparison, "Oreo" reinforces the assumption that there are absolute qualities to being black or being white, regardless of a black person's lived experiences. Even further, it implies that certain supposedly desirable traits — such as using proper grammar, liking mainstream pop music and wearing "preppy" clothes – are inherently white things.

The flipside of this is another equally upsetting notion: that an individual can somehow be "too black," and therefore be perceived as a threat within more mainstream settings. It's the same, essentialist assumption that befell disgraced NBA team owners Donald Sterling and Bruce Levenson, who did not want to associate with black people, or expressed problems and discomfort with the number of black people present at basketball games.

5. "Uppity"

It's not very often that blacks are in relative positions of power and prestige when compared to their white peers. Some others may not have enough income to afford a suit for a job interview or dine out with their family. Racial disparities limit equal access to opportunity across America. Yet when blacks do present themselves as poised, composed individuals who speak with confidence and look the part – especially during moments of disagreement – they run the risk of being labeled "uppity."

As political commentator Goldie Taylor noted in a 2011 op-ed for the *Root*, the word historically functioned as a death sentence for blacks who "assumed liberties beyond one's social situation."

"Having the audacity to look a white person in the eye, were all signs that you were getting too big for your britches," Taylor wrote. "Attempting to get an education or enunciating your words were also frowned upon. Blacks needed to step off the sidewalk, if need be, to let whites pass freely. Jim Crow is dead, but unfortunately some of those social constructs live on."

6. "You people"

As if blacks needed any more reminders that white privilege rules American society, the phrase "you people" makes the balance of power abundantly clear, in any given interaction.

Take, for instance, a 2012 interview where *Good Morning America*'s Robin Roberts asked Ann Romney about her husband's apparent reluctance to publicly disclose his tax returns. What started

out as an impassioned defense against her husband's alleged lack of transparency became yet another moment when Republican leaders stepped into racialized territory.

"We've given all you people need to know and understand about our financial situation and how we live our life," she told Roberts, drawing widespread ire on social media, as reported by *Mashable*. Rarely, if ever, do whites address their peers using the same phrasing, even during moments of frustration or confusion.

7. "Shady" or "sketchy"

Both terms have long referred to neighborhoods with heavily black or brown populations, promoting the stereotype that these communities are inherently unsafe and unwelcoming because of high crime and because of the area's racial makeup. The recently launched *Sketch Factor* app was created by an all-white team of entrepreneurs to help users avoid "sketchy" or "bad" neighborhoods. But in reality, it's a tool to enable racial profiling.

The terms also refer to black individuals who, judging solely by their appearance may be untrustworthy or violent, perpetuating nasty racial stereotypes that blacks and minorities only want to steal from or attack white people. In the case of "shady," there's a direct tie to darker skin color as an inherent characteristic that merits skepticism.

That very logic is a large part of what makes racially coded language so problematic, especially as it's framed against black people. Before anyone ever really knows the full story, all it takes is a nudge, an image or a sound of blackness for most people to make negative snap judgments.

RACIAL PROBLEMS IN SOCIETY

Protests have spread all over the USA after a jury found a white police officer not guilty of having killed the black teenager Michael Brown. We all know this is not the first time. After the United States of America got its first black president, things had cooled down. Hopes were high; the creation of a more just society based on the equality of all races was once again seen as a feasible goal.

Blacks are discriminated, Indians are discriminated, Asians and South Americans are discriminated, and so on so forth. Stanford Professor Londa Schiebinger, while lecturing at Copenhagen University recently, said that it was deeply problematic that more young black men were sitting in jails in the USA than those attending universities.

Having the first black American president has not solved much or any of the problems existing in the racially divided society of the USA. Racial inequality is an important issue that not only the United States but also the European countries will have to address in order to increase the respect of human rights and human dignity in general.

Widespread discrimination is being practiced against immigrants in European countries and the USA. The problem is not that the police force and law-enforcement authorities are primarily white, but even the human-rights community, which should be protesting against these gross violations, is also not representative. The solution is proper representation, equal participation and a broader recognition that people of all races and nations need to be equally represented in good jobs. They are not supposed to fill jails but vacant places in universities.

PW: *Work with your partner to consider the following question "Can we prevent racism?" Express your ideas in 5-7 sentences.*

1. Why are people racists?

2. What punishments should there be for those guilty of racism?

3. Is criticizing a different culture the same as being racist?

4. Will racism always be an issue in society?

5. What are some ways we can combat racism and discrimination?

6. How does race effect our interactions with each other?

7. Some people believe that humanity is divided into distinct races; others believe that all human beings belong to only one race. What do you think?

Celebrities Who Have Been Victims of Racism

Racism is a huge problem all over the world – race relations, discrimination, and racial stereotypes are constantly hot topics of conversation. Racial discrimination has been an issue since many years and, hardly, anything has been done to curb it. Racists have never spared anybody. Be it a celebrity or a common man, all have faced discrimination at some point or the other in their lifetime. Here are some famous people who have faced racial issues at some point in their lives.

OPRAH WINFREY

an American media proprietor, talk show host, actress, producer, the richest African-American, the greatest black philanthropist in American history and North America's first multi-billionaire black person.

While shopping in Switzerland, a shop assistant refused to show her a £24,477 handbag saying it would be "too expensive" for her. Did the shop assistant not see it was one of the wealthiest women in the world asking to see the bag?

RIHANNA

took to Twitter to respond to a racist slur that appeared about her in the Dutch fashion magazine, "Jackie." The magazine did not only print inaccurate information about her, but called her racist names in the print story. The editor was thrown out of her job immediately and an apology was sent to her.

BARACK OBAMA

Even the president of the USA **Barack Obama** has been a victim of racism. He has been questioned about ethnicity since stepping into office and has been called a liar by many members of congress while speaking about race.

Environment and Society

What are the biggest problems facing our environment?

What can you do every day to help the environment?

Do you think international meetings on the environment are useful?

Are you environmentally friendly?

to ail e.g. *The huge trees **had been ailing** for years before they were cut down.*

to chop down e.g. *Poor people often **chop down** trees for firewood.*

death of the forests e.g. *The **death of the forests** is a big problem in Europe.*

to diminish e.g. *The people try to **diminish** the pollution of the water.*

disaster e.g. *The recent earthquake in India is a **disaster**.*

to dry up, to parch e.g. *During the long time of drought many rivers **have dried up/parched**.*

environmentalist e.g. ***Environmentalists** are people who love the natural world.*

to erode e.g. *It took about 67,000 years to **erode** the Grand Canyon.*

hardest hit e.g. *Our town was **hardest hit** by last year's earthquake.*

pollution e.g. *Air **pollution** is a problem for all of us.*

prevention e.g. *The **prevention** of litter is very important.*

to recycle e.g. *This carton is made from **recycled** paper.*

sewage e.g. ***Sewage**, used water, comes from factories and households.*

ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY

When it comes to the environment, most of us are just lazy. We justify our actions thinking there are no visible direct short-term implications, and our lives aren't going to change drastically if we use one side of this sheet and throw it away anyway. We are generally divided into two camps: "I won't do it until I'm forced to!" and "If nobody's doing it, why should I?"

Environmental Sociology examines society's attitudes towards environmentalism as well as measures to understand environmentalism as a movement. These attitudes prevail not only in individuals but across countries as well. The two that will be discussed hinder efforts at environmental conservation because they refuse to acknowledge that society as a whole can benefit from environmentalism. As NEA (National Environment Agency) would put it, "You Save. You Win."

The NEA's slogan epitomises how saving the environment is everybody's responsibility and ultimately for the benefit of all. The nature of the environment is such that it is global. It does not need to be exacerbated by globalisation for harmful practices to impact the rest of the world. However, globalisation has superseded physical boundaries, making it such that international agreements and coordinated efforts can be better managed, and can be better enforced for the environment. Globalisation has also increased the world's carbon footprint. Through widespread sharing of technology, fuel-guzzling inventions such as cars and aeroplanes are common all over the world.

Environmental Sociology concerns itself with social impediments to environmentalism. The attitudes of individuals, societies and countries contribute to this and can stand in the way of effective measures.

PW: 1. *Decide if you think the following ideas:*
a) will happen in the next 50 years?

b) could happen?

c) won't happen?

Mark the sentences a, b or c.

1) Most cars will be electric.

2) Nuclear Energy will end.

3) Alternative energy will be more important than oil.

4) You will recycle all your bags, cans and paper.

5) Almost all the rainforests will disappear.

6) People will continue to sunbathe.

7) The climate will get worse.

8) The next generation will care more about the environment than the present.

9) In elections "Green Issues" will become more important than any other.

10) People will destroy the earth.

2. Look at the quiz and try to answer the questions.

1. What alternative forms of energy do you know?

2. What is the Ozone Layer? What does it do? What is happening to it?

3. How are forests good for the environment? What is happening to them?

4. What is a hybrid car? How does it help the environment?

5. What is acid rain?

6. What is recycling? How does it help the environment?

7. What is the Greenhouse Effect?

Questions for discussion:

1. What causes climate change and how can we reverse it?

2. How will our children be affected by climate change?

3. Which countries cause the most pollution?

4. If the environment could speak what would it tell us?

5. Where will we get the energy when we run out of oil?

6. What danger does your country pose to the global environment?

7. What will happen if we keep polluting the environment?

What is climate change?

Climate change, also called global warming, refers to the rise in average surface temperatures on Earth.

The primary cause of climate change is the burning of fossil fuels, such as oil and coal, which emits greenhouse gases into the atmosphere – primarily carbon dioxide. The gases trap heat within the atmosphere, which can have a range of effects on ecosystems, including rising sea levels, severe weather events, and droughts that render landscapes more susceptible to wildfires. Other human activities, such as agriculture and deforestation, also contribute to the proliferation of greenhouse gases that cause climate change.

Even small increases in Earth's temperature caused by climate change can have severe effects. The earth's average temperature has gone up 1.4° F over the past century and is expected to rise as much as 11.5° F over the next. That might not seem like a lot, but the average temperature during the last Ice Age was about 4º F lower than it is today.

Rising sea levels due to the melting of the polar ice caps (again, caused by climate change) contribute to greater storm damage; warming ocean temperatures are associated with stronger and more frequent storms; additional rainfall, particularly during severe weather events, leads to flooding and other damage; an increase in the incidence and severity of wildfires threatens habitats, homes, and lives; and heat waves contribute to human deaths and other consequences. The changes could drive freshwater shortages, bring sweeping changes in food production conditions, and increase the number of deaths from floods, storms, heat waves and droughts. This is because climate change is expected to increase the frequency of extreme weather events - though linking any single event to global warming is complicated. Poorer countries, which are least equipped to deal with rapid change, could suffer the most.

Communication and Society

What is the most common way people communicate?	**Consider the word "communication" What does it make you think of?**
Has technology ruined interpersonal communications?	**How has communication changed through human history?**

COMMUNICATION AND SOCIETY

Communication is the study of how people convey information, a resource vital not only in the world of media, but in such varied fields as business, government, and human services.

The major in communication and society focuses on the cultural and social contexts of communication, particularly organizational and intercultural communication. It's a highly flexible program that has applications in business, government, media, nonprofit organizations, human services, and many other fields.

Fascinating new forms of politics, economics and creative enterprises are rapidly challenging many core assumptions about human communication and identity. The possession and transfer of knowledge now lies at the heart of daily life and it is more important than ever to understand various aspects of communication.

Communication and Society offers a wide choice of interesting and engaging modules. The core of this subject draws on Psychology and Sociology, and also includes aspects of Philosophy, History and Anthropology. No previous study in any of these areas is required. You will study a diverse range of topics including non-verbal, spoken and unconscious communication; the history of communication; and digital cultures. The fascinating range of subject areas that this course covers make it an ideal combination with our modern range of course options.

PW: *Write about the type of communication you find easier to use and explain why expressing your ideas in 5-7 sentences.*

1. Why is communication important?
2. How have smart phones changed communication?
3. How does body language help you to communicate?
4. What different forms of communication do you know? Give examples.
5. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each type of communication?
6. How can we communicate more effectively?
7. How will people communicate in the future?

The influence of modern technology on society: Good or bad?

In the past people used technology as a tool for making survival an easier endeavor. Nowadays we are witnessing a shift in the role technology is playing in our society and may continue to play for generations to come. In the modern-day world technology is no longer a tool for survival but it turned to a means of communication and entertainment. Mass communication technology has made it easier than ever to connect with people. At the same time this raises the concern of whether technology has a good or bad influence on our society, is the use of technology destroying face-to-face interaction and communication between people?

Whenever you're in a coffee shop, standing at a bus stop or taking the tube you can easily see how people are connected to each other using different sorts of electronic devices. The primary

concern regarding this new communication behavior is whether it made face-to-face interaction and communication between people nonexistent. This is true in many aspects as this may lead to living in a virtual world that only includes interacting with people with texting and social networks. This leads, among other things, to the ability for people to be lonely, as having too many virtual friendships causes the inability to establish meaningful relationships. The young generations in our society are participating in a massive unit. The lack of communication affects also relationships inside one family. It is quite common in today's society for a family to eat dinner completely separate from each – almost purposely avoiding face-to-face communications. On the other hand there might be an explanation for this phenomenon; husbands, wives, boyfriends and girlfriends no longer go entire days without speaking to each other on the phone, emailing each other, facebooking each other or texting each other.

The paradox of the mass communication technology is that we are growing more distant from each other when we choose to make smartphones, computers, television, and the like our primary means of communicating with each other. Technology is a wonderful tool that is supposed to help humans improve their life quality but instead of that it is preventing us from continuing to be able to form meaningful relationships with each other. It is true that the long-term social effects of modern communication are still to be seen but it doesn't seem, at least for now, like they are more beneficial than detrimental to society.
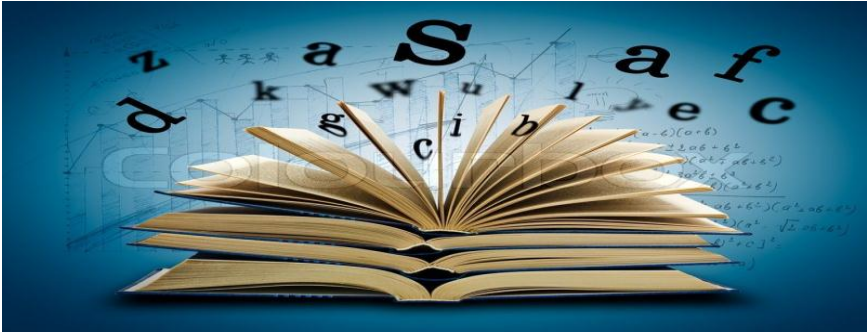
Education and Society

How important do you think education is?

What is a good education?

When does education begin?

What things should people learn as they get older?

Is education only for the young?

Academic *adj.*
based on learning from books and study rather than on practical skills and experience

advanced *adj.*
studying at a high level

applied *adj.*
used for describing educational subjects when they are studied for their practical uses

banding *n.*
a system of putting students into groups according to their ability so that students of different abilities are taught together

be an education (to/for someone)
used for saying that an experience makes someone change or develop their ideas

curricular *adj.*
relating to the subjects that students study at a particular school or college

elementary *adj.*
relating to the first years of school

graduate *adj.*
graduate studies and courses are for students who already have a degree. The usual British word is postgraduate.

multi-disciplinary *adj.*
involving several different subjects of study or areas of professional activity

postgraduate *adj.*
relating to study done after receiving your first university degree. The American word is graduate.(British) / relating to work or studies done after receiving an advanced degree such as an MA or a PhD (American)

self-educated *adj.*
taught by yourself instead of by teachers or other people

well-rounded *adj.*
including a good balance of various subjects

EDUCATION AND SOCIETY

Throughout human history education has been one of the most important social contributions. The rich literature, scientific discoveries, space exploration, and geological exploration are just some of the most distinguished human endeavors that have been undertaken over time. Without the noble contributions of education to human society, contemporary societies that exist today might not have been possible. Life today is better than it was a hundred years ago because of the benefits received from science exploration. Science has played major roles in society.

The role of education is to educate individuals within society and to prepare and qualify them for work in the economy as well as helping to integrate individuals into society and teach them the norms, values and morals of society. These are Functionalism, Marxism and Liberalism. Functionalists view the role of education as a means of socializing individual.

Education is one of the most important tools that a society possesses. The right implementation of this tool is one of the greatest ways of assuring the quality of life within a society. The ability to better ourselves, is one of the strongest inherit abilities of the human race. Without the consistent development of the human race, life would be nothing more than survival.

Life is a struggle and education is a turning point in society. Today we see education simply as academic success; but that is not all there is to education. Education improves people socially, and helps them succeed. Education displays a very important place in society.

A society consists of different classes of people, and each class is essential to the survival of all. The gap between the rich and the poor can never be eliminated, but by educating our people maybe it can become smaller.

PW: *Write about what you would like to change in the education system of your country expressing your ideas in 5-7 sentences.*

Questions for discussion:

1. In which country do you think you can receive the best education?

2. What are the qualities of a good student? A good teacher?

3. Do you think private schools and universities offer higher quality education or are they just prestigious?

4. Does education guarantee a good job in your country?

5. Henry Ford said: "Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at 20 or 80. Anyone who keeps learning stays young" Do you agree? Why?

6. What is one of the biggest problems with the current education system in your country?

7. John Dewey said: "Education is not a preparation for life, but is life itself" What do you think he meant?

Haji Zeynalabdin Taghiyev's school
for girls –

Did you know that the Muslim School for Girls (also known as the Empress Alexandra Muslim School for Girls), built on the personal initiative and at the expense of the famous oil baron and millionaire philanthropist Haji Zeynalabdin Taghiyev, was the first Muslim girls' boarding school in the whole Caucasus? The school building was designed by the Polish architect Jozef Goslawski in the year 1900. This was a new type of educational facility – a boarding school, fundamentally different from other religious schools in the region. Taghiyev was concerned about Muslim women's closed lives and their ignorance of their rights. He dearly wished them to be educated, cultured and broad-minded. He believed that an uneducated and oppressed woman was also an uneducated mother. He often asked: What can such a woman give to her child? He was certain that enlightenment should begin with girls, thus the enlightenment of a child results in an educated individual, however, an educated girl means an educated mother and an educated family in the future.

"Better than a thousand days of diligent study is one day with a great teacher." (Japanese proverb)

The Great Historical Educators

The following inspirational teacher quotes are from some of history's most profoundly influential educators. These people taught us all something that exists beyond the classroom. Their words touched both hearts and minds. Life lessons, and not just classroom lessons, abound here. After all, preparation for life is at the heart of every classroom.

The greatest sign of success for a teacher is to be able to say, "The children are now working as if I did not exist."

— *Maria Montessori* —

One lady who was constantly challenging the status quo of her day was **Maria Montessori**. She was born in the 1870 s in Italy, and was a diligent student. All her life she remained ambitious and confident. Her refusal to adhere to the traditional expectations held for women in her time was legendary. She eventually went on to develop an educational philosophy that is the foundation of thousands of schools all over the world bearing her name. Montessori believed in embracing a child's natural curiosity and spontaneity as the basis for great teaching and learning. It's true, our children need our guidance and our care early on in their learning lives. That said, the truly successful educator is that one whose students have grown to no longer need them.

Teacher Quotes

"Good teaching is more a giving of right questions than a giving of right answers." – **Josef Albers**

"If kids come to us from strong, healthy functioning families, it makes our job easier. If they do not come to us from strong, healthy, functioning families, it makes our job more important." – **Barbara Colorose**

"The important thing is not so much that every child should be taught, as that every child should be given the wish to learn." – **John Lubbock**

HEALTH AND SOCIETY

What is the best thing to do to stay healthy?

What do you think is the most serious health problem?

What do you think about the health system in your country?

Is it possible to have a healthy life style in the modern world?

Things you have:

- **I have an upset stomach**
- **I have a wheezing cough.**
  A "wheezing" cough sounds dry and painful.
- **I have a rash on my neck.**
  This means that your skin is red and itchy.

Things that you're having:
- **I'm having chest pains.**

- **I'm having trouble sleeping.**
  This means that you can't go to sleep, or that you wake up a lot at night.

Things that you are:

- **I'm short of breath.**
  This means that you can't breathe well.
- **My muscles are sore.**
  This is the feeling that you get the day after doing hard exercise.

Things that you get:

- I get this sharp pain in my shoulder whenever I raise my arm.
- I sometimes get dull, throbbing headaches.
  "Dull" pain happens slowly and constantly. "Throbbing" pain hurts each time blood pumps through your body.

Things that you feel:

- I feel lightheaded.
- I'm feeling under the weather.

Things that are happening to parts of your body:

- My ankle is red and swollen.
  When part of your body gets bigger, it's "swollen".
- It hurts when I apply pressure to it.
  Pushing, squeezing, or leaning on part of your body "applies pressure" to it.
- My stomach hurts.
- My nose is stuffy.
  This happens when you have a cold and mucus clogs up your nose.

Things that you're doing:

- I'm running a fever of 102 degrees.
- I've been vomiting for the last 12 hours.
  "Vomiting" is also called "throwing up". It means that your food comes back up out of your stomach.
- I've been waking up in the middle of the night every night.

Other problems:

- I suffered a neck injury in a motorcycle accident last year.
- I never fully recovered from the accident.
- My allergies are killing me!
- My arthritis is acting up.
  "Arthritis" is pain in the joints which happens to a lot of old people.

HEALTH AND SOCIETY

Health and Society is a multidisciplinary field that examines human health as an eco-social phenomenon and draws principally from the humanities and social sciences. The rapid global growth of things "health" - public health, health care, health policy, and biomedical sciences and technology - in the face of growing disparities raise serious questions about the underlying social conditions that contribute to collective health and illness. in

A great deal of attention is given to how an individual can have and maintain good health. This always has and always will be essential. Society also plays an important role in health. Public health is the protection and improvement of the health of people in a society. Most communities address health problems in four ways - medical advances, technology, public policy, and education. Through medical research, there are many advances in information and treatment related to health issues all the time. For example, diabetes is a serious disease. In a diabetic's body there is too much glucose, or sugar, in the blood. The body lacks a hormone, insulin that allows glucose to be absorbed and used by the body. Diabetics must constantly test their blood sugar level, monitor what they eat, and often give themselves insulin shots.

Technology is another way society addresses health problems. Computers and lasers are among the products meant to help people. A glucose meter helps diabetics test their sugar levels at home.

A healthy society is happier and more productive and is a key driver of economic growth. Investing in people's health therefore means investing in society.

GW: *Express your ideas on the following questions in 5-7 sentences.*

1. If you were the leader of your country, what would you do to improve health care?

2. What are the most damaging things to people's health?

3. What are the benefits of a healthy lifestyle?

4. Are there any diseases that you think humans could get rid of if we tried?

5. Do you take vitamins? Do they really help people or they just have a placebo effect?

Questions for discussion:

1. How often do you get a medical check-up? How often should people get a check-up?

2. Do you ever wear a face mask in public? Do you wear it to protect yourself or others?

3. What healthy habits do you have?

4. Have you heard of the expression "You are what you eat"? Do you agree?

5. People sometimes say that "laughter is the best medicine". What do you think this means? Do you agree?

Did you know that…

- A person will die from lack of sleep sooner than they will from starvation, which usually takes a few weeks.
- One person in 20 has an extra rib, and they are most often men.
- During a sneeze, all of your bodily functions momentarily stop, even your heart.
- On average, right-handed people live 9 years longer than left-handed people
- On average, people who complain live longer. Releasing the tension increases immunity and boosts their health.
- Eating too much meat can accelerate your body's biological age.
- A study of over 11,000 children determined that an overly hygienic environment increases the risk of eczema and asthma.
- Drinking very hot beverages increases your risk of developing cancer.
- A Can of Soda a day increases your chances of getting type 2 diabetes by 22%?

Religion and Belief

Is religion a source of conflict and war or is it a force for peace?

How important is religion to you?

Would you ever consider changing your religion? Why/Why not?

Do you think that religious people are happier? Why/Why not?

agnosticism – a religious orientation of doubt

Allah – Muslim name for the one and only God

alms – money or goods contributed to the poor

angel – spiritual being attendant upon God

atheist – someone who denies the existence of god

Bible – the sacred writings of the Christian religions

bishop – a senior member of the Christian clergy

caliph – the civil and religious leader of a Muslim state

cathedral – the principal Christian church building of a diocese

Christianity – a monotheistic system of beliefs and practices based on the Old Testament and the teachings of Jesus as embodied in the New Testament and emphasizing the role of Jesus as savior

clergy – the entire class of religious officials in Christianity

confession – the act of a penitent disclosing sinfulness before a priest

conversion – a change of religion

faith – a strong belief in a divine power or powers

hajj – a pilgrimage to Mecca that is a religious duty for Muslims

imam – the person who leads prayers in a mosque

Jesus Christ – a teacher and prophet born in Bethlehem and active in Nazareth; his life and sermons form the basis for Christianity (circa 4 BC - AD 29)

monk – a male religious living in a cloister and devoting himself to contemplation and prayer and work

mosque – a Muslim place of worship that usually has a minaret

parish – a local church community

pope – the head of the Roman Catholic Church

prophet – someone who speaks by divine inspiration

Quran – the sacred writings of Islam revealed by God to the prophet Muhammad during his life at Mecca and Medina

rabbi – spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation

saint – a person who has died and has been canonized

synagogue – the place of worship for a Jewish congregation

temple - a place of worship

RELIGION AND BELIEF

Religion or belief includes any religion and any religious or philosophical belief and also includes a lack of any such religion or belief. Religions do not need to be mainstream or well-known to be protected under the Act; however they must be identifiable and have a clear structure and belief system. A belief does not need to include faith or worship of a god or gods, but in order to be protected under the Act it must fulfill the following criteria:

- it must be genuinely held
- It must be a belief and not an opinion or viewpoint, based on the present state of information available
- it must be a belief as to a weighty and substantial aspect of human life and behaviour
- it must attain a certain level of cogency, seriousness, cohesion and importance
- it must be worthy of respect in a democratic society, compatible with human dignity and not conflict with the fundamental rights of others

Examples of such beliefs may include Humanism, Atheism and Pacifism.

Religions and beliefs are notoriously difficult to measure, as they are not fixed or innate, and therefore any poll should be primarily treated as an indication of beliefs rather than a concrete measure. It is vitally important for the future of religion and society to understand the nature and extent of discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief. It is also important to assess the adequacy of equality policies, practices and laws for tackle it.

PW: *Express your ideas covering the topic "The role of religion in society" in 5-7 sentences.*

1. Religions often prescribe rules for human behaviour. Which rules are hardest to follow?

2. Why aren't people tolerant toward other religions?

3. Do you think that religion in general has had a positive or negative effect on the world?

4. If religion is all about love and peace, why are many of the world's conflicts and wars caused by religion?

5. Atheists don't believe in God because there is no proof he exists. What do you think?

6. Some people dedicate their lives to religion. What makes them so committed?

7. Do you believe in God? Do you think of God as a being like a man or a woman? Explain your concept of God.

MUHAMMAD ALI

Cassius Clay

American boxer, Three times World Heavyweight Champion, embraced Islam in 1965.

"I have had many nice moments in my life. But the feelings I had while standing on Mount Arafat (just outside Makka, Saudi Arabia) on the day of the Hajj (the Muslim pilgrimage), was the most unique. I felt exalted by the indescribable spiritual atmosphere there as over one and a half million pilgrims invoked God to forgive them for their sins and bestow on them His choicest blessings. It

was an exhilarating experience to see people belonging to different colours, races and nationalities, kings, heads of state and ordinary men from very poor countries all clad in two simple white sheets praying to God without any sense of either pride or inferiority. It was a practical manifestation of the concept of equality in Islam."

One of the first public figures in America to be identified with Islam was boxer Muhammad Ali, to whom more media attention has been given than to any other athlete. His name and face are known to people all over the world.

Ali was born Cassius Marcellus Clay in 1942 in Louisville, Kentucky, of a Baptist mother and Methodist father. He started boxing at a young age so as to be able to buy his parents a car; by the time he was in his twenties, many considered him the greatest fighter of all time. After winning the Rome Olympics in 1960, he became the darling of the American public – handsome, charming, and greatly successful.

In 1963 he recorded an album in which he extolled his own merits ("I am the greatest") in a stunt that brought him even greater publicity but also earned him some ridicule.

Eighteen days before he defeated Sonny Liston to become heavyweight champion of the world, Clay joined the "Black Muslims," influenced by Malcolm X. After his conversion he seems visibly to have changed, bragging less about his accomplishments and stressing the importance of Islam as a spiritual force in his life.

Adopting the Muslim name Muhammad Ali, he has always insisted, was one of the most important occurrences in his life. He did it, however, at a time when the Nation of Islam was unpopular in the United States. The boxing commission was furious, and from a hero Ali quickly became the object of suspicion.

In 1967, in opposition to the Vietnam War, Ali refused to be inducted into the armed forces on the grounds that he was a minister in the religion of Islam. The New York State Athletic Commission suspended his boxing license and withdrew his recognition as champion.

Muhammad Ali's later career has been extremely checkered, and it is generally recognized that he fought well beyond the time that his physical condition allowed. He was finally diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

Meanwhile, he also did a great deal of public speaking about his life and about Islam, while the government continued surveillance on him as a member of the Nation of Islam. Never a strong advocate of the Nation's racist doctrines, he did preach racial pride and became a hero of Black Americans. He has been a significant contributor to the financing of Islamic institutions such as Masjid al-Faatir, the first mosque built from the ground up in the city of Chicago. The truly great men of history, he has said, want not to be great themselves but to help others and be close to God.

Science and Technology

Does scientific progress scare or excite you?

Do you think technological advances are always good?

Do you think science helps or has become obsessed with technology?

Do you think modern society harms humankind? Why do you think so?

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The advance of technology is a good trend for our society. With each new change brings endlessly new possibilities. Which of these possibilities will happen and how the resulting technology is used plays an integral role in the lives of people today and tomorrow and therefore needs to be carefully considered. Technology is something that deserves both our appreciation, as well as critical consideration in order to maximize the benefits it provides and minimizes the destructions it can cause. We can be the masters of technology, and not let it be the masters of us.

The advance of mass communication is natural in a technologically advanced society. In our country's short history we have seen the development of the printing press, the radio, the television, and now the Internet, all of these, able to reach millions of people. Equally natural is the poisoning and corruption of these medias to benefit a few. Television and the Internet don't have to be a weapon against us, used to sway our opinions to conform to people who care only about their prosperity, and not ours. We can stop being motivated by technological advances; instead we can laugh at it as a cheap attempt to persuade our minds.

America is a society where everyone owns at least one television set, and is the most used appliance in households where watching it daily has become routine. Nowadays, people don't find the time for an art exhibit, crafts, or even a candle lit dinner. Today the majority of parents work and watching television is considered by most good quality family time. It's a time where families catch up on each other's lives, and are entertained without incurring the expense of going out to a movie.

GW: 1. *In groups give some examples of technology that have made the world worse and explain why.*

2. *Try to find a positive and negative about each issue.*
1) e-books 6) GPS
2) tablet 7) MP3 player
3) 3D glasses 8) Bluetooth
4) mobile phone 9) Microwave oven
5) Lap top 10) Dictaphone

Questions for discussion:

1. How has science improved your life? Think of three examples and explain.

2. What are some of the greatest technological achievements of all time?

3. What impact does technology have on stress? Does it increase it or reduce it?

4. Which new technologies which have emerged over the last 15 to 20 years have had the most impact on our lives?

5. How have technological advances affected communication/medicine/education?

6. What crazy future technology are you looking forward to?

7. Imagine that you could only use one of the following – a computer, a telephone or a car. Which one would you use and why?

Fathers of Technology
The innovations & inventions in technology contributed by these great men have earned them the title of "Fathers of Technology". The products that they developed then, have made it a way of life for us today. While there are many in modern technology, in this article we pay our tribute to 5 such innovators.

Story1: The Mouse
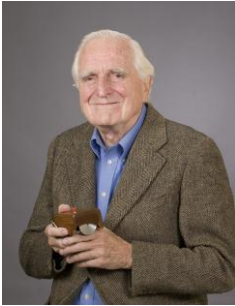
Douglas Engelbart is most recognised for creation of the computer mouse. It was designed by Bill English from the prototype created by Douglas Engelbart.

Story 2: WWW

Timothy Berners-Lee is best known as the inventor of the World Wide Web. Invention of WWW lead to global change in the way users communicated over the internet. His invention of the first web browser (WWW), the hypertext markup language (HTML) and the hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) make up what we understand to be the web.

Story 3: The Mobile
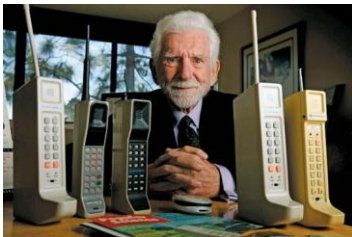
While at Motorola, **Martin Cooper** invented the first handheld mobile phone in the world. He is considered the "father of the cell phone" and is also cited as the first person in history to make a handheld cellular phone call in public.

Story 4: Search Engine
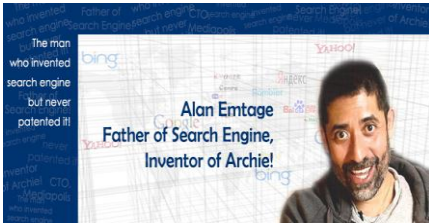
Alan Emtage conceived of and implemented Archie, the world's first Internet search engine. In doing so, he pioneered many of the techniques used by public search engines today. Archie used the same techniques that every current search engine uses, so, Emtage adds, "in that way, Archie was the great great grandfather of Google and all of those other search engines."

Story 5: LAN
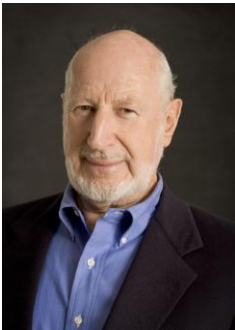
Norman Abramson got his recognition for inventing the wireless local area network. He designed and developed ALOHANet, the first network to successfully transmit data through wireless packet data network.

Innovations and Society

Is innovation appreciated in your society?

Have you ever had an innovative idea? Did you put it into action?

Do you think that there will be more or less new innovations in the future?

What do you think is the most important thing that humans have created?

Dimensions

Direct *(direct buy / direct democracy / direct response TV)*
Micro *(micro blogging / micro loans / micro turbine)*
Multi *(multitasking / multi fuel stoves / multi knives)*
Nano *(nano computing / nano car / nano battery)*
Pocket *(pocket bike / pocket projector / pocket video camera)*
Flexible *(flexible display / flexible solar cells / flexible wall)*
Foldable *(foldable bike / foldable bed / foldable water bottle)*

Prefix

e- *(e-health / e-government / e-mail)*
i- *(iPod / iPhone / iPad / …)*
co- *(co-branding / co-buying / co-sleeper)*

People Profit Planet

Local *(local food / local search / local currency)*
Eco *(eco house / eco jeans / eco phone)*
Solar *(solar car / solar brick / solar jacket)*

Web

Mobile *(mobile office / mobile school / mobile printer)*
Viral *(viral advertising / viral gaming / viral video)*
Cross *(cross-media / cross-functional / cross-over)*
P2P *(P2P lending / P2P music / P2P insurance)*
Wireless *(wireless charger / wireless earphones / wireless joystick)*
Interactive *(interactive television / interactive advertising / interactive floor)*

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Combinations

Mixed *(mixed herbs / mixed reality / mixed drink)*
Dual *(dual view / dual alarm clock / dual boot)*
Hybrid *(hybrid car / hybrid energy / hybrid technology)*
Functional *(functional food / functional resume / functional art)*
Multifunctional *(multifunctional converter / multifunctional oven / walking stick)*

INNOVATIONS AND SOCIETY

Social innovation is changing the way we see our world, and helping us find better ways to live in it. In our capacity for maintaining societies we humans are unparalleled in nature as constructors of our own ecological niche: innovation as a combination between the

generation, retention, replacement and use of ideas and artifacts are our engine for adapting and solving problems. It is a fundamental aspect of what we are as a species and in the end it is what generates and maintains societies. But

innovation does not just "solve problems". Some problems persistently remain unaddressed and innovation also breeds cascades of more innovation containing unknown mixtures between opportunities and problems. The tendency of society to respond to better energy efficiency by simply expanding its use of energy is an important example of this, but it is only a particularly visible symptom along many others of a more fundamental problem. Staking our future on the process itself rather than its outcomes has transformed our time-tested ability to solve problems and adapt to new situations into something that is quite different: an innovation society that must subordinate all values to that of accelerating innovation; in other words to economic growth. Underpinning the innovation society is a widespread sentiment that everything will be alright: that we will innovate our way out of any and all problems that befall us. Could we transform innovation from being a runaway chain reaction into something that is better geared for serving a purpose that most probably think innovation should be serving anyway: making our lives better in a way that is not self-undermining? It is a question of allowing the system to regulate itself in more equitable ways, not one of stopping it or of imposing some top-down control mechanism.

GW: 1. *Look at the following list of 20th century innovations. In your opinion, which is:*

a) The most important
b) The most useful
c) The most controversial
d) The most unpopular

Escalators TV remote control
Washing machine Nuclear power
Mobile phones Laptop
Hearing aids GMO (genetically-modified food)

2. *Choose your favourite innovation and speak about it:*

1) who was responsible for the innovation
2) when it happened
3) why it was innovative
4) what the benefits of the innovation have been/will be
5) how the innovation has changed/will change people's lives and the world

Questions for discussion:

1. What are the most important innovations for you in your daily life?

2. What kind of innovations do you think we will see in the future?

3. Can you think of any innovative people? Who are they and in which ways are they innovative?

4. How has technology changed society?

5. Are there some things that should have never been invented? What are they and why?

What is space tourism?

Space tourism is the term used to describe space travel for recreational or leisure purposes. What was once only a dream - described in books such as Arthur C. Clarke's *2001: A Space Odyssey* - is now becoming a reality.

Futurologists are scientists who attempt to develop predictions of what life will be like in the future. After the first man landed on the moon in 1969, they thought that hotels would be built on the moon by the year 2000. Futurologists also considered the possibility that, in the 21st century, families might go for a holiday on the moon. Neither of these predictions has come true yet - but the rapid development of technology may mean these predictions are a possibility in the years to come.

Space Adventures is currently the only company to have succeeded in sending paying passengers into space. Space Adventures worked with the Federal Space Agency of the Russian Federation and Rocket and Space Corporation Energia to facilitate flights for the world's first private space explorers. Each person paid over $20 million for their 10-day trip to the International Space Station.

Following several successful explorations into space, several companies are now considering the possibility of enabling tourists to visit space. In order to make it more affordable, suborbital space travel is being considered by many companies, including Virgin Galactic. Passengers would be transported to a height of between 100-160 km above earth, experience 3-6 minutes of weightlessness and a view of the stars before being taken back down to earth. This is expected to cost around $200,000 per person.

Whilst it could be an enriching experience, there are some disadvantages to space tourism. Many critics have commented that a huge growth in the spaceflight industry could drastically speed up the process of global warming. The ozone layer would be damaged further, and the Polar Regions would suffer. In addition, space travel is only really a possibility for the super-rich. Although Virgin Galactic claims to be "opening space to the rest of us", there are still millions of people worldwide who wouldn't be able to afford it.
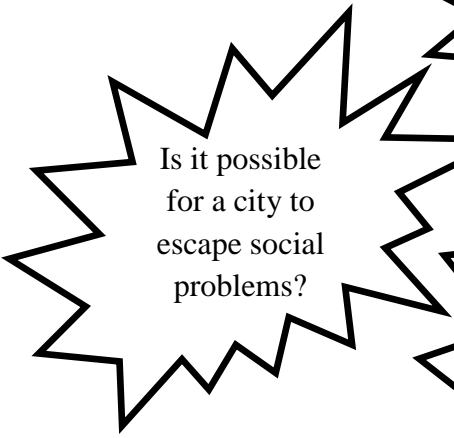
Cities and Society

Is the capital city of a country always that country's best city?

How important is the role of a city in society?

Is it possible for a city to escape social problems?

Do you think we will still live in cities 30 years from now?

- **to get around**: to travel around
- **high-rise flats**: multi-story apartments
- **inner-city**: the central part of a city where people live and where conditions are often poor
- **lively bars/restaurants**: bars or restaurants with a good atmosphere
- **local facilities**: local buildings or services serving the public
- **multi-story car parks**: car parks on several floors
- **office block**: a large building that contains offices
- **pavement cafe**: cafes with tables outside on the pavement
- **public transport system**: public vehicles such as buses and trains that operate at regular times on fixed routes
- **residential area**: an area where people live
- **shopping centre**: an area consisting of multiple shops
- **shopping malls**: large indoor shopping centres
- **tourist attraction**: a place of interest to tourists
- **traffic congestion**: heavy traffic making it difficult to move around a town or city
- **upmarket shops**: expensive fashionable shops

CITIES AND SOCIETY

The city and civil society are two things that together might seem a little incongruous. The city is a physical place that remains an important part of modern society, notwithstanding prophecies that communications technology will render cities irrelevant. Civil society is in some ways an ideal, a place where citizens are active, responsible, engaged members of groups and communities that, while having different values and conflicting interests, are devoted to arbitrating those differences by exploring common ground, doing public work, and pursuing common relations.

Cities are important venues for national broadband policy, and that federal programs have not addressed market failures in urban areas, such as slow speeds and high costs.

Cities are uniquely positioned to advance innovative uses of broadband in the economy and public institutions. Moreover, there are substantial disparities in access in cities and metropolitan areas, where most of the population lives. Experimenting with new applications in cities and addressing barriers such as cost would have a greater impact than reliance on rural infrastructure to close technology gaps.

Information technologies are playing an increasingly important role in shaping the future of urban societies, in particular in education, culture, democratic participation and economic development. Local authorities have a decisive role to play in all these areas.

Increasingly, no matter how we live, we know this 'world' primarily through the experience of living within and between cities. These cities continuously provide new challenges to understanding the constraints and potentials of both human and non-human life.

GW: *Express your ideas on the following questions in 5-7 sentences.*

1. When does a town become a city?

2. What's the best way to deal with traffic problems in a city?

3. If you were a city mayor, what changes would you make to your city?

1. What are the pros and cons of living in a city?

2. Why do many people like living in big cities?

3. In the future many cities will be much bigger than now. What problems will this cause?

4. What amenities do cities provide?

5. What damage do cities do to the countryside?

Making Drivers Miserable to Reduce Traffic Congestion

One of the costs of urbanization and modern life is traffic. Urban streets and highways are clogged with motor vehicles, and two major consequences of so much traffic are air pollution and tens of thousands of deaths and injuries from vehicular accidents. To reduce city traffic, many European cities are trying to make driving

so burdensome that commuters and other drivers will seek other forms of transportation. As a recent news story summarized this trend, these cities are "creating environments openly hostile to cars. The methods vary, but the mission is clear: to make car use expensive and just plain miserable enough to tilt drivers toward more environmentally friendly modes of transportation."

For example, Copenhagen, Munich, and Vienna have banned cars on many streets. Barcelona and Paris have replaced car lanes with bicycle lanes. London and Stockholm now require drivers entering their downtowns to pay a heavy toll charge. Many German cities restrict parts of their downtowns to cars that meet certain limits on carbon dioxide emission. Other European cities have sharply limited the number of parking spaces at shopping malls and other areas, and they have also eliminated on-street parking.

Zurich, the largest city in Switzerland, has made special efforts to "torment drivers," in the hope that drivers will seek other modes of transportation. For example, it added more traffic lights to cause more traffic delays, and it shortened the length of green lights and lengthened red lights. It also banned cars in one of its busiest downtown areas and elsewhere imposed speed limits of just a few miles an hour so that pedestrians are free to cross the street whenever they want.

Observing traffic inching through hundreds of pedestrians and bicyclists, a Zurich traffic official was happy. "Driving is a stop-and-go experience," he said. "That's what we like! Our goal is to reconquer public space for pedestrians, not to make it easy for drivers."

RURAL COMMUNITIES

A rural community comprises a group of inhabitants who live a rustic or country lifestyle. Rural communities typically have smaller populations and an agricultural setting, but some areas contain forests. Rural people are different from those living in urban areas. The distinctive characteristics of rural life can easily be shown by comparing them with those of urban (city) life. The differences in cultures or subcultures of these two areas differ in attitude and behaviour and perhaps in dress and dialect (language use in a region or area). The cities are large, impersonal and complex in social structure, while rural communities are small, intimate and simple in organization. Though there are differences, there are also common attitudes and behaviors that both rural and urban people share as members of a larger culture. Common elements between urban and rural life are:

1. Common language, literature, philosophy, etc.

2. Common institutions like religion, education, family life, business and political organizations, etc.

Both rural and urban people have their own characteristics. The characteristics of rural life can be best and most easily recognized by comparing those of urban life.

The reasons people move to urban areas vary greatly depending on the person, but they typically revolve around employment. Economic reasons, such as quality of housing and cost of living are other common reasons for relocating from a rural to an urban area. Education is also a large factor.

GW: *Find differences and similarities between urban and rural life using the Venn diagram.*

Urban Life
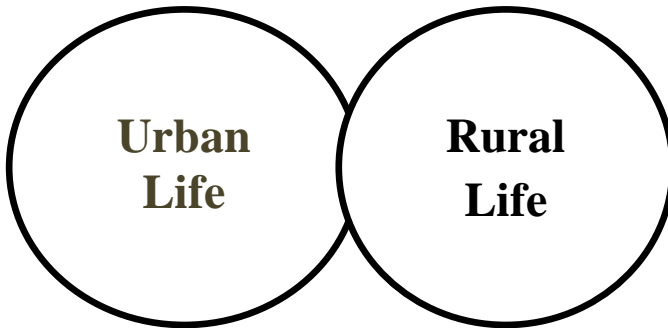
Rural Life

Questions for discussion:

1. What are the advantages of rural life?

2. For what reasons do people move to urban areas?

3. What options and opportunities do people living in a city have?

4. What are the disadvantages of rural life?

5. If you had your choice, would you want to live in a large city, medium-sized city, small town or rural area? Explain your answer.

6. How are city people and country people different?

7. What do you think should be done to improve living conditions in rural areas?

A rural life is better: Living in a concrete jungle is stressful and makes you vulnerable to depression

Scientists have confirmed what every urbanite has long suspected – life in the city is more stressful.

Researchers have shown that the parts of the brain dealing with stress and emotion are affected by living among the crowds.

The findings help shed light on why those who are born and raised in urban areas are more likely to suffer from anxiety, depression and schizophrenia than those brought up in the countryside. The team of international scientists behind the finding is unsure why city life is so bad for the nerves.

However, past studies have shown that exposure to green space reduces stress, boosts health and makes us less vulnerable to depression. The findings come from the brain scans of 32 healthy volunteers from urban and rural areas. Dr. Jens Pruessner of the Douglas Mental Health University Institute in Quebec, who helped carry out the study, said: 'Previous findings have shown that the risk for anxiety disorders is 21 per cent higher for people from the city, who also have a 39 per cent increase for mood disorders. In addition, the incidence of schizophrenia is almost doubled for individuals born and brought up in cities. These values are a cause for concern.'

Dr. Pruessner and colleagues from the University of Heidleberg in Germany monitored the brain activity of adult volunteers while they carried out mental arithmetic puzzles under time pressure. The functional magnetic resonance imaging scans revealed that the brains of those living in cities reacted differently to

stress. The region of the brain called the amygdala – involved in mood and emotion – was more active among the volunteers raised in cities, they found.

The researchers are unsure why city life affects the regions of the brain that handle stress. Pollution, toxins, crowding or noise could all contribute, they say.

However, past studies have shown that access to green space soothes frayed nerves and improves well-being. In 2009 Essex University scientists showed that as little as five minutes in a green space cut stress.

Other studies have shown that those with access to countryside are less likely to have heart disease or strokes.

Psychologists have argued that millions of years of evolution mean the human brain has not developed to cope with life surrounded by thousands of strangers.

Unemployment and Society

Is unemployment a serious problem in your country?	How easy or difficult is it to find a job in your country?	Is it better to go to another country to find a job?	Which age groups are worst affected by unemployment in your country?

jobless **rate** / unemployment rate
Average **earnings /salaries /wages /pays**
Joblessness / unemployment
financial crisis
To work part-time
To work **full-time**
To work **flexi-time**
To work **overtime**
youth unemployment
Re-**qualification**
To pay **income tax**
family / personal **savings**
labour market
To lose a job
redundancy payment
To look for/ search for / seek a new job
Jobseeker
To apply for a job
To be on **maternity (parental) leave**
To be on **sick leave**
Employee
Employer
to sign an **employment contract**

UNEMPLOYMENT AND SOCIETY

In today's society, it is likely that some of us have faced unemployment at one time. Unemployment usually results from insufficient effective demand of services and goods in the economy. Lack of employment is hard on everyone in the society today.

High rates of unemployment usually results in low rates of payment because there are many people who are competing for the same jobs and people have no option, but to take the job with the pay that is being offered.

Unemployment has a great impact on an individual. Individuals who are unemployed are likely to have a tight economic crunch making them unable to meet their financial obligation. This is likely to result in a decline in the living standard of these people. The issue of unemployment can affect the psychological state of mind of an individual.

Unemployment normally has a major impact on the economy. An economy in which the level of unemployment is high means that the economy is not using its entire resources and mostly labor that is available to it.

Unemployment usually results in poverty and disease because those individuals who lack employment cannot be able to afford the time and cash so that to provide the right treatment to their children most of whom are weakened because of inadequate diet. The unemployment tension can increase the general health issue of people.

It is essential for people to understand that a personal failure or success is not only tied to themselves, and in some way a person's failure or success will bring you down or benefit you, as well. Therefore, the right thing to do during the time of unemployment is trying to get a unique way for people to make money.

GW: *How can we help unemployed people with these stressful things? Complete this table with your partner.*

The Problems	How we can help
Bills	
Boredom	
School Fees	
Job interviews	
No confidence	
Social isolation	

Questions for discussion:

1. What are the main reasons of unemployment? Who is responsible for it? Why?

2. What are the social effects of being unemployed?

3. What do you think the role of the government is in regulating the unemployment situation?

4. In your opinion, which of the following will be a good way to reduce unemployment:

a) low birth rates

b) early retirement

c) a shorter working week

d) working part-time instead of full-time

5. What can be done to solve the problem of unemployment?

It goes without saying that being unemployed is difficult. According to a study unemployed workers are twice as likely to

experience psychological problems such as depression, poor self-esteem and anxiety compared to employed individuals. If you find yourself in this boat, it's important to keep in mind that the experience of being unemployed is not unusual. Some of the world's most successful people were once unemployed. Here are the people who survived and thrived after unemployment:

J.K. Rowling

Probably the most famous modern-day rags to riches story is that of J.K. Rowling, the author of the wildly successful Harry Potter series. Before her books sold more than 400 million copies, became the best-selling book series in history, and before she was knighted in France, Rowling was a researcher and bilingual secretary for Amnesty International. After being fired, Rowling divorced her first husband and was left in relative poverty, living on state benefits while penning Harry Potter from coffee shops. In 2008 it was estimated that her personal fortune amounted to above $700 million.

Walt Disney

The man who created the happiest place on earth and a multi-million dollar business empire couldn't get his first animation company to work. In fact, it once went bankrupt. Disney was also fired by a news editor who said that Disney – the man who went on to create a magical kingdom inhabited by cartoon animals that wore people clothes and could talk – lacked imagination.

Steve Jobs

Is there any story more amazing than the many failures of genius Steve Jobs? He was a college dropout, labeled as a bad businessman and was fired from his own company. Yet, he changed the world. "I was out – and very publicly out," he recalled in a commencement speech at Stanford University. "What had been the focus of my entire adult life was gone, and it was devastating." He added, "I was a very public failure."

After a bit of soul searching and launching NeXT and Pixar, Jobs returned to Apple. And well, the rest is history.

"Sometimes life hits you in the head with a brick. Don't lose faith," Jobs told Stanford graduates in 2005. "I'm convinced the only thing that kept me going was that I loved what I did. You've got to find what you love."

Unemployment can feel stressful and lonely at times, but know that you're not alone. Some of the greatest talents and minds have struggled through being jobless and came out better for it.

Refugees and Society

> **What comes to mind when you hear the word "refugee"?**

> **Are there many refugees in your country?**

> **What benefits are there to the countries who accept the refugees?**

> **When do you think the concept of refugees first started?**

REFUGESS AND SOCIETY

Since the late 1970s, the international community has been well aware of the severe impacts that large scales refugee populations can have on the host developing countries. The countries that host refugees experience long-term economic, social, political and environmental impacts. Those impacts can have both positive and negative contributions depending on three factors: political economy of the hosting countries; urban-rural interactions; and the nature of the relationship between the host country and the refugees.

One of the major effects that refugees have on the host country is economic impact. The extent, to which refugees supply the economy is relative to how much they take from it, is one of the most contested issues surrounding asylum policy. The economic impacts that refugees have on the host countries have both positive and negative contributions. The first positive contribution is that refugees can provide their skills and knowledge that can be used towards the benefit of local people. The second positive contribution is associated with refugee's access to transnational resources provided by other refugees or co-nationals living abroad, which includes social networking. Finally, the presence of refugees can somewhat contribute to the creation of employment benefiting the local population, directly or indirectly. On the other hand, there are some negative contributions of refugees. First, when refugees arrive, the people who live in the host state that lack access to resources, education or power can be further marginalized. Second, the demand for food and other commodities will increase, which will lead to price rises in the host state's market. The third major effect that refugees have on the host country is social impact. The fourth major effect that refugees have on the host country is political impact.

1. What rights does a refugee have?
2. What are the obligations of a refugee?
3. What's the difference between a refugee, a migrant and an internally displaced person?
4. What impacts do refugees have on the host countries?
5. What do refugees seek protection and shelter from?
6. When is the World Refugee Day celebrated?
7. What do people do on this day?

PW: *Express your ideas on the following question in 5-7 sentences:*

Why do some countries refuse to offer refugees entry into their country? What are some reasons for allowing or denying entry?

Azerbaijani refugees

"There is no greater sorrow on earth than the loss of one`s native land."
Euripides 431 B.C.

The world`s population is now 5.7 billion people, they tell us. And in this vast sea of humanity, 27 million people have been forced off the land they consider as home. Some have escaped terror and bloodshed by crossing geographical borders. Others, like the Azerbaijanis, have been shoved into the corners of their own countries, adding tremendous strain on limited resources, especially land, shelter, infrastructure, jobs and access to education.

But in Azerbaijan, the story is far more tragic. The number of people who have had to abandon their homes due to the war with Armenians over Nagorno-Karabakh approaches more than 1 million of Azerbaijan`s 9 million citizens. This means that Azerbaijan is bearing the burden of nearly 4 percent of the entire world`s displaced population. The first wave of refugees in 1988 was mostly Azerbaijanis who had been living in Armenia for all their lives. A year later, the Meskheti Turks sought refuge in Azerbaijan from ethnic clashes in Uzbekistan. Both these displacements, totaling approximately 250,000 people, occurred when Azerbaijan was still part of the Soviet Union. But after the Soviet collapse in late 1991, Armenians began systematically expelling Azerbaijanis from the enclave of Karabakh - despite the fact that this territory belonged to Azerbaijan and was significantly populated with Azerbaijanis who had been living there for centuries. It`s true that there were many Armenians in Karabakh when trouble started brewing. Many of them were descended from settlers that Russia brought to Karabakh

from regions outside of the Caucasus in the first half of the 19th century. By late 1992 and early 1993, Karabakh was flushed of all Azerbaijanis - known in the media as "ethnic cleansing." Those who did not leave were either killed or taken as hostages. Now, one out of every eight Azerbaijanis is a refugee.

Human Rights and Society

Are some human rights more important than others?

Have your human rights ever been violated?

Do you think all people in the world are equal and everyone deserves the same rights?

Are rights respected in your country?
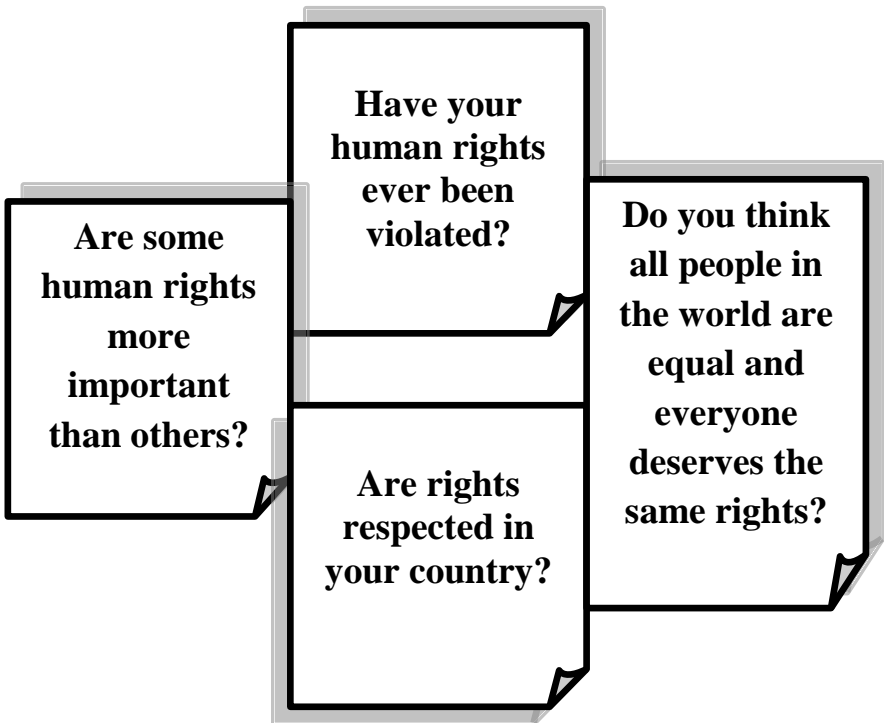
compel – force somebody to do something

constitute – form or compose

contrary – exact opposition

cruel – able or disposed to inflict pain or suffering

deny – declare untrue; contradict

deprived – marked by a state of extreme poverty

destruction – an event that completely ruins something

dignity – the quality of being worthy of esteem or respect

discrimination – unfair treatment of a person or group based on prejudice

duty – the social force that obliges you to behave in a certain way

entitled – qualified for by right according to law

equal – having the same quantity, value, or measure as another

guilty – responsible for or chargeable with a reprehensible act

innocent – free from sin

liberty – freedom of choice

limitation – an act of restricting (as by regulation)

persecution – causing someone to suffer

prohibited – forbidden by law

punishment – the act of imposing a penalty

HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIETY

The enforcement of human rights and the promotion of political participation require a vibrant civil society. We support disadvantaged and oppressed people in their efforts to claim their rights and help shape their own future.

Freedom, democracy, human rights, an open society are the top words in a modern world. We are reading these terms in newspapers, listening in TV broadcasts but do we see what is hidden behind them in our life?

According to Amnesty International's definition human rights are "basic rights and freedoms that all people are entitled to regardless of nationality, sex, national or ethnic origin, race, religion, language, or other status". So it's obvious that human rights are closely connected to freedom and equality. Freedom and equality can be included into the definition of democracy. And the last one results in an open society. Of course there are many definitions of democracy, views on human rights concept. But nowadays we can stress something universal that comes from these terms and find a practical implementation of what they mean in a real life.

First of all let's highlight that talks about human rights and an open society refer us to a global perspective. Perhaps we should point out the Universal Declaration of Human Rights trying to evaluate the number of rights that must be respected by everyone. Thirty articles about right to life, liberty, security and equality as well as about exclusion of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment became not only guarantees protected by international law

but also the object of fight for millions of people around the world.

PW/GW: *In pairs/groups talk about the human rights listed below. Discuss what life would be like without these rights and what your life is like having been afforded these rights.*

1. The right to rest and leisure

2. The right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association

3. The right to free thought and to voice your opinions to others

4. The right to a job and a fair wage

5. The right to education

6. The right to marriage and to raise a family

7. The right to privacy. No one can interfere with your family, home or correspondence

8. The right to own a property

9. The right to seek an asylum in another country if you are being persecuted in your own

10. The right to seek legal help if your rights are violated

Questions for discussion:

1. How many human rights do you think there are?

2. Can you think of any famous people who have fought to protect human rights?

3. Which countries do you think are the biggest abusers of human rights?

4. Who enforces human rights? Who decides what human rights are?

5. Privacy is a human right. Do you think this human right has been violated due to technology and social media over the years?

6. Why do you think government deprives people of human rights?

7. What are the common human rights issues in your country?

Human Rights Violations

Human rights advocates agree that, sixty years after its issue, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is still more a dream than reality. Violations exist in every part of the world. For example, Amnesty International's 2009 World Report and other sources show that individuals are:

- *Tortured or abused in at least 81 countries*
- *Face unfair trials in at least 54 countries*
- *Restricted in their freedom of expression in at least 77 countries*

Not only that, but women and children in particular are marginalized in numerous ways, the press is not free in many countries, and dissenters are silenced, too often permanently. While some gains have been made over the course of the last six decades, human rights violations still plague the world today.

Here are the examples of violations of some Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR):

Article 3 – Right to life

"Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

An estimated 6,500 people were killed in 2007 in armed conflict in Afghanistan – nearly half being noncombatant civilian deaths at the hands of insurgents. Hundreds of civilians were also killed in suicide attacks by armed groups.

In Brazil in 2007, according to official figures, police killed at least 1,260 individuals—the highest total to date. All incidents were officially labeled "acts of resistance" and received little or no investigation.

In Uganda, 1,500 people die each week in the internally displaced person camps. According to the World Health Organization, 500,000 have died in these camps.

Article 4 – Ban on slavery

"No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms."

In northern Uganda, the LRA (Lord's Resistance Army) guerrillas have kidnapped 20,000 children over the past twenty years and forced them into service as soldiers or sexual slaves for the army.

In Guinea-Bissau, children as young as five are trafficked out of the country to work in cotton fields in southern Senegal or as beggars in the capital city.

In Ghana, children five to fourteen are tricked with false promises of education and future into dangerous, unpaid jobs in the fishing industry.

Article 5 – No torture

"No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

In 2008, US authorities continued to hold 270 prisoners in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, without charge or trial, subjecting them to "water-boarding," torture that simulates drowning. Former President George W. Bush authorized the CIA to continue secret detention and interrogation, despite its violation of international law.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, acts of torture and ill treatment are routinely committed by government security services and armed groups, including sustained beatings, stabbings and rapes of those in custody. Detainees are held incommunicado, sometimes in secret detention sites.

Article 19 — Freedom of expression

"Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

In Sudan, dozens of human rights defenders were arrested and tortured by national intelligence and security forces.

In Ethiopia, two prominent human rights defenders were convicted on false charges and sentenced to nearly three years in prison.

Human rights exist, as embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the entire body of international human rights law. They are recognized – at least in principle – by most nations and form the heart of many national constitutions. Yet the actual situation in the world is far distant from the ideals envisioned in the Declaration. Discrimination is rampant throughout the world. Thousands are in prison for speaking their minds. Torture and politically motivated imprisonment, often without trial, are commonplace, condoned and practiced – even in some democratic countries.

Crime and the Justice System

C R I M E

J U S T I C E

Is the goal of prison to punish or rehabilitate? Can people change?

What kinds of crimes are most common in your country?

What are the penalties for these crimes?

Do you believe capital punishment makes the public not want to commit crimes?

Is crime a serious problem where you live?

Abduction	**Fraud**
Arson	**Genocide**
Assassination	**Homicide**
Assault	**Kidnapping**
Bigamy	**Manslaughter**
Blackmail	**Pickpocketing**
Bribery	**Rape**
Burglary	**Robbery**
Child abuse	**Shoplifting**
Corruption	**Smuggling**
Domestic violence	**Trafficking**
Drunk driving	**Treason**

CRIME AND JUSTICE SYSTEM

Crime and society are closely linked – for better and for worse. Society is strongly affected by crime, both due to the cost of crime, as well as the decline in the quality of life that citizens suffer as a result of crime.

However, society can also play a role in reducing and deterring crime. Many agencies and programs in the crime prevention field are based on societal and community efforts.

Criminal justice is the system of practices and institutions of governments directed at upholding control, deterring and mitigating crime, or sanctioning those who violate laws with criminal penalties and rehabilitation efforts. Those accused of crime have protections against abuse of investigatory and prosecution powers. The criminal justice system consists of three main parts: (1) Legislative (create laws); (2) adjudication (courts); and (3) corrections (jails, prisons, probation and parole). In the criminal justice system, these distinct agencies operate together both under the rule of law and as the principal means of maintaining the rule of law within society.

The first contact a defendant has with the criminal justice system is usually with the police (or *law enforcement*) who investigate the suspected wrongdoing and make an arrest, but if the suspect is dangerous to the whole nation, a national level law enforcement agency is called in . When warranted, law enforcement agencies or police officers are empowered to use force and other forms of legal coercion and means to effect public and social order. Police are primarily concerned with keeping the peace and enforcing criminal law based on their particular mission and jurisdiction contexts, but the predominant ones are concerned with order maintenance and the provision of services.

PW: *You and your partner are government workers. Your president has decided that capital punishment is necessary. However, he told you to manage the following issues:*

1) Which crimes should carry the death penalty?

2) What should be the method of execution?

Consider the questions with a partner and then present your ideas to the class.

GW: Group 1:

What are the arguments FOR capital punishment? Make a list. When finished, present your arguments to the class.

Group 2:

What are the arguments AGAINST capital punishment? Make a list. When finished, present your arguments to the class.

Questions for discussion:

1. What makes some people become criminals? Is it poverty, upbringing, lack of education, unemployment or something else?

2. Which punishment is more severe, the death penalty or life imprisonment?

3. What kinds of crimes do you think can be prevented? How?

4. What do you think are reasonable penalties for people who commit environmental crimes? (environmental crimes-for example, killing an endangered animal, being responsible for a major industrial accident like Chernobyl, polluting a river, etc.)

5. How can we reduce crime? With harsher punishments or better education?

6. How do you feel about drunk driving? What is the proper punishment for someone who drinks alcohol and drives?

7. What crimes do you think will decrease/increase in the future?

Why do people commit crime?

Why do people commit crimes and what is a 'typical criminal'? There is little doubt that some commit a crime such as shoplifting out of desperation, especially when food is concerned. Yet the same crime also attracts the attention of organised gangs who steal to order and cost stores hundreds of millions each year. The same crime but carried for different motives; one for survival, the other to make as much money as possible for as little work as possible. If caught, should each be treated the same as they committed the same crime?

Various people have forwarded theories to explain why some people became criminals.

The oldest known explanatory model of behaviour is that of demonology. It used to be thought that criminal behaviour was the result of a possessed mind and/or body and the only way to exorcise the evil was usually by some torturous means. The key was a focus on the individual rather than his or her environment or any social forces.

Cesare Lombroso was an Italian criminologist who in 1876 promoted the theory of 'anthropological determinism' that essentially stated that criminality was inherited and that someone "born criminal" could be identified by physical defects, which confirmed a criminal as savage. Lombroso believed that by studying

someone's physical features, you could identify a potential criminal. Lombroso's criteria for this were: large jaws, forward projection of jaw, low sloping foreheads; high cheekbones, flattened or upturned nose; handle-shaped ears; large chins, very prominent in appearance; hawk-like noses or fleshy lips; hard shifty eyes, scanty beard or baldness and insensitivity to pain. Lombroso finally concluded that a criminal would have long arms.

Lombroso's studies of female criminality began with measurements of females' skulls and photographs in his search for "atavism". He concluded that female criminals were rare and showed few signs of "degeneration" because they had "evolved less than men due to the inactive nature of their lives". Lombroso argued it was the females' natural passivity that withheld them from breaking the law, as they lacked the intelligence and initiative to become criminal.

Siegmund Freud had his own views on what makes a criminal. Freud proposed that much deviance resulted from an excessive sense of guilt as a result of an overdeveloped superego. Persons with overdeveloped superegos feel guilty for no reason and wish to be punished in order to relieve this guilt they are feeling and committing crimes is a method of obtaining such desired punishment and relieving guilt. In effect, a person commits the crime so that they can get punished and thus relieve guilt – the guilt comes *before* the crime. According to this view, crime is not the result of a criminal personality, but of a poorly integrated psyche.

Freud also identified the "pleasure principle"; that humans have basic unconscious biological urges and a desire for immediate gratification and satisfaction. This includes desires for food, sex, and survival. Freud believed that if these could not be acquired legally, people would instinctively try to do so illegally. Freud also believed that people have the ability to learn in early childhood what is right and what is wrong and though we may have an instinctive nature to acquire what we desire, such nature can be controlled by what is learned in our early years. He believed that

people primarily get moral principles as a young child from their parents and that if these were missing because of poor parenting, that child would grow up into being less able to control natural urges to acquire whatever is needed.

August Aichorn is probably the best known neo-Freudian in criminology. Aichorn felt that there were three predisposing traits that had to be present before the emergence of a life of crime: the desire for immediate gratification, placing greater desire on one's personal desires over the ability to have good relationships with other people and a lack of guilt over one's actions.

In August 2011, some major cities in England experienced riots and looting. The immediate explanation was that English cities were infested with 'feral gangs of youths' – a perception gained from the clips shown on television. However, while many of those prosecuted were young, they were not exclusively young. Also they were not always from broken homes or from a background of deprivation or unemployment. Some of those caught, prosecuted and imprisoned had professional qualifications and/or worked within professions such as teaching – the media highlighted the example of a teaching assistant sent to prison whose primary task in his school was to coach youngsters on acceptable behaviour.

It is probably impossible to say what a typical criminal is – even if a 'typical criminal' exists. While there is a common perception that a criminal is from a broken home, has suffered a deprived childhood, lacks a good education, etc. that would not include the likes of Dr. Harold Shipman, Bernie Madorff or the recent cases of former Members of Parliament (both MP's and Lords) who were sent to prison for breaking the law.

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