

Year 7 Citizenship Lessons

Lesson 1: What is Citizenship?

1. What do you think Citizenship means?
2. Have you heard it before?
3. Can you give any examples of Citizenship?

Citizenship gives you the knowledge, skills and understanding that you need to play a full part in society as active and responsible citizens. You will learn about democracy, politics, parliament and voting as well as human rights, justice, media, the law and the economy

TASK: Take a full page in your books to draw a poster about Citizenship and what it means.

Draw pictures to represent the key topics that you will learn, and include the following key words:

Democracy Politics Justice
Parliament Voting Law
Human rights Media Economy.

Part of understanding Citizenship is understanding what a good citizen is.

What do you think makes a good citizen? Choose your top 5 from the list below:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| votes in an election | recycles things to protect the environment | gives money to charity | does not disturb their neighbours with noise | reports vandals to the police |
| never drops litter | works for a charity | helps old and disabled people | telling people they are wrong if they drop litter | helps in neighbourhood watch groups to stop criminals |
| helps in local campaigns | has strong religious beliefs | watches their neighbours | works very hard | is nice and polite to people |
| helps in election campaigns, e.g. delivering leaflets | reports their neighbours if they are noisy or dirty | not vandalising other people's property | EXTRA CHALLENGE: Can you add two of your own qualities? | |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Being a Good Citizen</p> <p>There are many ways to be a good citizen.</p> <p>When you have a picnic at the park, what could you do to be a good citizen in your community?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> | <p>Being a Good Citizen</p> <p>There are many ways to be a good citizen.</p> <p>If you saw someone doing something illegal, what could you do to be a good citizen in your community?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> |
| <p>Being a Good Citizen</p> <p>There are many ways to be a good citizen.</p> <p>Your neighbours are going away on a holiday. What could you do to be a good citizen in your community?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> | <p>Being a Good Citizen</p> <p>There are many ways to be a good citizen.</p> <p>An election is coming up in your local area. What could you do to be a good citizen in your community?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> |

- [Top 10 Ways To Be A Good Citizen – YouTube](#)
- Write down all the ways you can be a good citizen.

10 WAYS TO BE A GOOD CITIZEN

- 1 Volunteer to be active in your community.
- 2 Be honest and trustworthy.
- 3 Follow rules and laws.
- 4 Respect the rights of others.
- 5 Be informed about the world around you.
- 6 Respect the property of others.
- 7 Be compassionate.
- 8 Take responsibility for your actions.
- 9 Be a good neighbor.
- 10 Protect the environment.



reflect

Consider the attributes that are important for a good citizen.

- How would you compare your conduct with these attributes?
- Are you a good citizen?
- How could you become a better citizen? Write down 1 way you could do this.

Lesson 2: What does it mean to be British?

1. What makes up Great Britain?
2. How is this different from the United Kingdom?

What are British traditions?

TASK: Write down as many British traditions as you can think of:

For example:

Drinking cups of tea

TASK: Create a collage of British traditions on a full page, using pictures and labels.

TASK: In no more than 20 words, write what you think being British is all about.

So we have identified British traditions...but what about British values?

Certain values are important for the **British way of life**.

Personal freedom as a basic right

TASK: What rights do you have? Make a list of all of your rights.

So you can see that the British way of life means that we have lots of rights...

...But this freedom does have to be controlled with rules.

This is to make sure that other people's rights aren't reduced by your choice.

For example, why do you have to wear a uniform in school and not your 'own' clothes?

TASK: Write down a list of ways in which our rights are controlled by rules.

Are there any rules that you think are unfair?

The rules that I think are unfair are...

Are there any rules that you would like to introduce?

The rules that I would like to introduce are...

Lesson 3:

Tolerating and respecting diversity

TASK: What do we mean when we say Britain is a **multicultural society**?

Write down all the different ways in which Britain is diverse.

Now watch the video and add to your notes.

Multicultural Britain - YouTube

Choose one of the following words and create an acrostic poem, focusing on Multicultural Britain and the need for understanding and respect:

Diversity

Multicultural

Respect



Another British Value we have is: **Equal Opportunities for all**

Being British is about believing that everyone has an equal chance in life.

For example, which person gets a job should depend on their skills and abilities, rather than things like race, religion, sex or age.

In Britain, people have fought for many years for equality, such as for rights for those within the LGBTQ+ community.

Gay Marriage:

Gay couple **Peter McGrath and David Cabreza** stood on the steps of Islington Town Hall, London, after being married shortly after midnight in one of the UK's first same-sex weddings on March 29 2014.

Rainbow-colored flags were flown over government buildings.

"Congratulations to the gay couples who have already been married - and my best wishes to those about to be on this historic day," United Kingdom's then Prime Minister David Cameron tweeted that morning.

[First gay marriage takes place in London - YouTube](#)

TASK: On what issues have people in Britain fought for equality?
Write down as many as you can.

Despite people in Britain campaigning for equality, many people are still discriminated against.

TASK: Read the following case studies and discuss ways in which these people might have been discriminated against.

Case Study One

- A woman, aged 29, was in an interview for a promotion at work. She had worked at the company for 9 years and had an excellent record. In the interview, she was asked by her boss whether she intended to have children in the near future. She explained that she hadn't made any decisions about that yet. The interview continued and she came out feeling very positive.
- The next day she was told that she had been unsuccessful in her application. The other candidate, a male, aged 26, had been given the promotion.

IS THIS DISCRIMINATION? HOW?

Case Study Two

- Jordan Berkeley, a black 22-year-old university graduate from London, spent four months applying for jobs but getting no responses from bigger companies, and offers from elsewhere that were limited to unpaid work experience.
- Then a careers adviser suggested Miss Berkeley drop her first name and start using her middle name, Elizabeth.
- "I did not really understand this seeing as my name isn't stereotypically 'ethnic' or hard to pronounce, but it was worth a try and I changed it anyway," she said. "I have been getting call backs ever since."
- She added: "I have many, many friends who were effectively told to 'whiten' their CVs by dropping ethnic names or activities that could be associated with blackness. It was a very sad realisation."

IS THIS DISCRIMINATION? HOW?

Laws are created to make life fair. **Everyone** in Britain must follow the same set of rules - there are no exceptions. Even if something is legal in another country, it will not be tolerated in Britain if it is illegal.

TASK: Can you think of some examples?

Is it fair that everyone follows the same rules in Britain, regardless of religion and ethnic background?

Write down your ideas:

I think it is fair / unfair to make everyone in Britain follow the same rules because...