Citizenship Challenge

How to use this resource

Who is it for?

Citizenship Challenge is a resource designed to support the teaching of citizenship education at key stages 3 and 4 in pupil referral units.

While created specifically for use in pupil referral units, it will also be found useful in mainstream and other forms of education.

What is it for?

The aim of Citizenship Challenge is to help students to think about, discuss and find out more about what it is to be a citizen today – encouraging them to connect with society and feel that they are citizens in their own right, with rights and responsibilities and the ability to make a difference both to their own lives and to the lives of others.

What does it consist of?

Citizenship Challenge consists of eight teaching units:

- **Being a citizen**
- **Society and the media**
- **Politics and power**
- **Family and home life**
- **Crime and the law**
- **Neighbourhood and environment**
- **Shopping and money**
- **Identity and discrimination**

Each unit is mapped to the requirements of the national curriculum programmes of study for citizenship at key stages 3 and 4. There is guidance on assessment for key stage 3 national curriculum levels and students can obtain AQA Unit Awards for each unit.

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How do you use it?

The learning activities in Citizenship Challenge have been devised so that they may be used singly and in almost any order. However, they are likely to be more effective when grouped together and linked to other learning activities – both in the classroom and in the life of the pupil referral unit as a whole and its links with the local community.

In addition to the printed materials, PowerPoint presentations are available for some of the activities.

What are its key features?

The key features of Citizenship Challenge are:

- A mixture of written, discursive and active learning activities, to meet the needs of all students;
- Accessibility regardless of literacy levels – teachers or teacher assistants helping out with reading where necessary;
- Flexibility - potential for one-to-one as well as group work
- Planned opportunities to introduce factual information – making the knowledge relevant;
- Chances to meet and question public figures on the students' own terms – giving students ownership of the experience;
- Suggestions for guided internet research – as follow-up work;
- Assessment opportunities for key stages 3 and 4.

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How do you encourage citizenship thinking?

Citizenship thinking is best encouraged by asking students questions and giving them real problems to solve.

The central citizenship questions revolve around concepts of fairness, rights and responsibilities – for example:

- 'Is it fair that...?'
- 'Does X have a right to...?'
- 'Whose job is it to...?'

Questions that help students learn how to express and justify their opinions such as:

- 'What do you think about X...?'
- 'Why do think that...?'

What about action?

One of the main purposes of this resource is encourage students to talk intelligently about citizenship issues, building confidence in discussion and learning the skills of critical thinking. However, it is equally important, where students feel strongly, to allow them to build on this learning with practical citizen action – either within or beyond the pupil referral unit.

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What can you do to help?

If you have any comments or feedback about *Citizenship Challenge*, including broken links, errors, updates or general comments, please let us know either by emailing info@citizenshipfoundation.org.uk or completing our online feedback form at **www.surveymonkey.com/s/citizenshipchallenge**.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks are due to the Wates Foundation who funded the evaluation of the original edition of Citizenship Challenge and the development of this new edition. We would also like to thank the Schroder Trust for their grant as part of this project. The production of this resource is part of our wider work in the promotion and development of citizenship education in pupil referral units and other alternative settings.

The development of these resources would not have been possible without the valuable input of teachers and youth workers from pupil referral units and other alternative settings. There are too many of them to name here, but we would like to thank them all for sharing their ideas and giving us an insight into how citizenship education is delivered in their settings.

We would like to thank the project team at the Citizenship Foundation: Julie Gibbings, Will Ross and Don Rowe and Jackie Maddocks at Nomad Graphique for her work on the design.

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