

Topic: Political rights and responsibilities

Lesson: A good citizen would...	KS or Year Group: KS3
Resources: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. SKY video2. Resource 1 - Predicaments	Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students consider predicaments and moral dilemmas.• Students will consider what the ideal citizen might do and contrast to their own choice of action.

National Curriculum

Key Concepts: 1.2a

Key Processes: 2.1a, 2.2a, 2.2b, 2.2c, 2.2d

Lesson

The lesson is based upon students looking at predicaments and deciding what the ideal citizen might do in that situation, considering their own likely choice of action and discussing the differences between these two choices.

Starter

- Play the **Sky video** about the Scottish baggage handler who returned to work a month after helping police catch a terrorist in an airport building. Do they think he did the right thing?
- Ask students what they might have done in that situation. Why have they chosen this course of action?

Main activity

Distribute copies of **Resource 1 – Predicaments**.

Activity 1:

- Give each pair of students a few predicaments to consider. There are three web-based predicaments if you have access to ICT and want to use that.

A good citizen would...

- Students must consider what they would do if they found themselves in these predicaments.
- Class to discuss the course of action some students opted for and why they made their decisions.

Activity 2:

- Students must now revisit the predicaments and consider what the ideal citizen would do in these circumstances. Ask students to define an 'ideal citizen'. A good working definition might be a citizen who acts in a principled way in order to help others.
- Ask students to look again at their original answer. How does it compare with the course of action the ideal citizen would take?
- Would students change their course of action now they've considered what the ideal citizen would do? Why or why not? This could be tackled as a written piece, focusing on just one or two of the predicaments.

Plenary

Ask students what they think they've learnt about themselves during the lesson.

Aim high

Students can speculate upon the various outcomes of their course of action. Ask them to contrast these to the likely outcomes of the action taken by the ideal citizen.

Assessment

Ask students to swap a predicament response with a peer, then defend that viewpoint in debate (PoS Level 7). In so doing, they are required to argue persuasively for a viewpoint not necessarily their own.

Check the web

<http://printables.familyeducation.com/puzzles-and-games/indoor-games/51515.html>

Free-to-print predicaments, which could be used as H/W or extension.

<http://www.friesian.com/valley/dilemmas.htm>

A list of other moral dilemmas, worthy of consideration.

<http://www.goodcharacter.com/dilemma/archive.html>

An archive of moral dilemmas designed for students, easily adapted for UK use.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/4954856.stm>

Some excellent dilemmas to consider.

Summary of key learning

- Students consider moral dilemmas and the impact of their decisions.
- Students consider the individual's moral obligations to society.

A good citizen would...

Resource 1 – Predicaments

What would you do if...?

- You discover that a girl in your form, who you aren't very friendly with, is visiting pro-anorexia websites.
- On your way to school you notice a group dropping litter.
- Your friend has a new digital camera. You find out it was stolen.
- You are out on your bike, your mobile rings so you stop to answer it – as you put your bike down you scratch a parked car.
- You find a lottery ticket – it turns out to be a winner, of £7,000.
- You spot someone you know in a 'happy slapping' posting on You Tube.
- You pick up the wrong suitcase at the airport, but this one has better contents than yours!
- Your teacher asks you to carry some resources to her classroom. You notice next week's test answers are in the pile.

Web predicaments – imagine you are the people in these items . . .

- Spielberg snubs China by withdrawing as artistic director for 2008 Olympics.
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/7242016.stm>
- A man is stabbed after coming to the rescue of people being attacked.
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/6945394.stm>
- A woman is saved after a good Samaritan raises the alarm.
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/dorset/6720013.stm>