

LESSON FOCUS: Changing nature of UK society

Key stage	KS3 (Year 9)
Key concepts	1.3a
Key processes	2.2d
Range and content	3i
Curriculum opportunities	4a, 4b, 4c

PLTS:

Reflective learners, team workers and effective participators

FUNCTIONAL SKILLS:

Literacy: providing oral feedback in group and class discussions

RESOURCES:

****Ability to show PowerPoint****

- Resource A - PowerPoint
- Resource B - Characters
- Resource C - Key themes
- Resource D - Vocabulary

OBJECTIVES:

- I can ask questions about ways in which the UK is changing.
- I can listen to other people's ideas about changes to UK society.

OUTCOMES:

- I can explain why some of the changes in the UK have come about.
- I am aware of some changes to UK society within my lifetime.

Overview

Change is a constant process in the UK. Can your students put into words the difference between life when their grandparents were teenagers and modern culture? Discussion issues such as computing, religion and sexuality will guarantee a lively session.

Keywords

Change, changing, community, culture, diversity, identity, law, leisure, media, nature, politics, relationships, religion, society, technology, UK, work

Changing nature of UK society

Introduction (5 minutes)

- Share lesson objectives and outcomes.

Starter (10 minutes)

Resources:

- Resource A - PowerPoint

Instructions:

- Show PowerPoint.
- Initiate discussion after each PowerPoint prompt question.

Main (25 minutes)

Resources:

- Resource B - Characters

Instructions:

Activity 1 (15 minutes):

- Put students into groups of six.
- Give each group member personal profile from Resource B. Ask students to familiarise themselves with roles.
- Ask students to discuss following questions in role (within groups):
 - ▶ What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?
 - ▶ Where do you get your money from?
 - ▶ What is important to you?
 - ▶ Have you ever been away from your place of birth?
 - ▶ Name one thing that you do that people in the UK didn't do two generations ago.

Activity 2 (10 minutes):

- Whole-class activity - invite spokespersons to comment on following:
 - ▶ Which kinds of diversity were there in your group?
 - ▶ Is technology an important factor to many of your characters?
 - ▶ Based on what your characters discussed, give three ways in which UK society has changed since your grandparents were your age.

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Plenary (20 minutes)

Resources:

- Resources C and D.

Instructions:

- Put students into pairs and give them resources C and D.
- Ask pairs to fill in resource D (using resources B and C plus discussion material).
- Invite volunteers to read out work.
- Examples of good paragraphs:
 - ▶ In this day and age, many citizens rely upon computers (for work, shopping, research, leisure, etc). A few generations ago, the internet didn't exist which meant life was very different. For example, citizens did not have access to political parties' manifestos online and they could not compare car prices via the internet.
 - ▶ In the 21st century there are many laws that ensure that different types of people have equal rights. For example, gay couples are allowed to adopt children, women can earn the same amount of money as men, and those with disabilities can access public buildings. Previously, equality laws did not exist.
 - ▶ Travel to foreign countries is relatively cheap in the modern world. In fact, it is sometimes cheaper to fly abroad than to travel within the UK by train. When our grandparents were children it was rare for families to leave the UK for work or for family holidays.

Attainment

Level 1	I can ask questions about what has changed in the UK.
Level 2	I can discuss what is fair about some changes to UK society.
Level 3	I can describe some basic features in my community that have changed.
Level 4	I can give reasons for my views about how the UK is changing.
Level 5	I can weigh up different ideas about the changing nature of UK society.
Level 6	I am aware of the diversity of viewpoints about changes to UK society.
Level 7	I can analyse the reasons for change in UK society over time.
Level 8	I can make perceptive observations about how UK society is likely to change in the next decade.
Exceptional performance	I can make sophisticated observations about the connections between changing aspects of UK society.

Stretch

For homework, ask students to create their own characters for resource B. These characters can be used for a main activity in another class.

Changing nature of UK society

Recommended links

www.statistics.gov.uk

General statistics about population, the labour market, etc

www.direct.gov.uk

The latest information about young people, the environment, etc

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/6959864.stm>

Article about digital Britain

Notes

It is useful to have newspaper clips (showing the latest technological advances/cultural changes) on desks as students enter room.

RESOURCE B

PERSONAL PROFILE

CHARACTER 1: Kalena (female)

Age: 27

Place of birth: Hawaii

Where character lives now: Sunderland

Family situation: Her stepdad lives in Hawaii with her mum. She has no siblings. She is engaged to a British man and has no children.

Other key details:

- Works as a civil servant (advises politicians about important issues).
- Owns three houses.
- Makes sure that all of her food is organic.
- Has over £30,000 of credit card debt.
- Uses Facebook to keep in contact with friends abroad.
- Spends her leisure time using gambling websites.
- Votes for the Conservatives in elections.
- Wishes that the Euro would be introduced in England.

PERSONAL PROFILE

CHARACTER 2: Jack (male)

Age: 46

Place of birth: Liverpool

Where character lives now: Dundee

Family situation: He has four children from two previous marriages. He lives with his male partner. His parents are no longer alive but he is close to his sister (who lives in Italy).

Other key details:

- Works from home as an eBay trader.
- Owns an energy-efficient car.
- Eats takeaway or ready meals most nights.
- Earns about £23,000 a year.
- Flies all over the UK to visit family and friends.
- Takes part in extreme sports in his spare time.
- Supports the Green Party.
- Wishes that homophobia was less common in Europe.

PERSONAL PROFILE

CHARACTER 3: Ramla (female)

Age: 13

Place of birth: Egypt

Where character lives now: Derry

Family situation: She lives with her parents and her two younger sisters. Her older brother is at university in Dublin.

Other key details:

- Wants to be a doctor so is working hard in all lessons.
- Likes to have the latest MP3 player.
- Vegetarian.
- Earns money by helping her dad with the family business.
- Sends about 20 texts per day to school friends.
- Does a lot of online clothes shopping at the weekend.
- Doesn't have any interest in politics.
- Wishes that exams could be abolished in Ireland.

PERSONAL PROFILE

CHARACTER 4: Tas (male)

Age: 39

Place of birth: Hungary

Where character lives now: Llanelli

Family situation: He is single and lives with his elderly mother. He has a twin brother who fosters disabled children.

Other key details:

- Unemployed (made redundant in 2009 because of the recession).
- Uses a bike or a local car-share scheme to move around.
- Buys his supermarket shopping from a website.
- Plays the lottery every Saturday.
- Has not left Wales for years (his friends live nearby).
- Spends his spare time exploring gardening internet forums.
- Stopped voting in 2002.
- Wishes that celebrity culture had less of an influence over modern teenagers.

PERSONAL PROFILE

CHARACTER 5: Zakeya (female)

Age: 51

Place of birth: Bradford

Where character lives now: Manchester

Family situation: She is cohabiting with her male partner of 30 years. Her two sons are adopted and her daughter was conceived through IVF.

Other key details:

- Used to work in a shop.
- Drives a camper van.
- Sticks to Halal food.
- Relies on her husband's wage because of being a full-time mother.
- Visits Pakistan once a year.
- Goes to the gym three times a week.
- Passionate about the UK Independence Party.
- Wishes that fathers' rights were better.

PERSONAL PROFILE

CHARACTER 6: Blake (male)

Age: 65

Place of birth: Plymouth

Where character lives now: Plymouth

Family situation: His wife has Alzheimer's so one of his daughters visits every day to help care for her. He lost touch with his parents when they moved to Cambridge in the 1990s.

Other key details:

- Retired (used to be a florist).
- Owns a motorbike.
- Eats 'anything' but is particularly keen on Thai food.
- Relies on his pension for money.
- Does voluntary work in Africa every few years.
- Visits single parents from his local church in his spare time.
- Usually forgets to vote.
- Wishes that there were fewer foreigners in the UK.

RESOURCE C

POLITICS: Differences in gender, sexuality, ethnicity and disability are more represented among politicians now than 50 years ago. New political parties such as the BNP have emerged.

WORK: British people used to stick to clearly defined gender roles. Women usually did most of the housework and childcare and/or worked in caring or administrative jobs. Men tended to dominate the higher-paid professions and work longer hours. These days both genders are encouraged to explore many types of jobs and to take an active role in childcare and household tasks. Many jobs have become linked to computers and so working from home is popular.

LAW: The government has introduced many laws that encourage citizens to be safe and healthy. These laws involve issues such as school dinners, seat belts and smoking. UK laws have become stricter in terms of fighting discrimination (e.g. ageism and racism).

TECHNOLOGY: Most British citizens are familiar with laptops and mobile phones. Many time-saving appliances such as dishwashers and microwaves are the norm in modern households.

MEDIA: In previous generations, most people found out about the news through newspapers or the television. Nowadays there are thousands of websites that focus on current affairs issues. There has been a big boom in reality TV and there is a huge focus on celebrities (e.g. footballers).

COMMUNITIES: More citizens born abroad are living in the UK than before. Not as many people have close relationships with their neighbours compared to 50 years ago. Many British people belong to online communities such as Facebook; plenty of people find friendship or romance online. Religion plays less of a role for many than before.

RELATIONSHIPS: Heterosexual couples did not previously tend to live together unless they were married. These days, many couples cohabit on a temporary/permanent basis. Civil partnerships have been introduced for homosexual couples.

FAMILY TYPES: The divorce rate is much higher than previously so there are more step-families and half-siblings in the UK than ever before. A larger range of people is allowed to adopt nowadays (e.g. gay citizens). IVF was unheard of before the late 1970s.

RESOURCE D

USEFUL VOCABULARY: beliefs, communication, culture, diet, education, employment, environmental issues, family type, gender, health, ideas, identities, leisure, perspectives, politics, religion, rights, technology, traditions, transport, travel, values

How has UK society changed since your grandparents were your age?

Structure your answer in paragraphs below.

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When your grandparents were your age, would ...



... there have many ethnic minority citizens on TV?



... divorce have been common?



... lots of jobs have been dependent on computers?



... gay couples have had the rights they have now?



... young citizens have had a similar childhood to what modern children have?

The changing nature of UK society



... the laws have been the same?

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... gender roles have been different?

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