

Key Stage: KS4.

Resources:

- ❖ Resource 1: True or false quiz
- ❖ Resource 2: Summary of police powers and safeguards
- ❖ Resource 3: Scenarios

Objectives:

- ❖ Students understand how police powers to stop, search and question suspects may be in conflict with individual rights.

Starter (5 minutes)

In pairs, students list what they think the role of the police is and think of any events they can remember when the police abused that power.

If they can't think of any events, you could mention the Stephen Lawrence case: the black teenager Stephen Lawrence was murdered in a racist attack in 1993; his brother was interviewed on the news in 2013 saying he's been stopped and searched 25 times by police because of his skin colour.

Activity 1 (30 minutes)

1. Students work in pairs. Give each pair **Resource 2 True or false quiz** and give them three minutes to decide on their answers.

Answers:

1. True
2. False
3. False

2. Individually or in pairs, students create seven more true/false quiz questions about 'stop and search' and/or being questioned by the police. On a separate sheet of paper, they should make a note of the answers to their own questions.

To research the information, they could use **Resource 3 Summary of police powers and safeguards** below and/or the following websites:

- ❖ www.adviceguide.org.uk/england/law_e/law_legal_system_e/law_police_e/police_powers.htm
- ❖ www.gov.uk/police-powers-to-stop-and-search-your-rights

3. After 20 minutes, ask students to swap questions and do each other's quizzes.

Activity 2 (15 minutes)

Students work in pairs. Give each pair **Resource 4 Scenarios** (or a selection of the seven scenarios). Students should decide whether the police officer has used his/her powers lawfully or unlawfully. They can refer back to **Resource 3** if necessary.

Answers:

1. Unlawful – there are no reasonable grounds for suspicion.
2. Lawful – there are reasonable grounds for suspicion.
3. Lawful – the boys are most probably in the act of committing a crime.
4. Lawful – the man was behaving suspiciously and the police officer acted on information from the security guard.
5. Unlawful – there was no reason to suspect the boys stole the fruit.
6. Unlawful – the suspect's consent (not just a high ranking officer's) is needed for intimate body samples.
7. Lawful – the suspect's consent is not needed for non-intimate body samples (when taken outside the police station).

For more information on what constitutes 'reasonable suspicion', see Code A of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act:

- ❖ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/117611/pace-code-a-2011.pdf
- ❖ <http://www.yourrights.org.uk/yourrights/the-rights-of-suspects/stop-and-search/reasonable-grounds-for-suspicion.html>

Plenary (10 minutes)

1. Put the following table on the board:

Stop and search / Police questioning	
Police can ...	Police can't ...

2. Invite students to come up and add facts to each column.

Resource 1 True or false quiz

Question	Answer
1. If you are stopped by a police officer, you can ask for his/her name and ID.	
2. The police can ask you to strip in public if they are searching for drugs.	
3. The police can force you to give a blood sample at the police station.	

Write seven more true/false questions, using the information that your teacher will give you.

Swap questions with another student/pair and answer their questions.

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2.

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3.

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4.

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5.

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6.

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7.

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Resource 2 Summary of police powers and safeguards

Police power	Description under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984 and Serious Organised Crime and Police Act (SOCA) 2005	Safeguards for the suspect
Stop and search	<p>The police can stop and search people and vehicles in a public place only if they have ‘...reasonable grounds for suspecting that the person is in possession of (or the vehicle contains) stolen or prohibited articles. Prohibited articles include offensive weapons and articles for use in connection with burglary or theft.’</p>	<p>The police officer should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • give his/her name and police station • state the reason for the search • not stop you because of your sex, age, colour, disability or any other general physical characteristics.
Arrest and detention	<p>The police can arrest someone without a warrant in the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the person is about to commit an offence • the person is in the act of committing an offence • the person is guilty of an offence • the officer has reasonable grounds for suspecting any of the above. 	<p>The officer must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inform the suspect that s/he is being arrested • tell the suspect that independent legal advice is available free of charge. <p>A consultation with a solicitor in private is allowed.</p>
Interviewing and collecting evidence	<p>Strip searches Strip searches should happen in a police station. Searches should not be made in a public area and should be carried out by a police officer who is of the same sex as the suspect.</p> <p>Intimate searches A high ranking police officer can approve an intimate search of a suspect if there is cause to believe that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the person has with them an item which could be used to cause physical injury to themselves or others • they are in possession of a class A drug. <p>Such searches should be carried out by a doctor or nurse.</p>	<p>‘The court shall not allow statements which have been obtained through oppression to be used as evidence’.</p> <p>The interview room must be well lit, heated and ventilated adequately.</p> <p>Suspects must be given adequate breaks for meals, refreshments and sleep.</p> <p>For intimate body samples (such as urine, blood or dental samples) the police need the suspect’s consent.</p> <p>An intimate search is ‘a search which consists of the physical examination of a person’s body orifices other than the mouth’.</p>

Resource 3 Scenarios

Did the police officer in each scenario use his/her powers lawfully or unlawfully? Justify your answers.

Scenario 1

Kwame is a young black boy living in Peckham. He has not committed any offences before and so he does not have a criminal record. Kwame was walking to school with his friend Daniel, who is white, when he was stopped and searched by a police man for wearing a hoodie. Daniel was also wearing a hoodie, but was not stopped by the police.

Scenario 2

Saba, who wears a hijab, was driving back from the supermarket and was waiting at a red traffic light when the police stopped her and searched her for dangerous weapons. They said that someone at the supermarket had seen a gun in the boot of her car.

Scenario 3

A man aged 60 was shouting at two young boys down the road, 'Stop them! They've stolen my TV and CD player'. The boys, carrying a TV and CD player, kept running down the road. They bumped into two police officers who asked them to stop.

Scenario 4

A man in a shopping centre was acting suspiciously in a clothes store. He was opening and closing his bag, but not trying anything on. The security guard called the police and the police stopped the man as he was walking out and searched him.

Scenario 5

Two elderly women took some fruit from their local fruit and vegetable market. The stallholder saw some fruit was missing and called over a nearby police officer. The police officer stopped two young boys wearing hoodies instead of the old women.

Scenario 6

Karim was arrested as a suspect in a murder inquiry. The police took him to the police station and forced him to give a blood sample without the permission of a high ranking officer.

Scenario 7

Sonja was seen by police peering through the windows of a house that had been burgled recently. When the police approached her, she tried to hide and then swore at a police officer. The officer forced her to give fingerprints on the spot.