Edexcel GCSE Citizenship

Two-year course planner

This two-year course planner has been produced in order to help you implement Edexcel GCSE Citizenship Studies in your school. It assumes two lessons per week, but we appreciate that the time that teachers have to deliver the course varies between schools. For those wishing to run the course over three years with fewer lessons, a separate course planner is available. Neither option is meant to be prescriptive and therefore they are provided in Word format in order to make adaptation as easy as possible.

In this planner, Theme E ‘Taking Citizenship Action’ is placed towards the end of Year 10 and the start of Year 11. It has been sandwiched between two parts of Theme D ‘Power and influence’. This has been organised in such a way in order to ensure that students can enrich their action with an understanding of how people can effectively contribute and have influence in a democratic society. However, you should feel empowered to run Section E when you see fit and at a time where it is most appropriate to your students.

If your students want to investigate a particular part of the specification or are stimulated by a topical issue, you may wish to adapt your planning and run the Citizenship Action at a different point in the course.

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| Date w/b | Week | Lesson 1 | | Lesson 2­ |
| Autumn term 2016, start of Year 10 | | | | |
| Theme A: Living together in the UK | | | | |
| 5 Sept | Week 1 | | **Introduction to the course** | **What is a community?**  *Theme A3* |
| 12 Sept | Week 2 | | **A melting pot?**  *Theme A1* | **Religious understanding**  *Theme A3* |
| 19 Sept | Week 3 | | **Changing patterns**  *Theme A1* | **Study changing patterns locally**  *Theme A1* |
| 26 Sept | Week 4 | | **Migration – why does it happen? (Economic refugees/asylum seekers)**  *Theme A2* | **Migration – advantages/disadvantages**  *Theme A2* |
| 3 Oct | Week 5 | | **What is identity? Identity in the UK**  *Theme A4* | **What is respect? Introduction to human rights**  *Themes A3, A5* |
| 10 Oct | Week 6 | | **How did human rights begin?**  *Theme A6* | **Human rights in the community/equality and discrimination**  *Theme A3* |
| 17 Oct | Week 7 | | **How can we develop community cohesion?**  *Theme A3* | **Can human rights conflict with each other?**  *Theme A5* |
| Half-term | | | | |
| 24 Oct | Week 8 | | **The difference between legal and moral rights**  *Theme A5* | **Political rights**  *Theme A5* |
| 7 Nov | Week 9 | | **Should we scrap the Human Rights Act?**  *Theme A6* | **Rights in the workplace**  *Theme A5, D2* |
| 14 Nov | Week 10 | | **Rights and duties of citizens/rule of law**  *Theme A5, C2* | **Who represents us?**  *Theme A7* |
| 21 Nov | Week 11 | | **Exam technique practice** | **How does the council work?**  *Theme A7* |
| 28 Nov | Week 12 | | **What does the council do?**  *Theme A8* | **Identifying local problems/solutions** *Theme A8* |
| 5 Dec | Week 13 | | **Presentations and Q&A with local councillor** *Theme A7, A8* | **Review and breathing space** |
| 12 Dec | Week 14 | | **End-of-module internal assessment** | **End-of-module internal assessment feedback and peer-marking** |
| Christmas break followed by Spring term | | | | |
| Theme B: Democracy at work in the UK | | | | |
| 2 Jan 2017 | Week 15 | | **Getting elected – how does it work?**  *Theme B1* | **Does every vote actually count?**  *Themes B1, B2* |
| 9 Jan | Week 16 | | **Who shall I vote for?**  *Theme B1* | **Class mock-election preparation**  *Themes B1, B2* |
| 16 Jan | Week 17 | | **Class mock election and count**  *Themes B1, B2* | **Getting into power**  *Theme B3* |
| 23 Jan | Week 18 | | **Forming a government**  *Theme B3* | **Exam technique practice** |
| 30 Jan | Week 19 | | **How are laws made?**  *Themes B5, B6* | **Westminster – does it need reforming?**  *Theme B4* |
| 6 Feb | Week 20 | | **Preparation for visit by Peers in Schools Programme or local MP**  *Themes B4, B5, B6* | **Q&A session led by Peers in Schools Programme or local MP**  *Themes B4, B5, B6* |
| 13 Feb | Week 21 | | **Apart or together? The United Kingdom**  *Theme B7* | **How are we governed?**  *Theme B3* |
| Half-term | | | | |
| 27 Feb | Week 22 | | **Balancing the budget**  *Theme B8* | **Review and breathing space** |
| 6 March | Week 23 | | **Review of key ideas, concepts and issues** | **Review of key ideas, concepts and issues** |
| **Theme C: Law and justice** | | | | |
| 13 March | Week 24 | | **End-of-module internal assessment** | **End-of-module internal assessment and peer-marking feedback** |
| 20 March | Week 25 | | **What is the point of law?**  *Theme C1* | **What is the law?**  *Theme C2* |
| 27 March | Week 26 | | **Criminal and civil law: what’s the difference?**  *Theme C3* | **Who puts the law into practice?**  *Theme C4* |
| 3 Apr | Week 27 | | **Criminal courts: how do they work and what are their functions?**  *Theme C5* | **How are civil disputes solved?**  *Theme C5* |
| **Easter break followed by Summer term** | | | | |
| 24 Apr | Week 28 | | **What sort of sentence?**  *Theme C8* | **Court role-play preparation**  *Theme C8* |
| 1 May | Week 29 | | **Court role-play presentation**  *Theme C8* | **Q&A with Magistrates in the Community**  *Theme C4* |
| 8 May | Week 30 | | **Young people and the justice system**  *Theme C6* | **What’s happening to crime?**  *Themes C4, C5, C7* |
| 15 May | Week 31 | | **Prepare group presentations ahead of the PCC’s visit on how best to reduce youth crime**  *Themes C1, C3, C4, C6, C7, C8* | |
| 22 May | Week 32 | | **Q&A with local Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) presenting ideas about reducing crime**  *Themes C1, C3, C4, C6, C7, C8* | **The law: a citizen’s rights and responsibilities**  *Theme C2* |
| Half-term | | | | |
| 5 June | Week 33 | | **Review and breathing space** | |
| **Theme D: Power and influence (Part 1)** | | | | |
| 12 June | Week 34 | | **How to contribute and have influence in a democratic society?**  *Theme D1* | **Having your say in other parts of the world: comparing democracies and dictatorships**  *Theme D1* |
| 19 June | Week 35 | | **Group presentations: case studies of individual democracies and dictatorships**  *Theme D1* | **Review and breathing space** |
| **Theme E: Taking Citizenship Action** | | | | |
| 26 June | Week 36 | | **Stage 1: Identify issue, form a team and carry out initial research** | |
| 3 July | Week 37 | |
| 10 July | Week 38 | | **Stage 2: Carry out primary research (surveys, write letters, etc.)** | |
| 17 July | Week 39 | |
| Start of Summer break, end of Year 10 | | | | |
| 2017 | Autumn term, Year 11 | | | |
| 4 Sept | Week 40 | | **Stage 3: Review research and analyse different viewpoints held** | |
| 11 Sept | Week 41 | |
| 18 Sept | Week 42 | | **Stage 4: Plan action** | |
| 25 Sept | Week 43 | |
| 2 Oct | Week 44 | | **Stage 5: Carry out action** | |
| 9 Oct | Week 45 | |
| 16 Oct | Week 46 | | **Stage 6: Evaluate** | |
| 23 Oct | Week 47 | |
| Half-term | | | | |
| 7 Nov | Week 48 | | **How best to write about your project in the exam?** | |
| **Theme D: Power and influence (Part 2)** | | | | |
| 14 Nov | Week 49 | | **What is the media and what is its role in society?**  *Theme D3* | **Why should the press be free?**  *Theme D3* |
| 21 Nov | Week 50 | | **Sampling media, telling fact from opinion exercise**  *Theme D4* | **Is the media honest and truthful, and how is it regulated?**  *Theme D4* |
| 28 Nov | Week 51 | | **Exam technique practice** | **Does the media just report or shape public opinion?**  *Theme D5* |
| 5 Dec | Week 52 | | **What does the EU do (and how is it different from the Council of Europe)?**  *Theme D6* | **Benefits of EU membership and what its critics say**  *Theme D6* |
| 12 Dec | Week 53 | | **EU simulation exercise, Part 1**  *Theme D6* | **EU simulation exercise, Part 2**  *Theme D6* |
| 19 Dec | Week 54 | | **Q&A with an MEP**  *Theme D6* | **The UK’s membership of the UN – is it an effective tool to end disagreements and conflicts?**  *Themes D7, D8* |
|  | Christmas break followed by Spring term | | | |
| 8 Jan 2018 | Week 55 | | **Revision and mock exams** | |
| 15 Jan | Week 56 | | **Revision and mock exams** | |
| 22 Jan | Week 57 | | **Revision and mock exams** | |
| 29 Jan | Week 58 | | **Review of mock exam paper** |  |
| 5 Jan | Week 59 | | **Model UN role-play preparation** | **Model UN role-play** |
| 12 Feb | Week 60 | | **Is there still a point to the Commonwealth?**  *Themes D7* | **Are NATO and the World Trade Organisation a force for good in the world?**  *Theme D8* |
| **Half-term** | | | | |
| 26 Feb | Week 61 | | **Optional exercise – working together: case-study research on the work of international development organisations (NGOs)**  *Theme D8* | |
| 5 Mar | Week 62 | | **End-of-module internal assessment** | |
| 12 Mar | Week 63 | | **Review and breathing space** | |
| 19 Mar | Week 64 | | Revision | |
| 26 Mar | Week 65 | | Revision | |
| 2 Apr | Week 66 | | Revision | |
| Easter break followed by Summer term | | | | |
| 23 Apr | Week 67 | | Revision | |
| 30 Apr | Week 68 | | Revision | |
| 7 May | Week 69 | | Revision | |
| 14 May | Week 70 | | Revision | |
| 21 May | Week 71 | | Revision | |
| Half-term followed by examinations | | | | |