

Take Shape

Teacher guidance for GCSE Citizenship Studies

Background

The rapid increase in the number of obese people in the UK is a major challenge. In 2007, Foresight in the Government Office for Science launched the findings of their two-year study Tackling Obesity's Future Choices. The aim of the project was to produce a long-term vision of how we can deliver a sustainable response to obesity in the UK over the next 40 years. Analysis carried out for this project shows that over half of the UK adult population could be obese by 2050. The economic implications are substantial. The NHS costs attributable to overweight and obesity are projected to double to £10 billion per year by 2050. The wider costs to society and business are estimated to reach around £50 billion per year at today's prices.

Take Shape in the context of Edexcel GCSE Citizenship Studies

Obesity is a serious social problem which provides an interesting context for developing the skills required for Citizenship Studies GCSE. Take Shape is a resource that has been developed for schools to promote the report, Tackling Obesity's Future Choices, which has been produced by the Government Office for Science.

This material offers support for students who choose to use the report and Take Shape as the basis for their controlled assessment. It uses the Edexcel framework to help students make the most of their Citizenship Action and Campaign.

You can find the resources at:

http://www.interactive.bis.gov.uk/foresight/Obesity_Teachersguide/Contents.html

The objective is to ask students to think about policy, at all levels, about obesity. While healthy eating is clearly a contributory factor in reducing obesity, it is not the focus of these activities.

Take Shape and Edexcel Citizenship Studies: the connections, offers a range of issues that students might pursue. It also makes links to the appropriate Citizenship themes and guides students to the Take Shape materials. The suggestions here are not exhaustive. Having engaged with the topic, students may develop their own issues related to the theme.

Using Take Shape as the starting point helps to direct students without removing their autonomous choice.

What does the student do?

The resource includes a variety of different materials. They include small tasks, research notes, consolidation activities, a slide show demonstrating scenarios and the big task which draws everything together. There are also extension tasks. These materials can be used separately to support the research required for a Unit 2 Citizenship Activity or a Unit 4 Campaign.

The PowerPoint presentation can be used to introduce the topic. It provides an opportunity for students to explore the issue and work in groups to decide their approach to the issue.

While healthy eating contributes to the whole debate it should not be the focus of an activity or campaign unless the care activity fits into one of the 9 areas of Citizenship which are listed in the student materials.

The student materials are based on Edexcel's task response form. Each section contains extra guidance to help students work through their activity or campaign.

As you will see, the evidence student's collect are a very important part of their final piece of work. Take Shape materials contribute most effectively to the research stage. The other evidence must be related to the student's own activity.