

Citizenship Studies in the News

Edition 16

About this resource:

Citizenship Studies in the news aims to stimulate discussion for GCSE Citizenship Studies by considering contemporary issues and their relevance to our lives. We have compiled a range of current news articles* and linked these to the key questions, explored in themes A-D of the specification. You may wish to investigate and integrate into your teaching practice to help contextualise key issues and bring the subject to life!

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Link	Details	Links to Specification
 Theme A video Theme A article	<p>The specification examines the freedoms we have in the UK, including the freedom of speech. In December the Australian government banned under 16 year olds from social media. Should this happen in the UK?</p> <p>Here we have two extracts. One is a recent YouTube clip from the Australian Prime Minister and the second is a clip from the International news from Aljazeera.</p>	<p>Theme A Living Together in the UK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">5. Rights, duties and values that underpin democracy
 Theme B article	<p>In the 2024 general election, the Scottish National Party (SNP) lost the majority of its seats to Labour. Their fortunes looked bleak. However, the elections for the Scottish Parliament in Holyrood will take place in 2026 and Labour is currently down in poll ratings – having promised to reduce energy bills by £300. The SNP could have its fortunes reversed in the 2026 election. Their leader, John Swinney, claims that if Scotland gains independence they will cut energy bills by a third.</p>	<p>Theme B Democracy in the UK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">7. Government in the constituent parts of the UK
 Theme C article	<p>At the start of Theme C the specification asks us a simple question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Is crime increasing in society? <p>On one level this appears a simple and straightforward question, which should give us a precise numerical answer. However, that is not the case. Here the article from The Times covers all the areas of the specification and helps us to understand why there is no easy answer and why crime figures can be misleading.</p>	<p>Theme C: Law and Justice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">7. Crime and society
 Theme D article Theme D website	<p>Just Stop Oil gained attention through illegal action such as blocking roads and throwing paint over famous paintings, however, in April 2025 they changed their approach. Since then, a new group called Take Back Power has recently carried out illegal activity in London. They are motivated by the inequality of wealth in UK society and are using shock tactics to gain attention. The article shows their attacks on the Crown Jewels and the Ritz hotel in the capital. The official website of Take Back Power explains their civil disobedience approach in more detail. Contrast this with the British Medical Association (BMA) and its actions to increase doctors pay in hospitals.</p>	<p>Theme D Power and Influence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Citizen participation in politics and society