

# Lesson 7: Equality

## Overview

During this lesson, students will appreciate the importance of equality by comparing inequalities of the past to their lives today. They will produce a timeline of laws that have been introduced to tackle discrimination and will compete as equality champions in an Equality Act 2010 quiz. Finally, they create an argument that challenges a view that our country was better and fairer in the 'good old days'.

## Starter

### Activity 1 (10mins): When would you rather live? (Slides 3-6)

Hand out worksheet 27 which shows different equality issues over time. Ask students to imagine they have to travel back in time to live during one of these eras. Which time period would they choose and why? How would it compare to life today? Use the slides to highlight the progress in equality and also the inequalities that still exist.

Introduce the lesson using slide 6.

## Main

### Activity 2 (5-10mins): Speed chat – discussion activity (Slides 10-13)

Organise students into two lines for a speed chat activity. Use slides 7 and 8 to set the tasks. Students describe what inequality and unfairness means to the person opposite. Then one line moves along so they are facing a new person and they repeat, describing what equality and fairness means to them. As an alternative seated exercise, you could use a method like think, pair and share. Explore the definition of equality using slides 9-10.

### Activity 3 (10mins): Equality history (Slides 11-15)

Students are required to organise different equality laws into a timeline and then identify what type of discrimination each law was aiming to tackle. Provide students with worksheets 28 and 29 to complete the task. Ask students if they think the multiple laws would be difficult to understand, then introduce the Equality Act 2010 in the next section.

### Activity 4 (20mins): Equality Act 2010 Quiz Masters (Slides 16-56)

Use the slides to introduce the quiz which is in two parts. Part 1 is a quick fire round, where students answer the 10 questions on the slides about the Equality Act 2010. Allow them 5mins to review the Equality Act 2010 fact sheet on worksheet 30 before turning it over to start the quiz. Part 2 is a bonus round where students will review a case study and decide which protected characteristic the discrimination is against, whether it could be unlawful discrimination and the action that the person could take. You should assign a different case study from worksheet 31 to each group. Allow them 5mins to review the case and answer their questions. They each need to present their response to their peers who can discuss whether they agree or disagree. All answers are on the slides. Encourage competition by awarding a prize to the highest scoring team.

## Learning objectives

- ▶ Understand what equality means and why it is important.
- ▶ Understand the Equality Act 2010 and how it can be applied in different cases.

## Subject links

- ▶ Citizenship
- ▶ PSHEE
- ▶ English
- ▶ History
- ▶ Art

## Resources

- ▶ Slides: Lesson 7
- ▶ Worksheets:
  - ▶ 27 - When would you rather live?
  - ▶ 28 - Equality law timeline cards
  - ▶ 29 - Equality law worksheet
  - ▶ 30 - Equality Act Fact Sheet
  - ▶ 31 - Equality quiz - case studies

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## Plenary

### Activity 5 (10mins): Good old days (Slide 57-59)

Present a scenario on the slides where a grandma says to her granddaughter that our country isn't as good as it used to be. Students should work in groups to think of three points that the granddaughter could say to persuade the grandma that there have been improvements and that people are treated much more fairly today than in the past.

## Support notes

### Extension/homework/extra activity ideas

Use these ideas as inspiration for alternative, differentiation or homework activities, or to develop learning in other subjects or lessons.

#### Extension 1: Agony aunts and uncles

Students work in role of agony aunts and uncles for a magazine. Get students to write letters of advice to people in scenarios on worksheet 31 or using the equality case studies in the useful information section of Equal Rights, Equal Respect. Or you could create ones that reflect your students' experiences.

#### Extension 2: Equality rap

Students think of a song that promotes equality e.g. Black Eyed Peas, "Where is the love". In groups, they each produce a line for a class rap.

#### Extension 3: Making equality happen

Students work in groups, taking on different roles to think about how our society can promote and protect equality. They could work in the role of individuals, schools, employers, government, European Union, United Nations and world leaders. This could link to lesson 12.

#### Extension 4: Exploring equality

In groups, students discuss and debate a philosophical statement: "We are all born equal but our opportunities are shaped by prejudice and discrimination". This could be a "Philosophy for Children" style activity.

#### Extension 5: Visualising equality

Students create an art piece that depicts a positive image of equality.

#### Extension 6: Arguing for equality

Students produce a written piece of work that makes an argument for equality.

#### Extension 7: Positive action

Is it ever fair to give someone a head start? When is positive action fair?

For further information, read about positive action in the Public Sector Equality Duty: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/advice-and-guidance/public-sector-duties/the-new-public-sector-equality-duty/>

### Useful links/further information

Visit the useful information section of Equal Rights, Equal Respect to access this information:

[www.equalityhumanrights.com/equalrightsequalrespect/usefulinformation](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/equalrightsequalrespect/usefulinformation)

- ▶ **Background to equality** - background information to equality, protected characteristics and equality law.
- ▶ **Glossary** - glossary of key words.
- ▶ **Useful links** - useful links to information on equality and discrimination.

Visit the training section of Equal Rights, Equal Respect to access this information:

[www.equalityhumanrights.com/equalrightsequalrespect/training](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/equalrightsequalrespect/training)

- ▶ **Equality and human rights training video** - training tips for managing discussion and debate.

Other useful links:

[www.equalityhumanrights.com/equalrightsequalrespect/usefulinformation](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/equalrightsequalrespect/usefulinformation)

- ▶ **Equality Act 2010** - <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/advice-and-guidance/new-equality-act-guidance/> - further information on the Equality Act 2010.
- ▶ **Public Sector Equality Duty** - <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/advice-and-guidance/public-sector-duties/the-new-public-sector-equality-duty/> - further information about the Duty.

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## Prior learning

- ▶ Knowledge of discrimination, stereotypes and prejudice (Lessons 5-6).
- ▶ Understanding of characteristics and identities (Lessons 3).

## Differentiation ideas

- ▶ Differentiation by outcome.
- ▶ In Activity 4, case study 3 and 5 are harder as they could be unlawful discrimination. These could be given to a higher ability group.

## Preparation and planning

- ▶ Review the PowerPoint slides and tailor them to suit your teaching and class ability. Note, the slides are long for this lesson as they include all the quiz questions and answers.
- ▶ Photocopy enough copies of the worksheets for students.

### Useful links/further information

- ▶ **How fair is Britain?** - <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/key-projects/how-fair-is-britain/> - The Equality and Human Rights Commission Triennial Review provides lots of statistics that demonstrate inequality and discrimination in the UK.