

3.11 The law: a citizen's responsibilities and rights SB pp. 100–101

Objectives

- LO 1** To explore my rights within the legal system.
LO 2 To explore how I can contribute to the legal system.

Class:	Date:	Last lesson:	
G & T pupils:	SEN pupils:	M:	F:

Connect

Students discuss the following questions:

- *In the lesson about reducing crime, what most surprised you? What surprised another member of your class?*
- *How might the legal system be improved if GCSE Citizenship students were allowed to be jurors?*

Activate

Worksheet 3.11a: Citizens' roles in the legal system

- Tell students that you are going to read out a series of statements. Ask them to stand up if they agree with the statement, stay seated if they're not sure and turn their back if they disagree. Read out the following:
 - *Nobody who has broken the law should be allowed to become a police officer.*
 - *Most judges are white males and so our legal system must favour white male criminals.*
 - *Magistrates pass the most serious crimes to Crown Court because magistrates aren't intelligent.*
 - *I would be interested in working in the legal system.*
- **Small-group discussion:** ask students to discuss the statements, justifying their opinions using the vocabulary in the box on Worksheet 3.11a as a prompt.

Demonstrate

Worksheet 3.11a: Citizens' roles in the legal system

- Students complete parts 2 and 3 of Worksheet 3.11a, considering roles they might take in the legal system and writing a statement explaining why everyone in the UK has the right to take part in the legal system.
- **Circle time:** invite volunteers to read out the statements in part 2 of Worksheet 3.11a. Ask the

rest of the class to put up their hand after each statement, if they would be interested in taking on that role or think another student would be good at it. Volunteers give three reasons why they put up their hand.

- Go round the class asking students to read out their statement explaining why everyone in the UK has the right to take part in the legal system.

Consolidate

Worksheet 3.11b: Legal gap fill

- Students fill in the gaps in the text on Worksheet 3.11b. (Order of answers: citizen, guidance, probation officers, rights, legal, volunteers, tribunals, dismissal, decisions, morality)
- **Extra support:** read the missing words text to certain students and pair them with more able students.
- **Paired discussion:** ask students to discuss with their partner two things they have learned about their rights in the legal system and two things they have learned about their responsibilities.

Extra challenge

Ask more able students: *Should the percentage of paid members of the legal system reflect wider society in terms of sexuality, gender, skin colour, first language, wheelchair use, and so on? Justify, giving pros and cons of a percentage-based system.*

Recommended websites

www.policecouldyou.co.uk/special-constables
<https://www.gov.uk/become-magistrate/what-magistrates-do>

Homework

Find out about a recent tribunal that interests you, preferably from somewhere in the UK that you have never visited.