"Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are."

Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790), 6th president of the United States

1. Justice Discussion

1. What is justice? What does it mean to you?
2. Would you say you live in a fair and just society? Why or why not?
3. Do poor people and rich people have the same opportunities in your country? If not, how can this problem be solved?
4. Is justice always done in your country? Can you think of any examples of when it was not done?
5. What is the difference between justice and revenge? Is there a difference?
6. Does justice always have to involve a punishment for the guilty party?
7. What is the connection between justice and democracy?
8. Conflicts throughout history and in modern times have resulted in the most horrific violence and abuses of human rights. Is it more important to forgive the perpetrators to end the conflict, or is it more important for justice to be served?

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2. Justice Vocabulary

- **to evade justice** (verb) - *to escape or avoid prosecution for a crime.*
- **miscarriage of justice** (noun) – *a failure of justice, most commonly when an innocent person has been found guilty, but sometimes when a guilty person has evaded justice.*
- **fair trial** (noun) - *a trial which is conducted fairly by an impartial court and grants legal protections to the accused.*
- **kangaroo court** (noun), **show trial** (noun) - *a court that ignores recognised judicial processes and often conducts public trials with a predetermined outcome (show trials).*
- **justice is blind** (saying) - *meaning that justice is impartial and objective.*
- **an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth** (saying) - *a form of justice that means that a person who harms another should be punished to the same extent as the crime they committed.*

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun)

1. Having fled the country after the bank robbery, Paul managed to _____ for 10 years before he was eventually caught using a false name in Spain.
2. If he killed another person then he deserves the death penalty. It's as simple as that – _____.
3. It does not matter if you are rich or poor. Nobody will be treated differently in the eyes of the law because _____.
4. One of the cornerstones of democracy is the right to a fair trial.
5. Stefan Kiszko spent 16 years in jail after being wrongly convicted of the murder of a schoolgirl in what was one of the UK's worst _____. DNA evidence later connected the real murderer to the crime.
6. The dictator established a _____ to falsely convict his political opponents.

Justice vocabulary comprehension questions

1. Can you think of anyone who has evaded justice? How is it possible for some people to evade justice?
2. Can you think of any miscarriages of justice?
3. Is it possible to have a truly fair trial when so much information is available on the internet and from the media?
4. Can you think of any examples of kangaroo courts?
5. Is justice really blind?
6. Do you think an eye for an eye is the best form of justice? Does an eye for an eye leave the whole world blind?

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3. Video: A Theory of Justice

You are going to watch a video by The School Of Life called "Political Theory – John Rawls."

Watch the video here: https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-justice/

While you watch the video, answer the following questions:

Multiple choice

1. Many people believe that societies are what?
   a) just *b) unjust* *c) just right*
2. What did John Rawls witness as a child?
   a) poverty *b) unemployment* *c) street violence*
3. When was *A Theory of Justice* published?
   a) 1951 *b) 1961* *c) 1971*
4. What did John Rawls consider to be a bad influence?
   a) the American political system *b) the American economic system* *c) the American Dream*

Sentence completion

5. Rags-to-riches stories are convenient for the powerful, so they don't have to reform _____ from top to bottom.
6. People who benefit from injustice in society don't think about what it would have been like to _____ in different circumstances.
7. The veil of ignorance is one of the greatest experiments in the history of _____ thought.
8. In the veil of ignorance, Rawls asked: if we didn't know where we would end up, what sort of a society would we feel _____ to enter?

Short answer

9. The veil of ignorance shows us that life is like which game?
10. What will participants in the veil of ignorance want for everyone?
11. Participants in the veil of ignorance would probably prefer to be born in a version of which countries?
12. Rawls provides a tool to critique what?

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4. Justice Conversation Questions

1. If you were to be born again, where would you choose to be born and to which type of parents?
2. What are the greatest social injustices in the world? How can these be solved?
3. Why does poverty and inequality exist?
4. What government policies help to create social injustice? What can governments do to end social injustice?
5. Do you agree that people should have equal access to health, education and employment opportunities?
6. Is social justice socialism in disguise? Can social justice ever be compatible with a capitalist society?
7. Is the concept of justice the same across cultures, or do different cultures have different ideas of what justice means?
8. Do you think the world will be more or less just in the future? Why?

5. Justice Writing Task

Write about your opinion of justice. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, you could include the following topics:

- What justice means to you.
- What kind of injustices exist in society.
- How these injustices can be tackled.

Alternative exam practice question:

It is argued that the unequal distribution of wealth in society is the root cause of social injustice. Do you agree or disagree?

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