

READING & WRITING SKILLS

Read the text and answer the questions below.

JUST WHO DO *you* THINK YOU ARE?

The word 'teenager' first appeared in the USA in the 1940s. Before then, you were a child and then you became an adult. In 1941, high-school enrolments went from 28% in 1920 to 80% and older children spent more time socialising together and creating their own culture. The US economy was booming, and these children also had money to spend. Marketers saw a golden opportunity and created the teenager, a new demographic group with its own unique interests and style.

Even in the early days, teenagers began to split into 'subcultures': groups that share common interests, often different to those of the mainstream. Here are some of the most important subcultures in recent history:

PUNKS

Punk culture began in the 1970s and was one of the most important artistic movements in the UK. Punks were anti-authoritarian and wore clothes and hairstyles that reflected this. They often wore leather clothes and had short, dyed hair. They also invented a fast, simple type of rock music with political themes.



HIPPIES

Hippy culture was a movement that started in the 1960s. Hippies rejected materialism and authority, and opposed war. They embraced spirituality taken from Eastern philosophy and various other sources. They usually had long hair and wore loose, colourful clothes.



MODS

Mods emerged as a subculture in the UK in the late 1950s, and got their name from their taste for modern jazz (and later soul, ska and R&B). They were also known for their stylish dress and motor scooters, and were rivals to the rockers, another influential subculture of the time.



HIPSTERS

The term 'hipster' became popular in the 2000s and refers to people who consider themselves different (and often superior) to the mainstream. A hipster spends time developing unique interests and a keen sense of style, favouring the trendiest clothes available at any given time.



These subcultures have helped young people define their identities. Some of the groups are still present in today's culture, and you may recognise people you know in them. However, it seems likely that the future will see a new range of subcultures, even more varied and fascinating than those that came before.

Find the words in the text and match them to their meanings.

rejected

registration for a school or a course

opposed

producing a lot of money quickly

booming

disagreed with or fought against

enrolment

refused to accept



Read the text and answer the following questions.

1 How did high school education affect the 'creation' of the teenager?

2 What is a subculture?

3 Where does the term 'mod' come from?

4 What do you understand by the term 'mainstream'?

5 What does the article say that hippies and punks reject?

