10 Power

Reading and vocabulary Utopia?

Insight Upper-Interm. Student's book p.120, 121, 122, 143.

1 A utopia is an ideal society. How close to a utopia is the society you live in? Think about the issues below. 3p.

■ political systems ■ distribution of wealth ■ education ■ crime gender roles

2 Read the article. In what ways are the two communities similar to or different from your own society? 3p.

3 Read the article again and choose the correct answers. 6p.

1 Why do people at Twin Oaks do several different jobs?

a because there's a lot to do

b because otherwise they have to leave Twin Oaks

c because it's more interesting

d because women prefer to do men's jobs

2 What doesn't the Twin Oaks community do?

a attract new people to live there

b allow residents to visit the outside world

c keep all its residents happy all the time

d reach decisions democratically

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3 In Meghalaya, what can men do?

a own their parents'property after they die

b have a career in politics

c give their surname to their children

d give orders to their mother-in-law

4 What do many Meghalayan men have?

a more difficulty than women in getting bank loans

b a better education than their sisters

c a lot to do

d a successful business

5 What do most people in Meghalaya seem to want?

a more equality between men and women

b less knife crime

c no change to their traditional way of life

d a return to the lost traditions of the past

6 What is the purpose of the article?

a to give examples of ideal societies

b to persuade people to try a different lifestyle

c to define what normal society is

d to show how different other societies can be from our own

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of living in the communities described in the article. Would you like to live in either of them? Why/why not? 5p.

Society and citizenship

Study the highlighted phrases in the article and explain them in your own words. Then use them to complete the text below. There is one phrase that you do not need.

Plan your own utopia. 8p.

1 How will you select your community's members, and how large will the community be? Too small and there may not be a sufficient range of skills, but too large and it's hard to agree on the ……..- what is beneficial for everyone in the community.

2 What jobs will there be, and how will people be paid? Will there be an equal …….. or a mix of rich and poor people?

3 Will there be strict gender roles, or a class system where only people from certain families can do certain jobs? Or will there be a policy of ……..?

4 Will the community protect …….. and prevent discrimination against people with disabilities or a different religion from the majority? How will it do this?

5 How will politics be organized? For example, will there be …….. or another form of democracy, or will you be an authoritarian leader?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

6 Will there be ..... outside the community, for example involvement in the politics of the country where your community is based? Why / why not?

7 How will you encourage ....., so that people act in a way that doesn't cause problems for others and for the environment?

8 How will you deal with .....? Will community members be employed as police officers?

Vocabulary

Politics and society

1 Drag the words below to definitions 1-6. 6p.

■ communal ■ egalitarian ■ extreme ■ mainstream ■ reactionary ■ secular

Definition	Word	Antonym
1 shared by a number of people		
2 considered normal and accepted by most people		
3 not connected to religious matters		
4 far from what most people consider reasonable		
5 based on the belief that everyone should have the same rights		
6 opposed to political and social change		

2 Drag the words below to their antonyms in exercise 1.

alternative class-based moderate private radical spiritual

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3 Choose the correct answers. 6p.

Despite recent changes, the USA is still a 1 class-based / an egalitarian society, with different groups having greater or lesser opportunities. Occasionally, some of the more 2 radical / reactionary groups protest in favour of a change in the system, but the vast majority have 3 extreme / moderate views and are willing to conform. The government is a 4 secular / spiritual institution, which aims to separate religion from the state. However, there are still a number of 5secular / spiritual groups in the country which support one religion or another. One of the most famous is the Amish, a group which leads 6 an alternative / a mainstream lifestyle, very different from the average American's. The Amish live outside 7 alternative / mainstream society and are recognized for their 8 radical / reactionary attitude to modern technology, which they refuse to accept. Families have their own 9 commimal / private houses, but caring for the children is often a 10 communal / private activity, and mothers spend time with other families as well as their own. The Amish live in 11 a class-based / an egalitarian society regarding social groups, as no particular group receives special privileges. However, the gender roles are different, and it is the men who are responsible for keeping order. The most 12extreme / moderate punishment is expulsion from the community.

4 Use the words in exercises 1 and 2 to describe the society you live in. 3p.

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