

7.4 (D) GANDHI: THE ROAD TO FREEDOM

DVD PREVIEW

1 Discuss with other students: what do you know about the topics in the box?

The history of India India today
the British Empire Mohandas Gandhi
Jawaharlal Nehru

2 Read sentences 1–8 about Mohandas Gandhi's life story. What do you think the words and expressions in bold mean?

- 1 Gandhi rose to prominence at a time when India was still subject to **colonial domination**.
- 2 He is **revered** all over the world for his leadership.
- 3 He was India's **figurehead** during the struggle for independence.
- 4 The British were responsible for a violent **clampdown**.
- 5 The world looked upon these actions with **outrage**.
- 6 He **galvanised** the nation to action.
- 7 His **crowning moment** was to come later.
- 8 The nation's hopes **rested on his shoulders**.

3 Read the programme information. True or false: the programme will describe how Gandhi helped India gain independence.

(D) Gandhi: The Road to Freedom

BBC

India is the world's largest democracy, and a country with a tumultuous history. While it is famed for its cultural achievements and astounding diversity, India also has a legacy of violence, struggle and inequality. This BBC documentary looks at the life of the 'father of the nation', Mohandas Gandhi (also known to his followers as Mahatma, 'the great-souled one'), and asks how he managed to win India its freedom from the British Empire.



DVD VIEW

4 Look at Exercise 1 again. Watch the DVD. What new information do you know now? Compare your ideas with other students.

5 Watch the DVD again and answer the questions.

- 1 Why did Gandhi go to Britain in 1931?
- 2 What was his 'crowning moment'?
- 3 What led to 'outrage' and acclaim for Gandhi?
- 4 How does the narrator describe Gandhi's manner?
- 5 What impressed Tony Benn about Gandhi?
- 6 What happened on August 15th, 1947?

6 Work in pairs and retell Gandhi's story. Use as many of the words and phrases from Exercise 2 as you can.

7 Read the extracts from the programme and discuss the questions with other students.

- 1 'Today, Gandhi is revered as the most important Indian of all time ... He became the figurehead of the battle to free India.' Is anyone from your country revered like Gandhi? Are they regarded as figureheads?
- 2 'The hopes of a nation rested on Gandhi's shoulders.' In your country, in your lifetime, is there a figure who was/is regarded as the nation's great hope?
- 3 'The modesty of his lifestyle ... made ... a big impression.' Are there any public figures who have made a big impression on you? Who? Why?



speaking freedom

8 A Read some answers to the question: 'What does freedom mean to you?' Which of these answers do you like?

It's about living without fear that someone will arrest you or persecute you for following your beliefs.

Kwezi

Freedom is about choices. If I want to speak my own language in public, go to work with my hair dyed bright blue, or wear ripped jeans, no one stops me. That's freedom.

Agnieska

Freedom, to me, means doing what I want, when I want, with whomever I want.

Colin

I'm legally blind. To me, freedom is being able to walk in an open space without traffic or too many people.

Lee

Freedom means not having to worry about time. I only get that feeling when I'm alone in the wilderness or on a beach.

Hana

B  **7.6** Listen to two people discussing what freedom means to them. Who mentions the topics below: the man or the woman?

voting religion speech travel
access to information



C Listen again and tick the key phrases you hear.

KEY PHRASES

Freedom, to me, means ...
We should also bear in mind ...
When I think of ... [I think of .../what comes to mind is ...]
Not only ... but ...
You could add to that ...
While we're on the subject [of ...], ...
I'd say that one of the biggest issues is ...
As I see it, ...

9 Follow stages 1–3.

- 1 What does freedom mean to you? Make some notes and/or an illustration that answers the question.
- 2 Prepare to talk for 2–3 minutes about your answer.
- 3 Work with other students and listen to their answers. What do you have in common? What was different about your answers?

writeback what freedom means to you

10 A Read one person's description of what freedom means to them. Is it about personal or political freedom, or both?

WHAT FREEDOM MEANS TO ME

I have three jobs and a young family and I also study part-time in the evenings for a degree in Social Science. So you could say I'm quite busy! On my own, I'm bringing up three kids, all under the age of thirteen, and I really have very little time for myself. I haven't read a book for pleasure or watched TV alone or gone on a date for the best part of a decade. So when I think about freedom, what springs to mind is me with my feet up, no kids to take care of, no assignments to hand in, and just some quiet music playing in the background.

B Write your own description of what freedom means to you.