1 **WHAT DO YOU THINK?** What does it mean to be a 'global citizen'?

2 Read the article. Does it include any of your ideas from exercise 1?

How to be a global citizen

In the 21st century, people around the world are all connected – by technology, by economic and political relationships and by the climate change crisis. That's why we all need to become global citizens. But what exactly is a global citizen?

Global citizens:

1 try to understand global issues.



Global citizens make an effort to ask questions and learn about global events, even when they're happening very far away. We can't solve all of the world's problems, but we can take responsibility for our actions and their possible consequences.

What can I do?

- **Follow the news.** Spend some time every day reading, watching or listening to the news. Choose good-quality news sources – if possible, more than one.
- **Consider the effects of your actions.** For example, what kinds of companies do you give your money to? How ethical are they? How can you find out?

2 want to create a fair society.



Global citizens want to live in a world where all people are treated equally and have the same rights and opportunities. They try to understand the causes of poverty and inequality and they aren't afraid to speak out against prejudice and discrimination.

What can I do?

- **Understand the issues.** Social issues are complicated and take lots of different forms. You can find lots of information online to help you understand how they affect different people in different ways.
- **Don't accept prejudice.** Speak out, but do it in a safe, sensible way – don't put yourself or other people in danger. For example, talk to someone at school.

3 respect and value differences.



Global citizens understand that people are different and celebrate those differences. They try to see the world through other people's eyes and imagine how they might feel. They're curious about different cultures, ideas and ways of life, including their own.

What can I do?

- **Talk to different people.** Do you always hang out with friends who are similar to you? Try talking to people who are older or younger than you, or from other countries or cultures.
- **Practise active listening.** The next time you talk to someone, make an effort to really listen and understand that person's thoughts and feelings.

4 consider the environment.



Global citizens think about the effects of their actions on the planet and do their best to live in sustainable, environmentally friendly ways.

What can I do?

- **Avoid waste.** Don't buy more food than you can eat or clothes that you aren't going to wear. Only use the water and electricity that you really need.
- **Think about your everyday life.** What simple changes can you make? Can you carry a reusable water bottle, eat less meat or walk more often?

5 contribute to the community – both local and global.



Global citizens believe that small actions can make a difference. They take part in projects that help to create a better world, by contributing to their local community or supporting international causes.

What can I do?

- **Volunteer your time.** Find out about local community projects. How can you take part? Volunteering doesn't only help the community – it's also a great way to meet people and learn new skills.
- **Help to raise money.** Can you and your friends do something to raise money for projects and organizations that you believe in?

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3 **In what ways are these people global citizens? Match the comments (A–E) to the ideas (1–5) in the article. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.**

A 

I try to only buy clothes from companies that treat their workers well and pay them fairly. I think it's better to buy fewer clothes and maybe spend more on them. Fast fashion is bad for the planet anyway.

B 

I try to read or watch the news regularly. Some of the issues are very complicated and I don't understand everything, but I think it's really important to know what's happening in the world.

C 

I help to run an after-school club in a local primary school, teaching children to code and create their own websites. At the momert, I'm trying to encourage more girls to join. I think it's important that there are more women working in the tech industry in the future.

D 

I'm learning Mandarin Chinese and I've got a penfriend who lives in Shanghai. We message each other every week. Our lives are different in some ways, but similar in others. We both love sport, although he plays tennis and I like football.

E 

At the weekend, I volunteer at the local community centre. I really enjoy it because I meet all kinds of people – of different ages, with different jobs, from different cultural backgrounds. I've learned so much from talking to them.

4 **Work in pairs and discuss the questions.**

1 In what other ways can you be a global citizen? Can you add three more ideas to the article?
2 What do you already do in your everyday life to be a global citizen? Can you find three things that you *both* do?
3 What could you do more often to become a better global citizen? Write down three things. Then compare your ideas with your partner.

5 **Study the highlighted phrases in the article. Complete Maya's diary entry with the correct verbs.**

1 January

This year, I will:

1 _____ an effort to read the news every day.
2 _____ money for animals by organizing an event.
3 _____ part in a local project.
4 _____ a difference to the community.
5 _____ more responsibility for the things I buy and use.
6 _____ out against inequality and prejudice.

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