

Week 1: The Class Divide throughout Time

- Thomas Malthus believed that population rates were growing too rapidly and that poor people should be discouraged from creating large families they could not take care of. His beliefs led to the amendment of the Poor Law.
- The Poor Law of 1834 made it a legal requirement for all able-bodied people to work in workhouses in order to qualify for financial support. However, conditions were purposefully harsh to deter people from claiming support.
- In more recent decades, Margaret Thatcher believed that society was a construct. She felt that people must look to themselves for help first, before looking to the government.

Vocabulary to boost your viewpoint writing:

- **Hierarchy:** Society is ranked according to status or authority.
- **Philanthropy:** The desire to promote the welfare of others.
- **Disparity:** A great difference.
- **Imperative Verb:** A word that tells someone to do something, i.e. 'Look here'.
- **Anecdote:** An amusing or interesting personal story, often used in persuasive writing.

Week 3: The Education system and letter writing

- The first recorded schools in England were documented in 598.
- The current secondary school system in the United Kingdom is largely separated into three components:
- **State school:** a school that is funded and controlled by the state and for which no fees are charged.
- **Grammar school:** a state secondary school to which pupils are admitted on the basis of ability.
- **Private school:** an independent school supported wholly by the payment of fees by students' families.
- It is possible for a school to be independent, and not to follow the National Curriculum.
- Found less commonly, a **boarding school** provides accommodation and meals for the pupils.

Letter writing conventions:

- Most formal letters will start with 'Dear' before the name of the person that you are writing to: 'Dear Ms Brown,' or 'Dear Brian Smith,'.
- You can choose to use first name and surname, or title and surname. If you don't know the name of the person you are writing to, use: 'Dear Sir/Madam,'.
- In your first paragraph, outline the purpose of your letter.
- Signing off will depend on how you started your letter.
- If you used someone's name, end with 'Yours sincerely,'.
- If you didn't use their name, you used 'Sir/Madam' instead, so end with 'Yours faithfully,'.
- Finally, don't forget to **proofread** your letter for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Week 2: Gender Expectations throughout time

- As far back as Shakespearean times, women were considered to be the property of their father, or of male family members. Often, a woman's husband was chosen by her father or another male relative. Men were expected to work and provide financially for their families.
- Typically, women have been expected to take on the role of care giver and house-wife: a role which many women still occupy today.
- In more recent decades, however, gender expectations are challenged more readily, for example, increasing years have seen men stay at home with their families whilst women return to work.

Vocabulary to enhance speech writing:

- **Urge:** to strongly persuade. "I urge you to act now.".
- **Condemn:** express complete disapproval of. "I condemn your despicable actions.".
- **Implore:** beg somebody desperately. "I implore you to stop using dangerous gender stereotypes.".
- **Irreparable:** impossible to repair. "Gender expectations can cause irreparable damage to mental health.".
- **Reprehensible:** something which should be condemned or punished. "Your ideas are reprehensible.".
- **Social responsibility:** the idea that individuals and companies should all act in a way which benefits society.

Week 4: Psychology and Behaviour

- Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and its functions.
- Psychologists not only study the mind, but they also study human behaviour and the factors which influence how and why people behave in certain ways.
- The behavioural approach to psychology believes that all behaviour is learned from those around us and our environment.
- Social Learning Theory advocates behaviour is learned through modelling, observation and imitation.
- For many years, the nature vs nurture debate has been discussed and debated by psychologists and society. It can sometimes be difficult to decide whether characteristics are determined by genetic information, environmental factors or both.

Vocabulary to boost your writing:

- **Nature:** the characteristics/traits you are born with.
- **Nurture:** the influences the environment has on an individual.
- **Classical Conditioning:** involves learning behaviour through association (a connection between two objects or people).
- **Operant Conditioning:** the concept of reward and punishment to increase or decrease certain behaviour.
- **Innate:** something that is inborn or natural.

Remember: Keep reading the information from previous weeks; this will help you in future weeks, as well as allowing you to remember a whole range of new vocabulary.

Week 5: Supernatural and Superstition

Important information:

- **Ghosts** - apparitions of dead people that some people believe in as they find it comforting when people pass away or because they prefer to think of a person affecting their lives rather than a thing. They feature in many texts as a symbol unfinished business or morality (what is right and wrong).
- **Witches** - often stereotyped as being women in pointy hats riding on broomsticks with their familiar. These were often just outsiders who had certain skills or knowledge, up to 1.5 million of whom were interrogated, imprisoned, tortured and executed during The Witch Trials.
- **Superstition** - a belief that is not based on human reason or scientific knowledge often thought to be associated with luck. Many people believe in them as they have been passed down through families and culture and offer some form of control over certain situations.

Vocabulary to boost your writing:

- **Supernatural:** something beyond scientific understanding or the laws of nature.
- **Stereotype:** a widely held but fixed and oversimplified image or idea of a particular type of person or thing.
- **Origin:** the point or place where something begins, arises, or is derived.
- **Symbol:** a thing that represents or stands for something else, especially a material object representing something abstract.

Week 6: Health and Nutrition

Important information:

- Industrialisation changed attitudes towards class and hygiene. Cleanliness was equated with respectability and smell became an indicator to health, class and social order.
- In recent decades, mental health is being prioritised as much as physical health.
- A Quack is the name given to a person who suggests the use of substances or devices for the prevention or treatment of disease that are known to be ineffective. The 19th century was the golden age for quack medicine, however, many companies in the 21st century are still getting sued for the promotion of ineffective treatments.

Vocabulary to boost your writing:

- **Industrialisation:** social and economic growth through large scale manufacturing.
- **Exhort:** strongly encourage or urge someone to do something.
- **Moralistic:** making judgements on other people's behaviour.
- **Convey:** to communicate information.
- **Discourse markers:** are words and phrases used in speaking and writing. They show differences, join ideas together, show attitude and generally control communication.

Week 7: The Power of the Media

- **The Media:** the definition of the media has expanded in recent years, and it now includes and main methods of mass communication such as television, publishing newspapers, magazines and books, and the internet. This now also refers to social media and the gaming world.
- **Social Media:** websites and apps which allow user to create and share content in order to social network or socialise online.
- **Media Violence:** the showing or sharing of violent images or material, in a way which is said to be harmful to others. This could be online, in newspapers, or in gaming. The gaming industry has received criticism for being one of the main culprits of media violence in recent years. Studies have shown that viewing too much media violence can negatively affect mental health.
- **Crowdfunding:** the practice of funding a project or venture by raising money from a large number of people who each contribute a relatively small amount, typically via the Internet.

Vocabulary to boost your writing:

- **Infiltrate:** to gradually become a part of something.
Example sentence: Expectations on social media can infiltrate our minds, leading us to strive for unrealistic standards of living.
- **Influence:** to have an effect on the thoughts or behaviour of somebody.
- **Unattainable:** something which is not able to be reached or achieved.
Example sentence: Photo-shopped images in the media can leave young people desperate to achieve unattainable standards of beauty, wealth and popularity.
- **Exponential:** something which is increasing more and more rapidly.
Example sentence: Crowdfunding pages can allow individuals and organisations to raise money at exponential rates.
- **Repercussions:** an unintended, negative consequence.
- **Culprit:** the person who is responsible for a negative act or a crime.
- **Benevolent:** well meaning and kind, or charitable.

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