

● What does the word “society” mean to you?

I think society is another word for a group of / all people who share the same place, interests, customs, government, language, etc. For me, it is... the place where I live and the community of people in it / the people around me / all my friends and family around me. For me society means living with... rules and regulations / laws telling us what we are allowed to do / not allowed to do so that we can live together without problems.

● What are the most common problems facing society?

Society faces many different problems. Generally, these problems are... long-term poverty / economic uncertainty / child abuse / drug abuse / domestic violence / crime. The causes of these problems are... social breakdown / the break-up of families / the great differences in wealth / unemployment. I think there are many problems facing our society. The biggest / Those with the most serious impact on our lives are... social insecurity / unequal opportunities / terrorism / corruption. Some of the problems are highlighted / presented to us by the media but some issues, such as... starvation in Africa / preservation of the environment / pollution growth / devastation of nature / climate change... are left out / underestimated / presented as marginal.

● How have families changed in the past decades? What are the results of this?

Families have changed in a number of ways / a lot over the years. Today... families are much smaller than in the past / it is common to come from a smaller family. Children often grow up with one parent or a step-parent. Children... are no longer expected to follow their parents' profession / are more free to make their own decisions / are more independent of their parents / live more as individuals. Parents... have less authority / treat their children more like friends.

● How do the young and old / elderly contribute to society?

It doesn't matter so much how old a person is, but who they are. Some older people can be very innovative and some young people can be very conservative. Generally, the young contribute to society by being... energetic / open to new ideas / creative... and through their willingness to... adopt new technological innovations / to explore new ideas / by being creative. Old / Older people contribute to society... by being our connection to the past / through their experience / experiences (both good and bad).

● How does technology influence society?

Technology has always had / has... a huge / massive / significant... impact / influence on society. This

influence can be... both good and bad / positive and negative / beneficial and harmful. Technological advances... enable / help us to learn about the rest of the world / make work easier allowing us to have more time to ourselves / make communication among people easier, which allows us to share ideas / culture. Technology also has a negative influence. It can expose people to violent images. People... spend too much time at the computer and not enough time with real people / can become... addicted to / unable to live without technology. I think the influence of computers is exaggerated. Technology is merely a tool which allows us to achieve what we want or need.

● Does the media influence society?

I think the media influences society a lot because it is all around us. Not only is there television, radio, and newspapers but now news and information are online. Media is a bad influence on society because it focuses on topics like... fashion / appearance / celebrities / actors or musicians and other areas of pop culture that aren't important in the real world. The media should use its influence for something important like helping to end poverty or talking about the environment. I don't think the media is a big influence on society because people should form their own opinions and not listen to what someone says on television or online.

● What is it like being a teenager?

I think it's very difficult to be a teenager. There is a lot of pressure on us. We have to... do well at school / please our parents. Often we are presented with choices but don't know the consequences of our actions. It's a very confusing time. In my opinion, being a teenager in today's society is not easy. You have to... worry about your future / money / school results / meet expectations of grown-ups. I think it is... good to be in your teens / great to be a teenager. Teenagers have no pressure and have more choices / opportunities than our parents had. They (we) have less responsibility than their (our) parents / adults. They (we) only have to worry about... school / free time / friends.

● How should a member of society behave? / How would you describe a good member of society?

A good member of society is someone who... obeys the law / helps others / helps the less fortunate such as poor or handicapped people / is kind... and doesn't... steal / attack others / vandalise / break the law. A member of society should respect / follow / obey... the rules / customs / traditions of the society where they live. To be a good member of society, a person (you) should... mind his / her (your) own business, not do anything that harms other people, but otherwise people can do what they like.

