

Justice – Teacher’s notes

Find a picture of Justice (blindfolded, with scales in one hand and a sword in the other). Show it to the class and ask:

What is it?

What symbolism is used in this image? Why?

What is Justice?

What make for a just society?

THE VEIL OF IGNORANCE

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02n3sgv>

Are there something that could be called a ‘blueprint’ for justice?

Does this depend on your social status?

How might being rich or poor alter your interpretations of justice?

What does John Rawls’ ‘Theory of Justice’ argue?

How practical is this?

LEX TALIONIS

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02n3rs2>

Has the concept of justice changed over the years? Is there a difference between the old testament and new testament versions?

What is Lex Talionis?

What does this endeavour to encourage?

What role does deterrence play in a justice system?

What was Jeremy Bentham’s position on this?

HABEUS CORPUS

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b05prkh1>

Do you know this principle? What does it imply?

What is the Great Writ?

Where does the narrator say this principle began?

What does Habeus Corpus ensure?

Are there times when it can be circumvented? Are these justifications valid?

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02n3ssn>

Most societies do not have ‘fair laws’. Is it society’s role to try and alter this?

How did Henry David Thoreau respond to this?

What did Mahatma Ghandi champion, and how?

How about Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King?

What are their modern counterparts?

EXTENSION OR HOMEWORK: Get students to read sections (or all of) George Orwell’s Essay on Politics in the English Language