

## 1.1

### Topic: Attitudes and Values

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

You and your partner have won EUR 3,000 each in the lottery. You are discussing what to do with the money. Consider all the following options carefully. If you come up with an idea of your own, discuss that as well.

- throw a big party
- take a trip abroad
- save the money for later
- donate to charity
- save up for when you go to university

Agree with your partner on two options, one of which may be your own idea.

## 1.2

### Topic: Attitudes and Values

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

There have been some incidents of vandalism at school: younger students have been destroying other people's belongings and school equipment. You and your partner are the student representatives and you have been asked to talk to the students about this problem. To plan your talk, discuss the following points:

- how vandals can make up for what they have done
- what the effects of vandalism can be
- how vandalism can be stopped
- how to find out who the vandals are
- why some students vandalize things

With your partner, decide which three points to make the main focus of your talk to the younger students.

## 7.1

### **Topic: Childhood and Adolescence**

#### **Paired Activity (10 minutes)**

You and your partner are in the process of planning what to do after leaving school. Discuss which of the following points should be taken into consideration when planning your future education and career:

- sense of satisfaction and fulfillment
- opportunities to work or study abroad
- career opportunities
- costs of higher education
- income

Agree on the three most important points for making plans for the future.

## 7.2

### Topic: Childhood and Adolescence

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

As part of a history project, you and your partner are going to interview a group of senior citizens over the age of 70 about their childhoods and teenage years. You are deciding which ideas to use in your interview. Discuss the ideas below with your partner:

- standard of living
- school
- gender roles
- family and upbringing
- values and attitudes

Agree with your partner on the three ideas that you think will produce the most interesting responses.

## 23.1

### Topic: Citizenship

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

You and your partner are participating in a school campaign to stress the importance of voting to teenagers. You have been asked to contribute three ideas to the campaign. Discuss the ideas below:

- a poster competition
- inviting local politicians to come and give a talk
- a student debate on an issue of political importance
- a workshop on the history of democracy
- a YouTube clip

With your partner, agree on which three ideas you will put forward.

## 23.2

### Topic: Citizenship

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

Your school is planning a project week on citizenship education. You and your partner have been asked to choose three topics that you feel should be included in the project. Discuss the topics below:

- environmental responsibility
- civil courage
- respect for others
- national identity and belonging
- the basics of law

With your partner agree on the three topics that you think should be dealt with in the project and outline possible contents for the program of the project week.

## 2.1

### Topic: Culture and Society

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

In art class you and your partner are given the task of designing the cover of a magazine. The aim of the magazine is to attract people from English-speaking countries to visit Austria. You have to decide what aspects of Austria's past and present should be featured on the cover. Discuss the ideas below:

- music
- traditions and customs
- VIPs
- social diversity
- famous sights

Come to a decision with your partner on which three aspects of Austria to feature on the magazine cover.

## 2.2

### **Topic: Culture and Society**

#### **Paired Activity (10 minutes)**

For a GIBS project day entitled “Tell me about it”, Year 8 students are going to get together with Year 3 students to make them aware of the importance of certain school subjects. You and your partner have chosen History. You are discussing what to do with your group of lower-school students:

- pretend to be famous historical figures
- explain how we can learn from the past
- use works of art to illustrate the past
- show YouTube film clips
- give examples of important historical events

Come to an agreement with your partner on which three ideas to use for the project and suggest possible contents for the project day.

## 3.1

### Topic: Current Trends

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

You and your partner are in the team that publishes *Cybernews*, an online school magazine. For the next edition you are planning a survey of students' views on electronic communication and social media. You have to decide which aspects of electronic media to focus on in your survey. Discuss the following options:

- preferred means of communication
- time spent on electronic media
- views on cyberbullying
- use of electronic media for school
- games

Come to an agreement with your partner on which three aspects of electronic media to include in your survey.

## 3.2

### Topic: Current Trends

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

Your next topic in English class at school is current trends in society and your teacher has given the class a list of options to choose from. Discuss the list of options below with your partner:

- extreme sports and other risk-taking behaviour
- new values and attitudes
- brands and advertising
- stress and burnout
- environmentally-friendly lifestyle

Come to an agreement with your partner on which topics you would like to deal with in class by ranking them in order of preference.

## 4.1

### Topic: Diversity in Society

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

You and your partner are writing an article for *Megaphon* about diversity in Austrian society. You have collected some ideas and now you have to decide which ones to focus on in your article. Discuss the following ideas:

- integrating ethnically diverse groups
- equal chances for disabled people
- opportunities for senior citizens to meet young people
- gender equality
- to what extent diversity is encouraged/discouraged in Austria

With your partner, decide which three ideas to use in your article.

## 4.2

### **Topic: Diversity in Society**

#### **Paired Activity (10 minutes)**

The university you and your partner attend has a policy of promoting diversity. A number of places at the university are reserved for students who fulfil certain criteria. You and your partner are members of the Student Council, which helps to decide which of the following categories of students should be given preference:

- students with parents on a low income
- students from ethnic backgrounds
- students over the age of thirty
- students with physical disabilities
- students from developing countries

Discuss the categories with your partner and decide which three should have priority with a view to promoting diversity.

## 5.1

### **Topic: Education, Ambitions and Work**

#### **Paired Activity (10 minutes)**

You and your partner are attending an EU conference on high school education. You are in a group whose task is to present the younger generation's opinions on high school curricula in Europe. You have to decide which of the following school subjects all students should have to take:

- music and art
- math
- religious studies
- a foreign language
- physical education

Together with your partner, choose three subjects from the list that should be compulsory for all students.



## 5.2

### **Topic: Education, Ambitions and Work**

#### **Paired Activity (10 minutes)**

The British Council wants to find out what young Austrians think is the best way to improve their English language skills. You and your partner have been invited to give a talk on this subject at the British Council in Vienna. You have to decide what to focus on in your talk. Discuss the following ideas:

- reading in English
- watching films from English-speaking countries
- spending time in an English-speaking country
- talking to the native speaker co-teacher at school
- communicating with people worldwide online

Come to an agreement with your partner on which three ideas to focus on in your talk.

## 6.1

### **Topic: Experiences and Emotions**

#### **Paired Activity (10 minutes)**

GIBS is organizing a voluntary experiment for upper-school students to make them more aware of their use of technological devices. Participants will have to do without all digital devices for a week and keep a diary of their experiences and feelings to share with others afterwards. You and your partner are trying to decide whether to take part. Discuss the following aspects of the experiment:

- what will be the most difficult change to make
- chances of the experiment being taken seriously
- reactions of friends and parents
- alternative sources of information
- alternative methods of communication

With your partner, decide whether or not to take part in the experiment.

## 6.2

### **Topic: Experiences and Emotions**

#### **Paired Activity (10 minutes)**

You and your partner are taking part in an essay competition on what factors are important in the pursuit of happiness. You have to decide which of the following aspects you are going to discuss in your essay:

- income
- family life
- good health
- job satisfaction
- friendship

When you have discussed all the points with your partner, rank them according to how important you consider them to be for your essay.

## 19.1

### Topic: Health and Nutrition

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

Your school is planning a project week on healthy lifestyle. You and your partner have been asked to choose three topics that you feel should be included in the project. Discuss the topics below:

- vegetarianism and veganism
- smoking
- sport
- fast food
- work-life balance

With your partner agree on the three topics that you think should be included in the project and outline possible ways of dealing with the topics during the project week.

## 19.2

### Topic: Health and Nutrition

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

You and your partner are helping to run a small cafeteria at a summer camp for children and you have to put a menu together. Discuss the criteria below with your partner and decide which ones will most influence your choice of items for the menu:

- nutritional value
- popularity with children
- cost
- shelf-life (how long the item stays fresh)
- work involved in preparation

Rank the criteria in order of importance for deciding what should appear on the menu.

## 20.1

### Topic: Holidays and Celebrations

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

You and your partner are on a work experience programme, working as classroom assistants at an English primary school. You are helping to organize a Halloween party for 9-year-olds. You are discussing which of the following activities to include and how to present them:

- a horror movie
- a ghost story
- a Halloween quiz
- making pumpkin lanterns
- a costume competition

With your partner, choose the best three activities for the Halloween party.

## 20.2

### Topic: Holidays and Celebrations

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

You and your partner are doing work experience with a class of 13 year-olds at a nearby school. The school is organizing a celebration for the last day before the Christmas break. Not all students at this school celebrate Christmas. The following ideas have been suggested:

- a party in the summer instead
- a disco instead of a Christmas party
- a multi-cultural celebration
- a typical Austrian-style Christmas party
- a party with Secret Santa gifts but no religious references

Discuss the suggestions with your partner and decide on the three that you think are the most suitable.

## 8.1

### Topic: Inspirational Characters

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

You and your partner are preparing to write an article for a youth magazine discussing the importance of role models for teenagers. Discuss the following aspects of being a role model with your partner:

- popularity
- source of inspiration
- wealth and status
- talent
- physical appearance

Come to an agreement with your partner on which three aspects you want to focus on in your article.

## 8.2

### Topic: Inspirational Characters

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

You and your partner are writing an article for the yearbook about people that we admire. You have collected information about all different kinds of characters. Now you have to decide what kinds of inspirational characters to include in your article. Discuss the following categories with your partner:

- people who rescued others in danger
- celebrities from the world of entertainment
- people who made great discoveries
- people who fought/fight for human rights
- sports champions

Come to a decision with your partner on which three kinds of inspirational characters to include in your article for the yearbook.

## 9.1

### Topic: Lifestyle and Leisure

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

You and your partner are members of a team planning a school event to raise money for young athletes with disabilities. You have to decide which of the following aspects of the event you would like to be in charge of organizing:

- location
- sponsors
- programme of activities
- special guests
- media coverage

Discuss all the aspects and then come to a decision with your partner on which two aspects of the event you want to be responsible for.

## 9.2

### Topic: Lifestyle and Leisure

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

As the Graduation Ball your class organized was such a success, Year 6 students, who are already planning their Graduation Ball, have asked you and your partner for some advice. They have given you the following list of points and want to know which they should give priority to:

- location
- involvement of parents
- the theme of the ball
- financial issues
- fair share of workload

Discuss the list of points with your partner. You may add and discuss another point if you wish. Rank the points in order of importance for the organization of the ball.

## 10.1

### Topic: Media Matters

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

You and your partner have entered for a foreign language competition. To prepare for the competition you are discussing the benefits and drawbacks of the internet, as this is one of the topics that is likely to come up. Consider the following uses of the internet and discuss them well with your partner:

- chatting
- researching information
- shopping
- email
- games

With your partner, decide which two of the above uses of the internet are probably most important to teenagers.

## 10.2

### Topic: Media Matters

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

You and your partner are members of an upper-school student group that is planning to publish a monthly newspaper for students at your school. You have to decide on the content of the newspaper. Here are the ideas you have collected:

- a “What’s On in Graz” section
- an international current events section
- a section for lower-school students
- a section commenting on GIBS news
- a section for current events in Austria

Discuss the ideas with your partner and choose three that you definitely want to use for the newspaper.

## 10.3

### Topic: Media Matters

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

You and your partner are helping to organize an English-speaking summer camp for 10- to 14-year-olds in a countryside location. You want to convince the parents that their children should leave their cell phones at home. Discuss the following arguments for not bringing cell phones to the camp:

- avoiding peer pressure and cyber-bullying
- rediscovering outdoor play
- phoning home can cause homesickness
- encouraging face-to-face communication
- learning to cope independently of parents

With your partner, choose the three arguments that the parents will find most convincing.

## 10.4

### Topic: Media Matters

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

You and your partner are going to spend an afternoon teaching senior citizens how to use electronic media. In the introductory talk, you plan to explain to the participants why media like the internet, social networking sites, e-mail and e-books are so useful. Discuss the following arguments for learning to use electronic media:

- easy to learn
- an absolute must nowadays
- practical for keeping in touch with others
- excellent for researching the past
- more entertaining than TV

With your partner, choose the three arguments that you think the senior citizens will find most convincing.

## 24.1

### Topic: Music, Art and Entertainment

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

A new performance centre is opening soon in your area. The town council wants to encourage the interest of local young people and has asked for their opinions on what kind of events should be held there. The following options have been suggested:

- opera
- art exhibitions
- rock concerts
- dance
- drama

With your partner, discuss the options above and decide on the three that you would recommend.

## 24.2

### Topic: Music, Art and Entertainment

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

You and your partner are members of the European Youth Parliament and have been asked to suggest how EU funds should be used to encourage music education and appreciation among young people in your country. Discuss the following options for the use of the EU's financial support:

- school outings to rock concerts
- instrument instruction for talented individuals
- starting a school orchestra or band
- school choir trips to international competitions
- class outings to the opera

With your partner agree on the three best uses of EU funding.

## 11.1

### Topic: People and Relationships

#### Paired Activity (10 min)

GIBS is considering changing the way classrooms are used. In the new system, subject teachers, not classes, would have classrooms. Students would move after every period, not teachers. Students would never be in a classroom without a teacher. The students have been asked for their opinions on this system. Discuss the following points with your partner:

- advantages of having no home rooms for classes
- disadvantages of having no home rooms for classes
- effect on student-teacher relationships
- effect on student-student relationships
- what students could have instead of a home room

Come to an agreement with your partner on whether you are in favour of the new system or not.

## 11.2

### Topic: People and Relationships

#### Paired Activity (10 min)

You and your partner have a 16-year-old friend called Carol who wants to go to an open-air music festival. However, Carol's parents do not want her to go and Carol has asked for your advice. Discuss with your partner what Carol should say to make her parents change their minds and let her go to the festival:

- willing to stick to parents' rules
- old enough to look after herself
- a unique experience
- going with friends
- paying for it herself

Come to an agreement with your partner on the best three arguments Carol could use.

## 12.1

### Topic: Planet Earth

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

The Ministry of Education has launched a campaign to encourage schools to become more environmentally aware. Schools have been asked to suggest what they could do to contribute to this campaign. You and your partner are in the team deciding which GIBS ideas to pass on to the Ministry. Discuss the following ideas:

- stop school trips that involve air travel
- start an organic vegetable garden
- have clothing swap markets
- use electronic media rather than paper
- start a bee colony on the roof

With your partner, rank the ideas in order of preference.

## 12.2

### Topic: Planet Earth

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

Instead of giving each other Christmas presents, you and your classmates have decided to donate to an environmental organization or an organization that helps people in developing countries. You have collected some ideas and now the class is going to take a vote. Discuss the following ideas with your partner:

- *Greenpeace*: “Save the whale” campaign
- *Eco-cell*: campaign to promote cell phone recycling
- *Animal Aid*: against intensive animal farming
- *World Land Trust*: saves threatened habitats by creating nature reserves
- *Water Wells for Africa*: provides clean water supplies

With your partner, rank the ideas in order of preference.

## 21.1

### Topic: Reading

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

Your school is running a project to encourage more reading. Upper-school students who are keen readers are being asked to share their reading experiences with lower-school students. You and your partner are discussing which of the following arguments would encourage younger students to read more:

- it is a cheap hobby
- it is something you can do on your own
- it is great entertainment
- it improves your grades
- it helps you get to know famous writers

With your partner, decide which three reasons for reading younger students would find most attractive.

## 21.2

### Topic: Reading

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

The school library has been given some funding to buy new materials. Students have been asked for their opinions on what types of reading materials should be available in the library. Discuss the options below with your partner:

- teen magazines
- foreign-language newspapers
- electronic reader (e.g. Kindle) with your choice of book already uploaded
- non-fiction books in conventional printed form
- e-books that can be read on the library computers

Discuss the ideas and choose the three that you think would be best.

## 13.1

### Topic: Science and Technology

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

You and your partner are judging the entries of scientists and inventors in an international science and technology competition. The main criterion for judging is usefulness to humanity. Discuss the following five entries in the competition:

- a robot dog for mentally disabled children
- a cheap solar-powered water pump for use in dry regions
- a robot garbage collector for use in remote rural locations
- a food supplement for hens that makes their eggs more nutritious
- an electric car with a long-life battery

With your partner, rank the entries in order of how useful you consider them for humanity.

## 13.2

### Topic: Science and Technology

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

For a GIBS project entitled “Tell me about it”, Year 8 students are going to get together with Year 3 students to make them aware of the importance of certain school subjects. You and your partner have chosen Science. You are discussing what to do with your group of lower-school students:

- make up a science quiz or game
- give examples of how science is important for everyday life
- bring in a pet to explain about mammals
- show an impressive chemistry experiment
- show YouTube film clips

Come to an agreement with your partner on which three ideas to use for the project.

## 22.1

### Topic: Sport and Fitness

#### Paired Activity(10 minutes)

You and your partner are guest students at Parkview High, an American high school. You are taking part in a discussion about the best use of funds to improve sports facilities. You can vote for three of the following options:

- streetball court
- soccer field
- skateboard half pipe
- yoga studio
- weight training room

Discuss the options with your partner and agree on which three to vote for.

## 22.2

### Topic: Sport and Fitness

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

You and your partner have a summer job at *Top Fit*, a gym and health club. *Top Fit* wants to attract more young members and has asked you to suggest what their advertising campaign should focus on to encourage young people to join up.

Discuss the options below:

- giving up smoking
- maintaining a healthy weight
- looking good
- avoiding chronic diseases
- feeling self-confident

With your partner, decide which three of the above aspects of a healthy lifestyle are most likely to encourage young people to join *Top Fit*.

## 14.1

### Topic: The English-speaking World

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

You and your partner are planning to spend a gap year in an English-speaking country. You have made a list of things that could influence your decision about where to go. Discuss the points on the list together:

- educational facilities
- opportunities for sport and leisure activities
- safe environment
- climate
- employment opportunities

With your partner, decide on the three points that are most important to you for your choice of destination.

## 14.2

### Topic: The English-Speaking World

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

In order to improve reading projects, your English teacher has asked what you think are the most important aspects of studying literature from English-speaking countries. Discuss the following points with your partner and decide which to include in your feedback to your teacher:

- watching film versions of literature
- learning about other cultures
- getting to know famous classics
- improving language skills
- being allowed to choose books yourself

Come to a decision with your partner on which three points you would recommend taking into consideration for reading projects.

## 15.1

### Topic: The Individual and Society

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

For an EU project entitled “Take Action”, you and your partner have to suggest issues that young Austrians would feel so strongly about that they would be prepared to demonstrate or raise their voices in protest. Discuss the following issues and decide which would be most likely to motivate young people to take action:

- university fees
- animal rights
- climate change
- human rights
- rights for asylum seekers

With your partner, decide which three issues to present for the project.

## 15.2

### **Topic: The Individual and Society**

#### **Paired Activity (10 minutes)**

You and your partner are preparing a talk for a group of American students of German on their first visit to Austria. The topic of the talk is “The Individual Austrian”. You have to decide what points to cover in your talk. Discuss the following aspects of Austria and Austrians:

- language
- immigration
- stereotypes
- strengths and weaknesses
- differences/similarities to USA

Come to an agreement with your partner on which three aspects to focus on in your talk.

## 16.1

### Topic: Travel and Tourism

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

You and your partner have been asked by a Year 7 class for some advice concerning the planning of their Graduation Trip. They have a list of ideas and would like your opinion on how suitable these options are for a Graduation Trip. Discuss the ideas with your partner, adding your own idea if you wish.

- *Summer Splash* in Turkey
- InterRail trip around Europe
- self-catering mountain chalet in Austria
- Mediterranean charter cruise
- youth hostel in London

Come to a decision with your partner on which three ideas to recommend. One of the ideas may be your own.

## 16.2

### Topic: Travel and Tourism

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

John is a guest student from Australia, who will be in Graz for a year. You and your partner are planning some things to do with John to help him feel at home in Austria. Discuss the following points with your partner and decide which to suggest to John:

- sightseeing
- hiking in the mountains
- organizing German lessons
- going out in the evening
- visiting neighbouring countries

Come to a decision with your partner on which three activities you should suggest to John.

## 17.1

### Topic: Visions of the Future

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

You and your partner are going to Brussels to take part in an EU youth competition entitled “Imagine the Future Fantastic”. You have to give a presentation (using whatever media you like) on your vision of how wonderful life could be in a hundred years’ time. Discuss the topics below:

- transport
- education
- health and nutrition
- housing
- communication

With your partner, come to a decision on which three topics to use in your presentation.

## 17.2

### **Topic: Visions of the Future**

#### **Paired Activity (10 minutes)**

You and your partner are taking part in an international conference for young scientists at the University of Technology. The topic of the conference is the future of digital devices. Experts will be giving presentations on the possible future uses of digital technology in the following areas:

- care of elderly people
- health care
- education
- political activity
- entertainment

Speculate on what the presentations will be about, then decide with your partner which three you will probably find most interesting.

## 18.1

### Topic: Youth Culture

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

You and your partner are representing GIBS in an international competition for schools. You have to write an essay on how to make your home town a more attractive place for young people. Discuss the following aspects of life in Graz:

- sports facilities
- opportunities for socializing
- culture and entertainment
- cycle paths and transport
- opportunities for part-time employment

With your partner, decide which three aspects of life in Graz to deal with in your essay.

## 18.2

### Topic: Youth Culture

#### Paired Activity (10 minutes)

You and your partner are contributing to a blog about things that people find annoying. In the blog you are asked to comment on the following:

- graffiti
- “selfies”
- tattoos
- Facebook “likes”
- smoking

Discuss to what extent you find these things annoying and decide with your partner which ones you will comment on in the blog. You may add another idea of your own wish.