

SDG 13 Passion to Purpose

Climate Action and Sustainable Development



Passion to Purpose

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Action Project

Lesson 2: Understanding Values and Character

Lesson Title and Summary: Understanding Values and Character

Gaining awareness and understanding of our character, virtues and values is key to having a realistic sense of self and in developing confidence and a positive mindset. Our virtues are qualities or traits which build up our character. The set of beliefs or attitudes that define what sort of person we are is our character. The way in which we live and work is determined by the things we believe are important, these are our values.

To an extent, these our values are the measure by which we mark our progress in our lives and generally what should determine our priorities. This lesson offers an exploration into character, virtues and values, particularly four types of values - ethical, performance, civic and intellectual.

Vocabulary:

Character, Sphere of influence, Trait, Value, Virtue

In this lesson, the learner will:

- explore and gain understanding of the concepts of character, virtues and values
- gain understanding of four types of values; ethical values, performance values, civic values and intellectual values
- be introduced to the concept of 'building blocks of character' when referring to virtues and identify personal virtues

Materials

- Worksheets: What are Character Traits, Virtues & Values?
- Dictionary
- Game of Jenga blocks
- Internet access



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Activity Instructions

Activity 1 What are Character Traits, a Virtue, a Value? (10 mins)

1. Organise learners into four groups. Allocate each group a key term to explore; Group 1 = character, Group 2 = trait, Group 3 = virtue, Group 4 = value, and instruct each group to find a definition for their word (they need to look up 3 different sources for the same word to cross reference). Using their three definitions, they must put them into their own words using the brainstorming space on Worksheet: What are character traits, virtues and values?
2. Regroup learners into Hive Mind groups - put a representative from each word into a group and invite each to share definitions.

Activity 2 Building Blocks of Character (30 mins)

1. Elicit words from learners to describe the structure of the Jenga Blocks when constructed (solid/ strong/ formidable). Remind learners that values are goals or ideals or even opinions, virtues are behaviours showing high moral standards equals virtues are how we practice and demonstrate character.
2. Briefly play the game as a whole class, inviting learners to come and remove a block from the structure until the structure topples. Don't play for more than 5 minutes.
3. Elicit what made the structure unstable (top heavy/poor foundations) and compare the Jenga structures, before and after, to the concept of strong or weak "character".
4. Using Worksheet: What are character traits, virtues and values?, use the Building Blocks of Character diagram on character and invite learners to work in pairs to discuss what makes up someone's character and ask them to consider and discuss this in relation to four types of virtues: ethical / moral - performance - civic - intellectual.
5. Direct learners to complete the diagram on their individual worksheets with their discussed ideas and to define each virtue and list at least three examples of these virtues. An example has been offered for each. Further examples are available from The Jubilee Centre Framework for Character Education in Schools (see Media Box).

Activity 3 Pair and Share (10 mins)

1. After completing their virtues diagram, learners pair and share to compare their diagrams with each other. Use The Jubilee Centre Framework for Character Education in Schools diagram, if required, to support further understanding.

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REFLECTIVE EXERCISE: 3-2-1 (10 mins)

- Three things they feel they have learnt from the tasks
- Two things they found most interesting and would like to explore more
- One – their opinion they have about the tasks

Rather than use Post-its you can set the reflection up using a Mentimeter poll [mentimeter.com](https://www.mentimeter.com)

EXTENSION / REDUCTION ACTIVITIES

Reduction: For a shorter class, complete Activity 1 & 2 only, and use Activity 3 as a lead in for the next lesson.

Extension: For a longer class, explore benefits of positive character development. Use the sentence stems in Activity 3 as a discussion or writing-based activity.

MEDIA BOX: (materials, online video links, extra resources, case studies etc)

Video: A Question of Character Promo Trailer [2:24 mins] <https://youtu.be/ouHugNGYQrk>

Diagram: Jubilee Centre's 'Building Blocks of Character' Diagram 1 - <https://tinyurl.com/2p9dv5ma>

Website: Positive Character Development

<https://www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/1700/character-in-the-professions-teaching>

Website: Six Pillars of Character <https://charactercounts.org/character-counts-overview/six-pillars/>

Local Trip / Expertise / Additional Work and Assessments

- Create an infographic to communicate what building blocks of character means, either individually or collectively, of what they have learned and identified to be building blocks of character or pillars of character. See Media Box for inspiration.
- Invite local business owners, law enforcement and community members to speak on the topic.
- Select a respected community member to interview on their views of the topic.

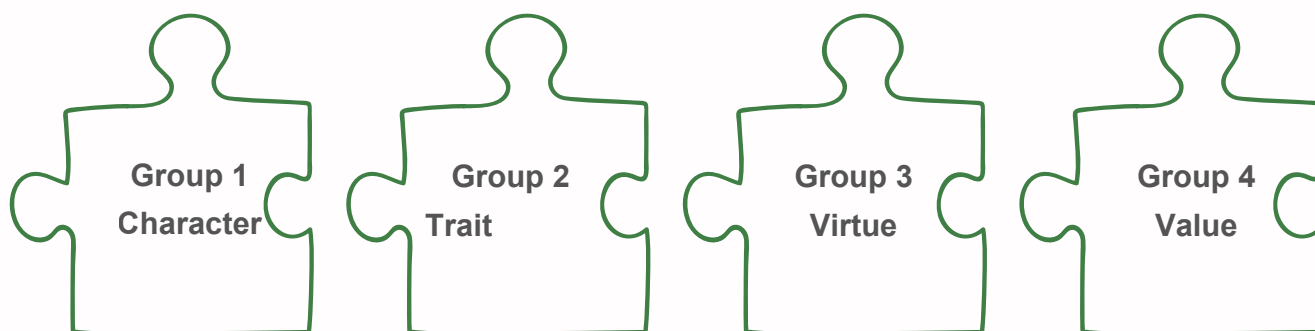
LESSON 2: CHARACTER, TRAITS, VIRTUES & VALUES

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Key Term Definitions

- Work in four groups, one per key word.
- Each group is responsible for finding the definition for one of the key words.
- Each group must look up three different sources for the same word to cross reference.



Definitions:

Own words definition:

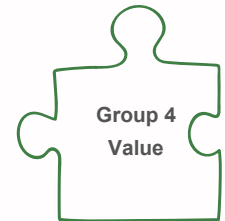
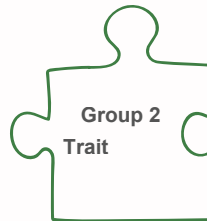
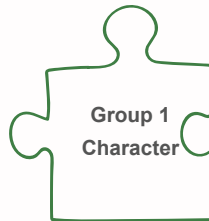
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Key Term Definitions

- Note your group's definition and the
- definitions you discover from other groups for the other words below:



Character

Trait

Virtue

Value

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What are Character, Traits, Virtues & Values?

Idea storming Space



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Building Blocks of Character

Reminder:



- Values are goals or ideals or even opinions.
- Virtues are behaviours showing high moral standards.
- Virtues are how we practice and demonstrate character.



Building Blocks of Character

- In pairs or groups consider and discuss what you think are character virtues in terms of the four categories and complete the diagram with your ideas
- Define each virtue: intellectual, moral/ethical, civic, performance
- List at least three examples of these virtues under each category, an example has been done for you

INTELLECTUAL	MORAL/ETHICAL	CIVIC	PERFORMANCE
e.g. critical thinking	e.g. compassion	e.g. community	e.g. confidence

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Pair and Share

- Pair with another group and compare your ideas with each other.