

Rules and customs – then and now

Past times

- 1 Read about *Education in Victorian England*. Work with a partner and choose the correct option in 1–3.
 - 1 In 1870, children from poorer families *had to / didn't have to* go to school.
 - 2 In 1880, all children *had to / weren't allowed to* go to school until they were 10.
 - 3 In 1899, children *weren't allowed to / didn't have to* leave school until they were 12.
- 2 Read *School Rules 1880*. What do you think was true for Victorian schools? Complete them with *had to / didn't have to / weren't allowed to*.

School Rules 1880

- 1 Boys and girls had to enter the school through different doors.
- 2 Children _____ call teachers 'Sir' or 'Ma'am'.
- 3 Children _____ ask questions.
- 4 The children _____ stand up to answer questions.
- 5 Children _____ do any sports.
- 6 In the afternoon, boys _____ do woodwork, while girls _____ do cooking and needlework.
- 7 Children _____ use their left hand for writing.
- 8 Female teachers _____ get married.

5.3 Listen and check your ideas.

Education in Victorian England 1832–1901

In Victorian England, education played a very small role in most children's lives. In 1840, only 20% of children had any schooling at all. Then, in 1840 an Education Act was passed which said that children aged 5–10 should attend school. However, many parents ignored this because they needed their children to work and earn money for the family. It was only in 1880 that school became obligatory for all children until the age of 10, with 70 or 80 pupils in a class. Then, in 1899, the school leaving age was raised to 12.



Present times

- 3 Work with a partner. Read the lines in 1–10. Which ones are connected with **a) the law**, **b) customs and manners**? Which are true for your country?

In Britain, ...

- 1 you can't buy cigarettes or alcohol until you're 18. **a) the law**
- 2 young people don't have to do military service.
- 3 you have to order drinks at the bar in a pub.
- 4 you aren't allowed to smoke in any indoor public place.
- 5 you must queue at the bus stop.
- 6 you should say sorry if you bump into someone, even if it's their fault.
- 7 you're allowed to cross the road when the lights tell you not to.
- 8 you mustn't use a mobile phone when driving.
- 9 you shouldn't ask people how much they earn.
- 10 many schoolchildren have to wear school uniforms.

Discussion

- 4 Do you agree with these statements? Discuss in groups.
 - Schoolchildren should be allowed to call teachers by their first names.
 - A man doesn't need to offer his seat to a woman on a bus or train.
 - You shouldn't discuss personal matters on your phone in public.
 - You must get someone's permission before posting a photo of them on Facebook.
 - You don't have to get married to have children.
 - You mustn't cycle on the pavement.