

Overview

Watch the video podcast. Whose opinions are closest to your own?

1 Read Pasha's introduction and fill in the gaps. Then watch the video podcast from 0:10-0:30 to check your answers.



I enjoy reading ¹*about* the past but I'm very happy to live in ² _____ modern world with all its freedom and ³ _____ opportunities we ⁴ _____. Today I'm talking ⁵ _____ people about the past and how history ⁶ _____ influenced our lives. Do you think life is better now than in the past?

Glossary: *opportunity = the chance to do something*

2 Do you think life is better now than in the past? Look at the people in the pictures and watch the video podcast from 0:30-1:36. Write their answers, Yes (Y) or No (N), in the boxes.

					
A	B	C	D	E	F
Liz	Kent	Susana	Sue	James	Georgie
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3 Why do you think life is better/worse now than in the past? Look at the pictures of the people in Ex. 2 again and read their answers, 1-6 below. Then watch the video podcast from 0:30-1:36 again and match the answers to the people.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1 People had stronger values in the past and life wasn't as fast as it is now. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Now women have education and the right to vote. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 She's a person who lives life for today, in the present not the past. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 In the past, there were more great causes to believe in. People's imaginations were more fired up. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Society is much more materialistic and people forget that their health, friends and family are more important than money. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Life is better now because of improvements in technologies, the internet and medicine. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Glossary: *values = ideas of right and wrong, e.g. religious, traditional; (great) causes = an organisation/ belief that people support and fight for; fired up = excited/interested/angry; materialistic = focussed more on money than things like art*

4A If you could have lived through a different age or decade, which would you choose and why? Look at the people and read answers 1-7. Then watch the video podcast from 1:36-2:36 and match speakers A-E to the correct response. There are TWO extra answers.



A
Liz



B
Susana



C
Kent



D
Georgie



E
James

- 1 in the 1920s **D**
- 2 the eighteenth century
- 3 the Victorian era
- 4 in the 1960s
- 5 the late 1960s, 1970s
- 6 in Ancient Greece
- 7 in the 1950s

4B Read the reasons the speakers give for their answers in Ex. 4A. Then watch the video podcast from 1:36-2:36 again and tick (✓) the correct reason: a or b.

- Liz**
- 1 a) The women were all beautiful.
 - b) People were exploring the world.
- Susana**
- 2 a) It was the Christian Dior era in fashion.
 - b) Ladies all dressed fashionably in the 1950s.
- Kent**
- 3 a) It was a decade of violent revolution.
 - b) Music got much better.
- Georgie**
- 4 a) She would like to have been a 'flapper.'
 - b) She would've played jazz.
- James**
- 5 a) Things were more inspiring.
 - b) There are more causes to believe in now.

Glossary: *flapper* = a fashionable young woman in the late 1920s

5A In your opinion, what historical events or people have changed the course of history? Watch the video podcast from 2:36-3:26 and circle the answers you hear.

Nelson Mandela	<u>Winston Churchill</u>	Marie Curie
the French Revolution	Princess Diana	World Wars I and II
September 11th	the Iraq war	the moon landing
the American War of Independence		Friedrich Nietzsche

5B Read the opinions of the people in the pictures. Then watch the video podcast again from 2:36-3:26 and underline the correct words.



Sue

People off the top of my head would be Winston Churchill, ¹ quite / most definitely; Princess Diana...



James

I think the way he thought ² of/about why we believe certain things, why we behave in certain ways, transformed ³ the way/how people live their lives.



Georgie

I think a key historical ⁴ moment/ event was the moon landing because it gave people a bigger ⁵ focus/picture than just the Earth.



Kent

For me, I would say the American War of Independence, just because it helped ⁶ explain/ define America as a ⁷ nation/country and created our identity, you know, to the rest of the world, which can be seen through ⁸ until/to today.



Susana

Oh, ⁹ decidedly/definitely, the September 11. The world is something ¹⁰ then/before, and after, September 11.

Glossary: *off the top of (my) head* = the first thing (I) think of

The way we speak

6 The people in the pictures speculate about the past. Watch the video podcast from 1:36-2:35 and complete their sentences.



Liz

1 If I could have lived in another age, _____ have lived in the eighteenth century.



Susana

2 I _____ loved to live in the 1950's, in all this Christian Dior era.



Kent

3 Coming from the United States, I would _____ say the late 60's, 1970's.



Georgie

4 I would, definitely, love _____ lived in the '20's as a 'flapper', drinking Martinis. That would _____ excellent, dancing to jazz.



James

5 The 60's was a decade I _____ to have lived in.

Personalisation

7 Write *your* answers to the questions.

1 Do you think life is better now than in the past?

2 If you could have lived through a different age or decade, which would you choose and why?

3 In your opinion, what historical events or people have changed the course of history? In what way(s)?

BBC LINK



A new website aims to get young people more involved in history by using video technology.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/8594999.stm>

