GCSE Citizenship Studies: revision notes

Taking citizenship action

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What citizenship action is

- **Active citizenship** means taking part in society to make a positive difference, such as volunteering, campaigning or voting.
- For the exam, you plan and carry out your own **citizenship action** with others, on an issue that matters to your community. You then answer questions about it in Paper 1.

Planning your action

- Choose an issue and research it, using **primary research** (surveys, interviews) and **secondary research** (news, official statistics).
- Set a clear aim, identify who has the power to make the change (such as the school council, a local councillor or an MP), and plan tasks, roles and a timeline.
- Think about risks, ethics and the resources you need.

Methods of action

- **Petitions**: UK Parliament **petitions** get a government response at 10,000 signatures and are considered for a debate at 100,000.
- **Lobbying**: contacting decision-makers directly, such as writing to your MP.
- Awareness raising: assemblies, posters, social media and local media.
- Events and volunteering, such as a litter pick or fundraiser.

Evaluating your action

- Did you achieve your aim? What evidence shows the impact? What went well, what would you change and how could the action continue?
- Consider different viewpoints: who agreed or disagreed, and why.

Your notes

Key terms

Active citizenship	Taking part in society to make a positive difference.
Citizenship action	A planned activity to make change on an issue.
Lobbying	Contacting decision-makers to influence them.
Petition	A formal request signed by many people.
Primary research	Research you carry out yourself.
Secondary research	Using information collected by others.
Evaluation	Judging how successful an action was and what could improve.

Quick questions

Cover the answers and test yourself: remembering is what makes it stick.

1. What is active citizenship?
2. How many signatures does a UK Parliament petition need to get a government response?
3. How many signatures does a UK Parliament petition need to be considered for a debate?
4. What is lobbying?
5. Which is primary research for a citizenship action?
6. Why identify who has power over your issue?
7. What should an evaluation of your action include?
8. Which is an example of awareness raising?

Answers

1. Taking part in society to make a positive difference
2. 10,000
3. 100,000
4. Contacting decision-makers to influence them
5. A survey of students in your school
6. So you target the people who can make the change
7. Whether you achieved your aim, with evidence
8. Giving an assembly about the issue

What to do next

Practise 10 questions on this topic

Try 3 exam questions, with mark schemes

Read the lesson, one step at a time

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Your notes