

THE REAL WORLD OF LANGUAGES
CULTURAL AWARENESS DEBATE - LESSON PLAN



Year Group	Year 10 – Year 12	
Overview	Film used as a starting point to develop ideas for a discussion/debate about the importance of cultural awareness.	
Duration	The amount of time spent on this project may vary depending on the year group and class time available. Additional time for preparing ideas and discussions could be added for a full-day workshop.	
	Lesson One	Lesson Two
	Watching film then going through questionnaire in pairs. Using worksheet to prepare ideas and discussion points.	Groups preparing ideas and arguments for discussion/debate. Carrying out discussion/debate.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight what is meant by cultural awareness and its impact in the workplace. • Develop understanding that language skills can be of personal benefit as well as for a career. • Develop self-expression during discussions/debates. 	
Learning outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify what is meant by cultural awareness. • Recognise the impact that cultural awareness could have on future learning or career pathways. • Demonstrate team work skills and self-expression. 	
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities to show DVD. • Copies of film questionnaire. • Copies of discussion ideas. 	

From the film, what did the following speakers say about how speaking languages had made a difference to them personally?

Marlyse Pacaud
Voice & Script
International

Bridget Kendall
BBC

Kath Curry
British Airways

What did the following speakers say about how cultural awareness affected the way they ran their businesses?

Sabe Tibbetts
UKTI

Kath Curry
British Airways

Hal Jaffer
Hotel la Place

Do you agree or disagree with any of the following statements?

With your group, prepare arguments FOR and AGAINST one of these statements which your group will use during a debate.

1	As a company based in London wanting to trade with overseas businesses, it is better to deal with these international companies in English because they want to sell in an English-speaking country. It is not important for us to understand their backgrounds in order to be successful in selling their products here.
2	As an international company we think it is very important that all of our staff know about each other's cultural backgrounds as it will help them to work better together. We are prepared to spend some money on this and allow staff time to attend social gatherings in order to learn more about each other.
3	As the 2012 Olympics gets closer, all volunteers should be given training in languages and cultural awareness – they will not be able to carry out their role effectively without this. Having such a diverse population, London will be seen as having failed to host the Games as well as other cities if they do not offer this training.
4	If you imitate customs from other cultures when meeting people, such as bowing, they would be offended as this is not something you would normally do within your own culture. It might be useful to know about other peoples' customs but you would not be able to know about everyone so it's not worth trying to please everyone.
5	Although we are a large company, we do not feel that we need to ensure that there is a specific area for prayers or that staff should be allowed to pray whenever they felt they needed to as this will mean they are less productive in the workplace.