

Instructions for Students

(1) Fashionable London

On this table you will find a range of sources (books, a pamphlet, a street directory and a scrapbook) that tell you something about fashionable London in the period from 1880 to 1939.

Spend five minutes closely examining your source. Look out for content that describes or shows clothes or fashion in London. Note down words, ideas or findings that interest you.

Spend ten minutes working as a group to create a mind map inspired by your findings, with the words FASHIONABLE LONDON at the centre.

(2) Dressing for Work and Play

On this table you will find a selection of images showing how people dressed for work and play. The images should get you thinking about the links between clothing and lifestyle, status or wealth.

Work as a group to sort the items into two separate piles (work and play). Place any items you're not sure about in a separate pile.

Pick one image that 'speaks' to you. It can be from any pile. Study it closely. Imagine yourself as one of the people in the image. What are you wearing? How does it make you feel (important, ashamed, uncomfortable, angry, and so on)? Write the opening sentences of an autobiographical novel, with your character as the hero or heroine. The novel should begin: "It is [date] and I am wearing..." Be descriptive, taking as much inspiration and as many details from your photograph as possible.

(3) Women in the New Workforce

On this table you will find archive sources which provide insight into the experiences of girls and women in the workforce from the 1880s to the 1930s. Three discussion points are printed below.

- Nominate one person to read out the discussion points
- Keeping the discussion points in mind, spend eight minutes examining the items individually or in pairs.
- Spend five minutes as a group sharing your views on one or more of the discussion points – one member of the group should take brief notes

Discussion Points

1. What do the pamphlet titles tell you about the experiences of women in the new workforce?
2. Based on the materials on this table, suggest three adjectives that describe the experiences of women at work.
3. Is there anything here that helps you understand the differences between men and women's experiences in the workforce?

(4) The Real People of the Abyss

On this table you will find pamphlets and photographs that help you discover more about the language of poverty and hardship in London around 1900. You will also find a copy of Jack

London *People of the Abyss* (1903). Each person should have one pamphlet and one photograph to examine.

- The facilitator introduces *People of the Abyss* (2 minutes)
- Working in pairs, examine your sources (8 minutes). Pay particular attention to the language used in your pamphlets. Pay particular attention to the settings and clothes in your photographs
- Come together as a group to jot down as many words or phrases as you can that describe life for the real people of the abyss. Use real phrases from the sources and add your own. See if you can start to create a stream of consciousness poem (five minutes)