Words in action

Using stills from films
The vocabulary for the judicial process can be practised by describing stills from famous courtroom drama films. A short scene from the film could also be watched and then described, using the vocabulary from the chapter. In addition the pupils could be encouraged to make a list of phrases that the lawyers use to present their cases.

There are countless films and TV shows that are set in courtrooms.

Internet research
There are many websites with information that the pupils can visit to gather information about the death penalty. The Death Penalty Information Center website – http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/ – is very comprehensive and presents the facts and the issues; it also contains student resources. Statistics reflecting current public opinion in the US can be found on the Pew Research website: http://www.pewforum.org/topics/death-penalty/

The same is true for gun control. Most US newspapers (and indeed some British ones) have a section dedicated to issues regarding gun control.

The pupils can also be encouraged to find the most recent statistics and news about the challenges mentioned in the chapter on the Internet. News agencies such as CNN and the BBC provide informed and easy-to-understand overviews as well as short video clips.

BBC news clips
The following short BBC news clip (just under three minutes) presents facts about obesity and where it is most prevalent. It provides an interesting overview with statistics.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjR6KRMPQGw

This short BBC news clip (just over two minutes) presents information about ageing around the world and compares the situation in different countries. It provides an interesting overview with statistics.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4r0S5qoIXc
5.3 Gun control

A: Vocabulary collection

Listen to track 30 “Gun control”.
As you listen to the text collect vocabulary on the topic.

B: Arguments for and against gun control

Structure arguments for a debate demanding stricter control of weapons in the USA.

Word bank

accessible • to advocate sth • to bear arms • controversial • firearm • to grieve • heritage • increase in sth • innocent bystander • legislation • lobby • Second Amendment • survey • to defend oneself • to prevent • victim

Debate: For or against gun control

Form two groups: one team represents the NRA (National Rifle Association), the other one the anti-gun lobby. Discuss your diverging attitudes towards gun control.
5.4 Terrorism

What is terrorism?

Go to the internet and research acts of terrorism, such as the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, 9/11 or the Boston Marathon bombing. Try to find answers to the following tasks in your research.

While you collect the information note down the recurring vocabulary having to do with terrorism. Find word-families, synonyms/antonyms and collocations.

1. Definition of the term terrorism:

2. Give examples of aims and motives of terrorists:

3. Give examples of terrorist acts:

4. Victims of terrorism:

Education – a measure against terrorism?

Comment on the following statement Tony Blair (British Prime Minster 1997 to 2007) made at the United Nations counter-terrorism body in November 2013. Is education an adequate means to fight terrorism? Discuss your ideas.

“That is why in the 21st Century education is a security issue and not any education but education specifically that opens young minds to ‘the other,’ those who are culturally and religiously different, and shows them how the only future that works is one in which people are respected as equals whatever their faith or culture. ‘To see myself in you:’ peaceful co-existence should be our aim.

It is time to mobilise and to organise to achieve this aim and as yet we are doing neither adequately or with the necessary urgency,” he added, calling for the UN Security Council to recognize this. “The extremists are able to organise because we are not organised. This has to change. We have to educate.”


Word bank

security issue • extremism • fundamentalism • ignorance • distorted / false view of sth • tolerance tolerate • peaceful • co-existence / co-exist –diversity • difference • divergence • tolerance and respect • cultural / religious differences • respect sb as equal • overcome prejudices

(Reference texts and vocabulary Words in context pp 60: Terrorism)
5.6 Health

Eight rules for keeping healthy

Come up with at least 8 rules for keeping healthy.
Add more ideas for sustaining good health.

You might want to use the following verbs to start your statements:
Avoid – Follow – Exercise – Learn – Organize – Make – Have – Don’t …

Example:
Organize routine check-ups.
Organize appointments with your doctor.

Follow-up activity

Improved health care has increased life expectancy and generally enables people to lead healthier lives. Discuss the obvious advantages, but also the disadvantages of modern health care.