Worksheet Dictatorship

Dictatorship\(^1\) means that one or several individuals has unlimited\(^2\) power over the population of a county. Very often the dictatorship has the army at its disposal\(^3\). Personal opinions are forbidden. Adherence to the rules\(^4\) laid down\(^5\) by the dictatorship is all important. Breaking the rules is severely\(^6\) punished, in some cases the death penalty\(^7\) may be in force. The severity\(^8\) of the punishment is dependent on the whims of the dictatorship\(^9\).

Some people living under a dictatorship have deviating\(^10\) opinions, which they declaim\(^11\) publicly. These people and their families are often persecuted\(^12\) by the dictatorship and threatened with the death penalty or a life sentence and torture. It is understandable why people in such situations flee\(^13\) from their own countries.

Imagine a law forcing all children and young people to wear grey overalls! You don't want to do this, so you wear a great pair of jeans and stunning\(^14\) T-shirt. You're stopped by the police and sent to a camp, where you have to sort rubbish for months.

• How would you feel?

Imagine a law forbidding all children and young people to listen to Music such as Rave, Pop, Rock, House..... All recordings are confiscated\(^15\). Every week there is a compulsory\(^16\) televised Opera, which you have to watch and write about as an essay topic at school. Should you refuse\(^17\) to do so, you will be placed in a reform school\(^18\) for one year.

• How would you feel?

Imagine a law forbidding children and young people to meet outside school to talk and do things together. The town is controlled by police troops and if they find any such groups of young people, they are arrested\(^19\) and disappear into a labour camp for a year.

• How would you feel?

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1 The social form in which one person, the dictator makes all decisions.
2 Complete power.
3 Is in control of the army.
4 Keeping to the rules.
5 Rules made by the dictator.
6 Harshly punished.
7 Punishment by death.
8 The harshness of punishment
9 The dictator decides himself according to his mood.
10 Opinions which are different from those of the dictatorship.
11 Say out loud.
12 Punish
13 Leave their countries.
14 Great T-shirt.
15 Taken away.
16 No choice.
17 Say that you will not
18 School for children who cannot behave and cannot fit into a normal school.
19 Stopped and taken to the police station.
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Adhere to rules
Arrest
Compulsory
Confiscate
Control
Deviating opinion
Dictatorship
Labour camp
Life sentence
Persecute
Severe punishment
Threaten
Torture
Unlimited power