

## LINKS TO:

Stage 2, Module 1

Learning Object 2: A pack of welcomes

**Exercise 1**

Write at least three reasons why you think people wear uniforms.

Sample answers:

- to be identified as members or staff of a particular institution, business or establishment
- to make the people and their institution look more professional when servicing customers or clients
- to give the wearer, in particular occupations, certain authority to ensure they receive the cooperation of the public in the performance of their duties.

**Exercise 2**

If you wear a school uniform, which of the reasons in Exercise 1 do you think most apply to your school uniform? Why?

Sample answer:

The main reason from Exercise 1, which applies to the wearing of school uniforms, is that students are identified as members of their particular school and it gives the public a more positive perception of the school if all students are wearing the correct uniform.

**Exercise 3**

What historical reasons are there for wearing school uniforms in Australia?

Sample answer:

Nearly all private and government schools in Australia have a compulsory uniform policy. The Australian school system was set up by English colonial administrators along the same lines as English schools. School uniforms in Australia originally followed the British model with the first school uniforms being copies of English school uniforms. Australian school uniforms have changed over time to suit local conditions. Generally, only the private schools have maintained the English-style uniforms, which include a school blazer, tie and hat.

**Exercise 4**

Write a description of Indonesian school uniforms.

Sample answer:

Primary school or *Sekolah Dasar (SD)* students wear a white short-sleeved shirt with red shorts for male students and below-knee-length red skirts for female students.

Junior high school or *Sekolah Menengah Pertama (SMP)* students wear a white short-sleeved shirt with navy blue shorts for male students and below-knee-length navy blue skirt for female students.

Senior high school or *Sekolah Menengah Atas (SMA)* students wear a white short-sleeved shirt with blue-grey trousers for male students and below-knee-length blue-grey skirt for female students.

Public schools in Indonesia allow Muslim girls to choose to wear long-sleeved shirts, longer skirts, and a Muslim head scarf or *jilbab* to cover their heads, exposing only their faces.

Most schools in Indonesia also have a batik uniform, which is usually worn on Thursday or Friday. This kind of uniform consists of a batik short-sleeved or long-sleeved shirt, with shorts (or trousers for SMA), and below-knee-length skirts for female students.

Indonesia has the largest scout movement in the world with the majority of schools offering compulsory scout programs. Therefore, the scout uniform is also used in these schools at least once a week. The uniform consists of light-brown short-sleeved or long-sleeved shirts, with dark brown shorts or trousers and below-knee-length skirts or longer for females.

**Exercise 5**

What historical reasons are there for wearing school uniforms in Indonesia?

Sample answer:

Mass universal education in Indonesia only commenced with the declaration of independence following a brief war of independence against the Dutch at the end of World War II. Information on the implementation of a standardised school uniform

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across the Indonesian archipelago is sketchy, but it would appear that one of the main reasons for the standard uniform was to some extent an attempt to eliminate class barriers and social inequality among school students.

## Exercise 6

### 6.1 What advantages and disadvantages can you think of for having a national uniform such as in Indonesia?

Sample answers:

#### Advantages

The advantage of having a national uniform is that students are seen as being equal, whether they come from wealthy or poorer families; and whether they live in large cities like Jakarta or small towns.

#### Disadvantages

The only disadvantage of a national uniform is that it is difficult to identify the specific school that a student or students attend.

### 6.2 What advantages and disadvantages can you think of for having a uniform specific to an individual school?

Sample answers:

#### Advantages

There are advantages to having a uniform specific to an individual school. Students, parents and teachers would be able to easily identify students from other schools, which would be beneficial at interschool sports carnivals and events. It could also mean that students would take more pride in their respective uniforms because the uniform embodies a sense of belonging.

#### Disadvantages

There are also disadvantages to having a uniform specific to an individual school. If a student moved to a new school, a whole new uniform would need to be bought, which could be expensive.

## Exercise 7

### 7.1 What does a national school uniform tell you about Indonesian values?

Sample answers:

A national school uniform tells us that Indonesians value and strive for equal educational opportunities for all citizens no matter where they live or what their social status might be. By having all students at most schools in the same uniform, it emphasises

that all students and schools are considered to be of equal importance.

### 7.2 Are there any instances where individual schools in Indonesia also have their own individual uniform?

Sample answer:

There are some instances where some schools in Indonesia have their own individual uniform. In recent times expensive, private schools have opened, particularly in the nation's capital of Jakarta. These schools generally employ foreign English-speaking teachers and cater for the children of the country's business people who would normally send their children to Singapore or the United States for an education. No expense is spared to ensure that these schools are fully equipped with the most up-to-date facilities and technology, and this is reflected in the fees they charge. The nature of these schools is also reflected in the high-quality and visibly superior uniforms worn by the students.

Other schools that have their own individual uniform in Indonesia are international schools, which cater for the children of expatriates working in Indonesia. Because these schools do not cater for Indonesian citizens, and generally follow a foreign or International Baccalaureate curriculum, they are not obliged to follow any of the regulations that bind local Indonesian schools, such as holding a weekly flag-raising ceremony.

## Exercise 8

### If you were living in Indonesia, how would you feel about wearing an Indonesian school uniform?

Sample answer:

If I lived in Indonesia, I would have to wear the compulsory national school uniform like every other student. This would not bother me because it would help me be accepted and blend in with all the local students. I would not stand out as much in the crowd even though I would be a foreigner.