### Objectives

After this lesson, students should be able to:

- Explain the concept of unconscious bias
- Give examples of how unconscious bias may affect our judgements

### Resources needed

- Pens/pencils and paper
- Gender stereotypes and unconscious bias slides
- Internet access (for YouTube)

### Suggested structure and timings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 10 mins  | Prize money giveaway                         | Use the slides to introduce the activity. Ask students to:  
  - Copy down the six names off the slides  
  - Decide which person they would like to eliminate and cross out that name from their list  
  Once they have chosen, move on to the next slide. Each slide reveals a bit more information about the people. Repeat for a total of five rounds, after which each student should have one person remaining on their list. Invite the class to share their results and discuss:  
  - Who do they have left?  
  - Why might their results be different from other people in the class?  
  - How did they make their choices? |
| 10 mins  | Video                                         | Show the unconscious bias video. Discuss the characteristics that we might use to judge people (eg age, ethnicity, gender, socio-economic background or the job they do). |
| 15 mins  | Challenging gender stereotypes                 | Split the class into six groups and give each group one of the gender stereotypes from the slide. In their groups ask them to:  
  - Discuss how the stereotype might have been formed – encourage them to think about their own experiences, as well as the influence of the media  
  - Think of examples that contradict the stereotype |
| 10 mins  | Feedback and plenary                          | End by asking each group to feed back to the class. Summarise the discussion points from the stereotype activity and discuss:  
  - How biases can lead to bad decisions  
  - How we can make sure biases don’t affect our treatment of others |
### Additional guidance

For the activity on challenging gender stereotypes, you may want to give the groups some discussion prompts. Suggested prompts are given below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stereotype</th>
<th>Where stereotypes might come from</th>
<th>Challenging the stereotype</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Girls are more emotional** | - Do the girls/women who you know cry when they’re upset?  
- Is it more acceptable for girls to cry than boys?  
- Are films/TV shows aimed at girls more likely to be about feelings or relationships? | - Do you know any boys/men that do cry?  
- What about other emotions, like anger?  
- Are there films or TV shows aimed at men that are about relationships or emotions? |
| **Men are more career-driven than women** | - Do you know any women that work part time or not at all?  
- Do you think it would be difficult for a man who wanted to be a stay-at-home father?  
- What sort of jobs do male and female characters in films/TV shows have?  
- Which characters are the bosses? | - Do you know any women with important jobs?  
- Do you know any men who are stay-at-home dads?  
- Can you think of films or TV shows that show female bosses? |
| **Girls prefer pink** | - Do you have female friends or younger sisters who like pink?  
- Do you think people are more likely to buy pink toys or presents for a girl?  
- What do films, TV shows and adverts aimed at young girls look like? | - Do you know girls that don’t like pink?  
- Do you know any boys that do like pink?  
- Are there adverts, films or TV shows aimed at girls that don’t use pink? |
| **Boys don’t take things seriously** | - Do the boys in your class mess around more than the girls? Can they get away with it more?  
- Do you think that some of the boys feel like they are expected to behave this way?  
- Are there more men in comedy films/TV shows?  
- Are female characters more serious? | - Do you know girls who mess around in class?  
- Do you know boys who are serious?  
- What about grown up men and women?  
- Can you think of any female comedians?  
- What about films or TV shows where the men are serious and responsible? |
| **Girls are more vain** | - Do the girls/women that you know spend a lot of time on their hair, makeup or clothes?  
- Would a boy who spent a lot of time on his appearance be teased?  
- Are there more adverts aimed at women for makeup/hair products?  
- Do magazines talk about female celebrities’ appearance more often than they do with men? | - Do you know any boys/men who spend a lot of time on their appearance?  
- Do you know girls/women who aren’t interested in hair or makeup?  
- Are there any famous men who you think are vain? |
| **Men are braver than women** | - Are the boys/men you know more likely to do challenges or dares?  
- Do you think girls would do challenges or dares if they were expected to?  
- Who are the main characters in action or horror films? | - Do you know any girls who like to take on challenges?  
- Do you know boys who don’t?  
- Are there other types of bravery?  
- Can you think of any action or horror films/TV shows where the main character is a woman? |