

Opinion-forming exercises for English, Religious Studies, General Studies, PSHE & Citizenship and Geography - designed to promote small group discussion

HOW IT WORKS:

Each page contains eight "cards" like the two in the diagrams. Each card contains an opinion about how we should treat farm animals. Students discuss how far they agree or disagree with the statement on the card.

The exercise is divided into two sections. There are 3 pages each with quotes on:

- philosophical issues relating to our treatment of food animals (as in Fig 1)
- more practical viewpoints relating to animal welfare, and the economic and environmental consequences of animal farming (as in Fig 2)
- religious and secular viewpoints (see separate sheet of Teachers' Notes which discuss these in more detail)

These opinions encompass a wide range of views. Use the two parts separately or together.

Fig 1

There is no reason to believe that a pig or chicken matters less to itself than I do to myself.

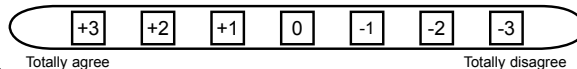
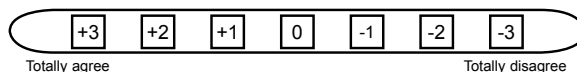


Fig 2

Intensive farming may not be best for the animals, but it does produce food cheaply. This is the important thing.



A FLEXIBLE RESOURCE:

The exercise can be photocopied for use as cards or as student worksheets. Use this resource as:

- cards to encourage group discussion
- cards to encourage students to sort ideas which relate to each other
- cards in role-play exercises
- worksheets for students to formulate their own views
- worksheets for homework
- background information for student research into alternative viewpoints as preparation for essays, projects and dissertations

Use with *Farm Animals and Us* video or, for groups aged 14 and upwards, use *Farm Animals and Us 2*.



SUITABLE FOR THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM

See separate sheet for each subject for ideas about using this exercise to help teach your syllabus.

Please turn to the next page for lesson plan suggestions

Some ideas for using *How Do Animals Matter?* exercise in class:

POSSIBLE LESSON PLAN (50 minutes):

1. Class brainstorms foods we get from animals (2 minutes)
2. Class brainstorms ways in which animals are kept for food (2 minutes)
3. *How Do Animals Matter? A range of philosophical viewpoints* (1-3) exercise completed in groups (10 minutes)
4. Watch Compassion in World Farming Trust video *Farm Animals & Us* (20 minutes) or for groups aged 14 and upwards, show *Farm Animals and Us 2*
5. Groups briefly consider if they wish to change any of their opinions. Are there other arguments which should be added? (4 minutes)
6. Either: Whole group discussion of issues raised
Or: Complete second exercise - *How Do Animals Matter? A range of viewpoints* (1-3) (12 minutes)

VARIATIONS:

1. Use *How Do Animals Matter?* after the video. If the lesson is an hour or more, use the *Personality Test* exercise at the beginning.
2. Each group prepares an example they agree or disagree with to present to the rest of the class. Encourage them to consider which other arguments relate to their card. Follow with whole class discussion (likely to require two lessons).
3. Use in role-play exercise. Groups to take on roles eg animal rights, animal welfare, farmers, meat industry, battery cage manufacturers, conservationists etc. Provide with range of literature. Research using the internet - try www.ciwf.co.uk! Use cards to help work out standpoints of own groups and likely opposition. See separate sheet on *Sources of Further Information* for useful addresses and Websites.
4. Use CIWF Trust booklet *Intensive Farming and the Welfare of Farm Animals* for further research. Can be photocopied for homework.

USING AS CARDS:

Preparation: photocopy originals. Cut up into cards, discarding page headings. Laminate if possible. Do enough sets for groups of three or four and place in envelopes.

In class:

Groups sort cards by discussion:

- Totally agree (+3) on left hand side of table
- Totally disagree (-3) on right hand side
- Others in between

Extension:

Put the cards into groups of statements that relate to each other. You may get pairs that are clear opposites. Sometimes several go together. Do any of your views change?

USING AS WORKSHEETS OR WORKCARDS:

Preparation: photocopy the sheets, enough either for one each or one per group.

In class:

Groups discuss their views and tick boxes. Can be done individually. Can be done as a homework exercise.

5. Use as a whole class exercise with the class sitting in a circle. Give each student one card. Each presents their view and places the card in the appropriate place in the middle of the circle (totally agree at one end; totally disagree at the other). Provide opportunities for whole class discussion after every five cards or so. In this case, it can promote a long discussion (in small groups, it is usually quite quick). Best used in conjunction with the video.
6. See separate teachers' notes for discussion of *How Do Animals Matter? - Opinions, Religious and Secular*.

How Do Animals Matter ?

A range of philosophical viewpoints - 1

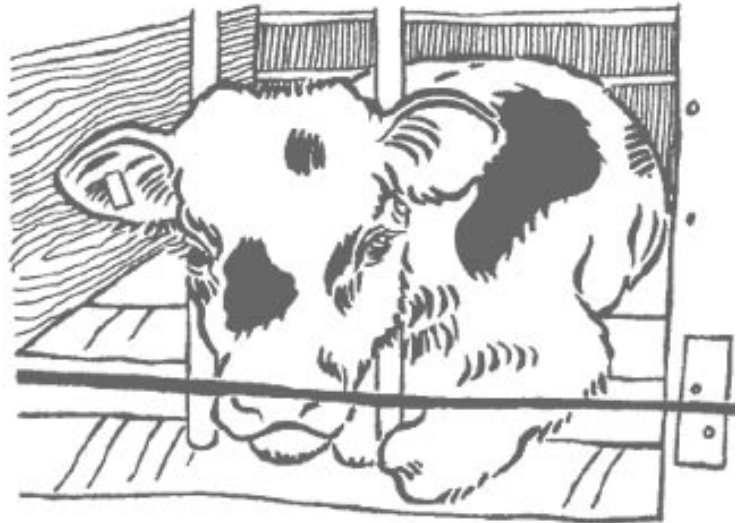
Do you agree or disagree with the statements below? Use the scale from +3 to -3 according to how strongly you feel. Choose 0 if you are neutral about the issue.

We shouldn't worry about animals when there are people suffering in the world.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree



A calf shut in a veal crate

We are animals ourselves. We can't expect rights for humans if we don't accept that animals should also have rights.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

A world that is kinder to animals treats people better too.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

Animals are not things, they are sentient beings. We must treat them with respect.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

Only humans can have rights because we are the only species to respect the rights of others.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

It is wrong to discriminate on grounds of race, sex or creed. All people matter. In the same way, other species of animal are important too. All animals matter.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

Hens may not like being in cages, but it doesn't matter. They're only animals.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

There is no reason to believe that a pig or chicken matters less to itself than I do to myself.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

How Do Animals Matter?

A range of philosophical viewpoints - 2

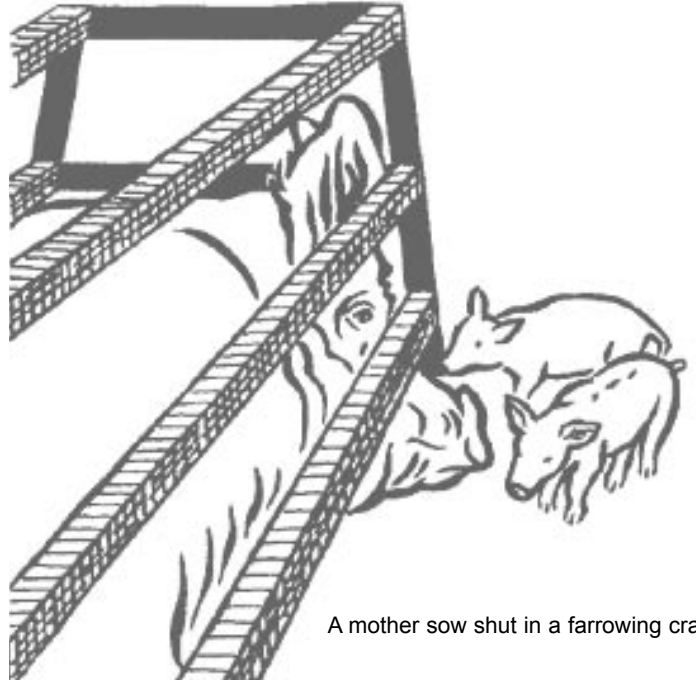
Do you agree or disagree with the statements below? Use the scale from +3 to -3 according to how strongly you feel. Choose 0 if you are neutral about the issue.

Pigs are as clever as dogs. We ought to treat them the same.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree



A mother sow shut in a farrowing crate

I don't like sheep and cows as much as I like dogs and cats. They don't matter as much.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

Animals are not as intelligent as we are and they don't share the same kinds of emotions. They are not as important as us.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

Animals can be more intelligent than newborn human infants. Babies should have rights; so should animals.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

Farm animals can be happy and suffer in just the same ways as our pets can. They deserve the same respect.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

Farm animals are not pets. They are there to produce meat, milk and eggs. We should treat them as working animals.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

Any living thing, that can be happy or feel pain, matters as much as any other.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

It doesn't matter if animals are less intelligent than us. What matters is whether they can suffer.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

How Do Animals Matter?

A range of philosophical viewpoints - 3

Do you agree or disagree with the statements below? Use the scale from +3 to -3 according to how strongly you feel. Choose 0 if you are neutral about the issue.

Animals should have a right to life, freedom and an absence of suffering.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree



Free-range pig

It's ok to kill an animal so you can eat it, but it's not ok to let it suffer.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

There's no point in keeping meat chickens in better conditions. They are going to die anyway.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

We should do as we would be done by. If you wouldn't like it done to you, don't do it to an animal.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

Meat is murder.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

Some animals eat each other, so it's ok for us to eat animals.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

Pigs, chickens, cows and fish wouldn't exist if we didn't eat them. We are doing them a favour by keeping them to produce food.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

If we expect animals to work for us, we should see that they have a good life.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

How Should We Treat Farm Animals?

A range of viewpoints - 1

Do you agree or disagree with the statements below? Use the scale from +3 to -3 according to how strongly you feel. Choose 0 if you are neutral about the issue.

Intensive farming may not be best for the animals, but it does produce food cheaply. This is the important thing.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

If you kept a pet in the way we keep some of our farm animals, you would be prosecuted. We shouldn't be allowed to keep any animal like this.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

If piglets weren't happy, they wouldn't grow properly. It's in the farmers' interests to look after their animals.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

Life in a cage removes all that makes life worth living.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

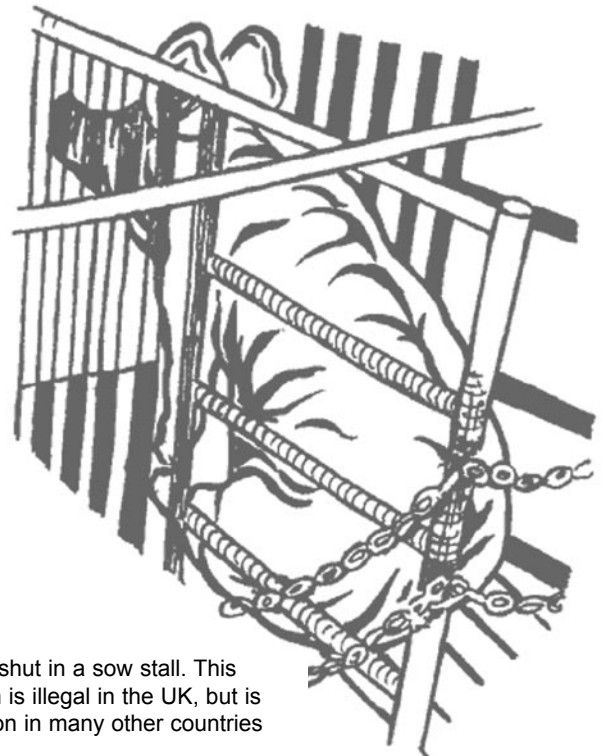
Totally disagree

Animals in intensive farms don't know a better life. What they don't miss, they don't suffer from.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree



A sow shut in a sow stall. This system is illegal in the UK, but is common in many other countries

Animals are programmed by their genes to grow. A fast growing animal isn't necessarily a happy one.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

Animals in intensive farms are kept warm, well-fed and watered. What more could they want?

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

When a hen is about to lay an egg, her instincts tell her she must find a safe place to make a nest. Battery cages contain no nests. It is cruel to frustrate her maternal instincts in this way.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

How Should We Treat Farm Animals ?

A range of viewpoints - 2

Do you agree or disagree with the statements below? Use the scale from +3 to -3 according to how strongly you feel. Choose 0 if you are neutral about the issue.

One person cannot make much difference to the way farm animals are treated.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

One person can make a difference, for good or bad, to many animals.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree



Battery hens

A hen lays an egg per day. A free-range egg costs one or two pence more to produce. This is not a lot to ask for a day's freedom for a hen.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

Battery eggs are cheaper than free-range eggs. We shouldn't expect poor people to pay more money for free-range.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

Some people want cheap food, some want it organic or welfare-friendly. We should leave it to the consumer to decide.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

No-one should have a right to eat food which is produced in a way which is cruel to animals or bad for the environment.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

Most people eat more than a thousand animals in their lifetime. Choices you make about food make more difference to the animal suffering in the world than any other decision you are likely to make.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

The greatest mistake is to do nothing because you can only achieve a little.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

How Should We Treat Farm Animals?

A range of viewpoints - 3

Do you agree or disagree with the statements below? Use the scale from +3 to -3 according to how strongly you feel. Choose 0 if you are neutral about the issue.

Free-range egg production uses more land. There isn't enough to go round.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

There are food surpluses in Europe. Farmers are paid not to grow food on some of their land. It must be possible to keep animals free-range.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

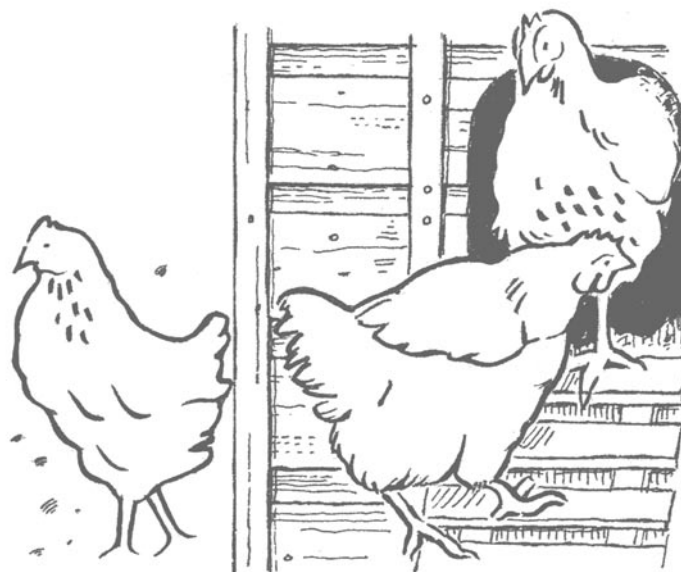
Totally disagree

If we want to feed a rising population in the world, we need to keep animals more intensively, not less.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree



Free-range hens

It takes less land to grow crops for people than to grow animals for them to eat. If we want to feed more people, we need to keep fewer animals.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

If we give animals more space and freedom, they will be healthier. Our food will be healthier too.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

Keeping large numbers of animals in sheds can cause great pollution problems. We should keep animals in smaller groups and it would be kinder to the environment.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

We should grow our food intensively to leave more land for other purposes like parks and housing.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree

You find more wildlife on organic fields because they are farmed without poisonous chemicals. We should grow our food organically.

+3 +2 +1 0 -1 -2 -3

Totally agree

Totally disagree