

T3 Riots: 'The language of the unheard' (Martin Luther King)

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'This is not about race, faith and class pure and simple,' said Professor Mike Hardy, Executive Director of the Institute of Community Cohesion. 'One of the most powerful drivers is about the haves and have-nots. It's about those who are excluded.'

<http://www.channel4.com/news/cameron-recalls-parliament-as-london-riots-spread> (August 9, 2011)

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'With growth stalled, unemployment increasing and funding for social programmes being cut, no one but a remarkable optimist believes that life for the poorest is going to improve as a result. I fear that while the riots inquiry progresses, the underlying circumstances that made this summer's events possible are only going to get worse.'

Jenni Russell, *London Evening Standard*, Oct. 2011



Rioter in Croydon throws projectile

Author: Raymond Yau

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'They do not know what it is like for us young British people. They don't live in our shoes. I'm at the job centre most days of the week ... I'm trying my hardest. I've got CVs and everything, I still don't get nothing. I don't get nowhere because of what we look like. At the end of the day, they think we're youths and the youth generation today goes mental. But we don't go mental, we don't want no trouble. We just want a job.'

A young rioter, *The Guardian*, 12 Aug. 2011

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'Will riots happen again? The answer is quite possibly 'yes'. This is why we need to work together to develop ideas which deal not only with the symptoms of the riots but with the deep-seated causes of dissatisfaction beneath.'

Darra Singh, Chair of Riots Communities and Victims Panel, Dec. 2011

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'The primary challenge of integration, it transpires, is convincing a sizeable section of British youth, of all races, that they can be integrated into a society that won't educate or employ them.'

Gary Younge, *The Guardian*, 5 Dec. 2011

ANNOTATIONS

CV – curriculum vitae: a brief biographical résumé of one's career and training, as prepared by a person applying for a job

to go mental – to go mad

to transpire – here: to become clear

Assignments

A Read the five statements (texts 1–5) and define the different positions (in the form of a statement) and comment on them. Focus in particular on the reasons for the riots and on the challenges ahead.

B Some days before the riots, a young man called Chavez Campbell predicted they would break out in his neighbourhood: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/video/2011/jul/31/haringey-youth-club-closures-video> Watch the video made with him after the riots:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/video/2011/aug/12/i-predict-a-riot-video>

What are the reasons he gives for the riots?

What does he identify as the greatest challenge for British society?