Workbook 1
Understanding the Prevent Duty
In this section, you will learn about the Prevent duty, including why it was created and the strategic objectives associated with it. A range of different people are tasked with complying with the duty and in this section, you will also learn about their roles and responsibilities.

What is the Prevent duty?

Please read the following as it will help you to answer question 1.

In 2007, the UK government developed a strategy known as CONTEST to counter terrorism. The aim of CONTEST is to “reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from terrorism, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence.”

CONTEST is made up of four strands:

- **pursue**: to stop terrorist attacks
- **prevent**: to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
- **protect**: to strengthen the UK’s protection against a terror attack
- **prepare**: to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack

The second strand – Prevent – is believed to be integral to the success of the CONTEST strategy and according to the government, “We do not believe it is possible to resolve the threats we face simply by arresting and prosecuting more people.” Instead, the Prevent duty is used to prevent radicalisation by “challenging extremist ideas that are conducive to terrorism and also part of a terrorist narrative.” You can read the entire strategy at www.gov.uk.

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act was introduced in 2015 and includes Section 26, the Prevent duty, which requires authorities to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.”

This means that authorities must be actively involved in helping to reduce the threat of terrorism to the UK by protecting individuals from the risk of radicalisation and stopping people from supporting terrorism or becoming terrorists.
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Key features

The Prevent duty does not call for any covert or undercover activity by authorities. Instead, it asks authorities to be aware of the possibility of radicalisation and the spreading of extremist views, and to have procedures in place to deal appropriately with these risks.

The duty deals with “all forms of terrorism and non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists exploit.”

Under the duty, it is made clear that challenging extremist ideas that are used to legitimise terrorism is the key to preventing people from supporting terrorism or becoming terrorists.

The duty focuses on the most significant threats, which are identified as:
- terrorist organisations in Syria and Iraq
- groups associated with Al-Qaeda
- extreme right terrorists

Other features include placing a range of responsibilities on authorities, including:
- assessing the risk of individuals being drawn into terrorism
- raising concerns about individuals who may be at risk of becoming terrorists
- demonstrating that they have strong safeguarding policies and that procedures have been put in place to protect individuals from being drawn into terrorism
- providing specific training that gives staff the ability and confidence to a) identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism and b) challenge extremist ideas that are used to legitimise terrorism
- ensuring certain individuals, including children, those in Young Offender Institutions and prisoners, cannot access extremist material on the Internet
- promoting ‘British values’, which includes explaining the importance of:
  - democracy
  - the rule of law
  - individual liberty, which means that everyone deserves to be free, no matter what their differences or opinions may be
  - mutual respect and tolerance, which means treating others as you would like to be treated
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What are British values?

In 2014, it became a requirement for all schools to promote British values. British values are the rules we, as a society, live by. They include:

- **Democracy** – British culture is built on equality and freedom and everyone has rights and responsibilities.
- **Rule of law** – rules help to make the UK a safe and secure environment.
- **Respect and tolerance** – Britain is a diverse country that is made up of many different communities, and it is important for everyone to understand that we are not all the same and must respect others’ right to have their own beliefs and values, without imposing our own on others.
- **Individual liberty** – the protection of your own and others’ rights.

Educational institutions are expected to:

- help learners understand a range of faiths, using a wide variety of teaching resources
- ensure all learners have a voice and are listened to
- demonstrate how democracy works by promoting democratic processes
- update curriculum to include material that helps learners to consider the strengths, advantages and disadvantages of democracy
- in the curriculum, include material on how democracy and the law work in Britain, in contrast to other forms of government in other countries

(Source: www.schoolgovernors.thekeysupport.com/school-improvement-and-strategy/strategic-planning/values-ethos/promoting-british-values-in-schools/)

Terrorism, extremism and radicalisation – what do they mean?

Please read the following as it will help you to answer question 2.

In today’s culture, you will hear the words terrorism, extremism and radicalisation on social media, in the news and in general conversation. It is important to understand what each means.
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Terrorism

According to the State Department, terrorism is “premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against non-combatant [civilians and military personnel who are off duty at the time of an attack] targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience.”

Simply put, terrorism is “the unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in order to achieve political aims or to force a government to do something.”

Extremism

According to HM Government, extremism is “vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths or beliefs.” Extremism includes any calls for “the death of members of our armed forces.”

Radicalisation

The government defines radicalisation as “the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.”

Did you know?

- 49 people were killed in terrorist attacks in the UK between 2010 and 2017. A further 30 British people were killed in Tunisia when a gunman struck a popular hotel.
- 270 people were killed in 1988 when a Pan Am transatlantic flight was blown up. This is known as the Lockerbie disaster.
- 353 people were killed in terror attacks in Northern Ireland in 1972.
**Why does the Prevent duty exist?**

Please read the following as it will help you to answer question 3.

Britain is a democratic, multicultural society made up of individuals from a wide range of different countries and cultures. This means our culture is diverse and consists of different religions and ethnicities, languages, belief systems and cultural norms.

As a country, we benefit from this multiculturalism. However, there are some individuals and groups who do not agree with Britain’s values, and they seek to disrupt our everyday lives by committing acts of violence designed to harm and scare.

In recent years, a number of British citizens have been involved in terrorist attacks after coming into contact with terrorists in Britain or in other countries. The Prevent duty was created to help certain authorities identify individuals who are vulnerable to being contacted and recruited by terrorists, and prevent it from happening.

**Did you know?**

According to official statistics, in 2016, out of 260 people held on suspicion of terrorism offences, 91 were white.

**Prevent duty – strategic objectives**

Please read the following as it will help you to answer question 4.

The Prevent duty has three strategic objectives, which are things the government aimed to achieve by putting the duty in place. They are to:

1. Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it.
2. Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support.
3. Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address.
Who needs to comply with the Prevent duty?

Please read the following as it will help you to answer questions 5 and 6.

For Question 6 you will need to draw on your own professional experience and information you have access to in your job, e.g. Prevent-related policies and procedures. The table on pages 10-15 is a guide and provides examples of the roles and responsibilities of a range of authorities, some of which may match your own.

The authorities expected to support the Prevent duty include:

- the police
- local authorities – county and district councils, including fostering agencies and children’s homes
- schools and registered childcare providers
- the NHS – all NHS-run service providers, e.g. hospitals
- criminal justice authorities – e.g. prisons, Young Offender Institutions, secure care homes and the National Probation Service
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