

# Unveiling the Bridgerton Era

## Skills:

- Can give clear, detailed descriptions of real or imaginary events and experiences marking the relationship between ideas in clear connected text
- Can scan quickly through long and complex texts, locating relevant details

Teen / Adults

Group



## 1 Watch the video (00:00-01:24) and discuss these questions in pairs:



1. Have you watched the popular TV series "Bridgerton"? If so, are there any specific characters or storylines from "Bridgerton" that resonated with you?
2. What do you think makes period dramas like "Bridgerton" so appealing to audiences?
3. Do you enjoy shows that are set in historical time periods?
4. What themes or issues from the past depicted in "Bridgerton" do you find most relevant or relatable to contemporary society?

## 2 Skim the article and find the defined words there:



1. a young woman making her debut into society, usually at a formal event - \_\_\_\_\_
2. the formal introduction of a debutante to the monarch or other members of royalty - \_\_\_\_\_
3. a dress that is specially designed and tailored for a specific individual - \_\_\_\_\_
4. attractive or pleasing to the senses - \_\_\_\_\_
5. a traditional gesture of respect made by women in front of royalty - \_\_\_\_\_
6. having good relationships with influential or important people - \_\_\_\_\_
7. midday meals typically served in a formal setting or as part of a social gathering - \_\_\_\_\_
8. the first public appearance - \_\_\_\_\_

## 3 Read the article again and answer the questions:

What was the purpose of the social season for young debutantes in high society?

How have modern debutante balls evolved from the traditional social season events?

## 4 Comment on these aspects of social seasons, based on the article:

Training

Wardrobe Requirements

Types of Events

## 5 Split into two groups. Explore and compare how people learned about each other's lives in the 19th century (Group 1) versus how they do so today (Group 2). Share your ideas with the class.

## 6

Read this short extract from the article to learn how it was in real life:

**Lady Whistledown's gossip column** drives most of the action in *Bridgerton*. It is true that magazines of the day ran series – in some cases, decades-long – that exposed the romances, adulteries, and scandals within high society.

A key difference, explains Dr Hannah Greig (historical advisor to the show), is that in the real scandal sheets and magazines of the day, the subjects of gossip would not have been named. “Their identities might have been very loosely disguised,” she says. “Someone might have just printed their initials, like the Duke of H instead of the Duke of Hastings. But it was so obvious who they were talking about. It was a way to get around libel laws. There would have been no point in having these columns if we didn’t know who they were talking about.”



**Why didn't those magazines print names?**

## 7

Now imagine that you are Lady Whistledown and write a scandalous gossip passage (5–7 sentences) using the words from Exercise 2. After that, mix up all the passages and read them together, trying to guess who wrote each passage in your group.

# Correct answers

**1** The video is just for creating the right mood. The questions were generated in the “Discussion Questions”.

**2** Made in “Word-Definition Matching” tool.

1. debutante
2. presentation at court
3. custom-made gown
4. appealing
5. royal curtsy
6. well-connected
7. luncheons
8. debut

**3** Made in “Open Questions”.

1. The social season allowed young women from wealthy or well-connected families to make their formal debut in society, meet potential husbands, and engage in social events.
2. Modern debutante balls still exist globally, attracting an international elite interested in networking and career-building, evolving from the traditional social season events into more contemporary social gatherings.

**5** Inspired by “Lead-in activities”.

**7** Inspired by “Lead-in activities”.

Picture source: <https://www.netflix.com/>