# Leisure and Entertainment in the 20th Century

In the 20th century people started working less, so free time became more important. Businesses started popping up, giving people ideas about how to spend their money. These businesses (like cinemas) meant more fun for the British people.

Billy Butlin, Oswald Stoll and Oscar Deutsch were three of the businessmen wanting to provide some of this fun. Billy Butlin set up holiday camps for British families. His first holiday camp was built at Ingoldmells, near Skegness, in 1936. There, families were provided with somewhere to stay, three meals a day and entertainment all in the same place. Oswald Stoll was famous for creating theatre and film studios. Oscar Deutsch was the father of the Odeon cinema group. These cinemas brought British films and Hollywood movies to ordinary people.

People also had more free time because in 1939 a law was passed that every working person in the country was allowed one week's paid holiday per year. Many people had not taken holidays before because they could not afford to. People had started to work less as well, because their pay was able to stretch further and more easily.

People had fun in the 20th Century by going on cinema trips, enjoying radio and television, going to fairgrounds and sporting events, using technologies e.g. computers, games and toys, going to music events and dance clubs. People could travel further, cheaply and safely, which meant that eating out at exotic restaurants became popular too.

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# Leisure and Entertainment in the 20th Century

1. What are the names of the three men mentioned in this text? _____, _____ and _____

2. What did Billy Butlin do? _____

3. How much paid holiday were people allowed in 1939? _____

4. What did people do to have fun in the 20th century? _____

# Leisure and Entertainment in the 20th Century

As working hours began to decrease, leisure time (free time) became more and more important. Leisure time was 'free time' that people could use for having fun. More people began to have extra money by the 1930s so 'leisure industries' began to make suggestions for ways to spend money.

Billy Butlin, Oswald Stoll and Oscar Deutsch were three of the businessmen wanting to provide entertainment.

**Billy Butlin** set up holiday camps for British families with great success. His first holiday camp was built at Ingoldmells, near Skegness, in 1936. There, families were provided with somewhere to stay, three meals a day and entertainment all in the same place.

**Oswald Stoll** was famous for creating theatre entertainment and film studios. He invented the Royal Variety Performance, still held today, and Stoll Pictures, a leading film studio.

**Oscar Deutsch** founded the Odeon cinema group. These cinemas brought British films and Hollywood movies to ordinary people in 258 places across the country.

People had spare money because of changes in employment laws. People also had more leisure time because in 1939 a law was passed that every working person in the country was entitled to one week's paid holiday per year. Many people had not taken holidays before because they could not afford to. This created a revolution for businesses that provided entertainment and holidays. Also, in 1900 the average working week in Britain had been 54 hours. By the 1980s this had become 39 hours. More and more people were able to spend less time working because their pay was able to stretch further and more easily.

Popular leisure pursuits of the 20th Century included trips to the cinema, fairgrounds, sporting and music events as well as dance clubs. People would also listen to the radio, watch television, play with toys, games and use developing technologies. More people were able to travel further, safely and cheaply in the 20th century. This also meant that eating out at exotic restaurants developed as a popular entertainment.

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# Leisure and Entertainment in the 20th Century

1. Who were the three business men mentioned in this text? _____, _____ and _____

2. Why are the men's names in bold? _____

3. What was so special about the 1930s? _____

4. What did Oswald Stoll do? _____

5. What happened in 1939? _____

6. How had people's lives changed by the 1980s? _____

7. Why do you think pictures were included in this text? _____

8. In what kind of book would you expect to find an information sheet like this? _____

# Leisure and Entertainment in the 20th Century

As working hours began to decrease, leisure time became more and more important. Leisure time was 'free time' that people could use for pleasure. More people began to have disposable incomes by the 1930s so 'leisure industries' began to provide a range of options for people wanting to spend their money. These industries promised spectacle, glamour and fun to the hard-working British people.

Billy Butlin, Oswald Stoll and Oscar Deutsch were three of the businessmen wanting to provide the emerging leisure entertainment. Billy Butlin set up holiday camps for British families with great success. His first holiday camp was built at Ingoldmells, near Skegness, in 1936. There, families were provided with accommodation, three meals a day and entertainment all in the same location. Oswald Stoll was famous for creating theatre entertainment and establishing film studio production. He founded the Royal Variety Performance, still held today, and Stoll Pictures, a leading film studio of the silent film era. Oscar Deutsch was the father of the Odeon cinema group. These cinemas brought British films and Hollywood movies to ordinary people in 258 locations across the country.

The new disposable incomes came from changes in employment laws. People also had more leisure time because in 1939 a law was passed that every working person in the country was entitled to one week's paid holiday per year. Many people had not taken holidays before because they could not afford to. This created a revolution for businesses that provided leisure pursuits and holidays. Also, working culture began to change: in 1900 the average working week in Britain was 54 hours. By the 1980s this had become 39 hours. More and more people were able to spend less time working because their salaries were able to stretch further and more easily.

Popular leisure pursuits of the 20th Century included trips to the cinema, fairgrounds, sporting and music events as well as dance clubs. People would also listen to the radio, watch television, play with toys, games and use developing technologies. More people were able to travel further, safely and cheaply in the 20th century. This also meant that eating out at exotic restaurants developed as a popular entertainment.

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# Leisure and Entertainment in the 20th Century

1. How do you think the author selected these three business men from a list of many? _____

_____

_____

2. What does the author mean by the phrase 'disposable income'? _____

_____

_____

3. Find a word that means the same as pay: _____

4. If you could go to a Butlin's holiday camp, would you be interested? Why? _____

_____

_____

5. What impact do you think it had on British leisure and entertainment when people started to travel abroad more? _____

_____

_____

_____

6. Why do you think so many people had more money to spend? _____

_____

_____

7. Why is it important to know about what life was like in the past? _____

_____

_____

_____

8. How do the pictures help you to understand the information better? _____

_____

_____

# Leisure and Entertainment in the 20th Century

## LA Answers

1. Billy Butlin, Oswald Stoll and Oscar Deutsch.
2. Billy Butlin set up holiday camps for British families.
3. It was built in 1936.
4. One week's paid holiday.
5. Multiple answers are possible here: people had fun going on trips to the cinema, fairgrounds, sporting and music events and dance clubs. They also enjoyed listening to the radio, watching television, playing with toys and using developing technologies e.g. computers and games. More people could travel further, safer and cheaper which also meant that eating out at exotic restaurants became popular too.

## MA Answers

1. Billy Butlin, Oswald Stoll and Oscar Deutsch.
2. The names are in bold to make it easier to find information in the text.
3. The 1930s was a time when more people had spare money and time, due to changes in employment law. This resulted in a boom in leisure and entertainment industries.
4. Oswald Stoll created theatre entertainment and film studios. He also invented the Royal Variety Performance.
5. In 1939, a law was passed that every working person in the country was entitled to one week's paid holiday per year.
6. By the 1980s this had become 39 hours. More and more people were able to spend less time working because their pay was able to stretch further and more easily.
7. The pictures make the information clearer because they show exactly how places and people looked.
8. In a non-fiction text e.g. non-chronological report.

## HA Answers

1. Billy Butlin, Oswald Stoll and Oscar Deutsch.
2. This means that people had money available to spend, after they had paid their bills.
3. Salary.
4. Multiple answers possible.
5. Lesson people had the time or money to attend holiday camps, so they became less popular.
6. Multiple answers possible: the cost of living may have decreased, average salaries may have increased.
7. Multiple answers possible.
8. The pictures make the information clearer because they depict exactly how places and people looked.