Citizenship: A Very Short Introduction
By Richard Bellamy

Interest in citizenship has never been higher. But what does it mean to be a citizen in a modern, complex community? Richard Bellamy approaches the subject of citizenship from a political perspective and, in clear and accessible language, addresses the complexities behind this highly topical issue.

Questions for thought and discussion
• In what ways, is being a good citizen different from being a good neighbour or simply a good person?
• Can commercial corporations be citizens (as in ‘corporate citizenship’)?
• Is voting the most important feature of citizenship?
• Are the rights of citizenship any different to human rights? If so, should they be?
• Do citizens have duties as well as rights? If so, what are they?
• Do you think immigrants should have to take a citizenship test? If so, what sorts of questions should such a test ask?
• Must citizens speak the same language and share the same values? Or is multicultural citizenship possible?
• Do you think citizenship should be taught in schools? If so, what topics ought the curriculum to cover?
• Should the voting age be lowered to 16? Or ought it to be raised to 40? Should pensioners be allowed to vote?
• Can there be global citizenship? If so, how does it differ from national citizenship?

Other books by Richard Bellamy:

(co-editor with Dario Castiglione and Emilio Santoro), Lineages of European Citizenship: Rights, Belonging and Participation in Eleven Nation States, (Palgrave, 2004)

(co-editor with D. Castiglione and J. Shaw), Making European Citizens: Civic Inclusion in a Transnational Context (Palgrave, 2006)


Further reading

E. F. Isin and B. S. Turner (eds), Handbook of Citizenship Studies, (Sage, 2003)