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South Korea 'bans' miniskirts

23rd March, 2013

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A new law has come into force in South Korea that effectively bans the wearing of miniskirts. The controversial piece of legislation is called the "overexposure law" and is an attempt by the government to curb what it views as public

indecency. Anyone caught wearing a miniskirt could be fined around \$45. It is one of the first laws to be passed by new president Park Geunhye and has come under considerable criticism. Her father, Park Chung-hee, who led the country between 1963 and 1979, introduced a similar decree on the appropriateness of what Korean women could and couldn't wear. A spokesperson from South Korea's police said the law is more concerned with public nudity than provocative clothing.

Celebrities and politicians are up in arms over the new law. Democratic United Party member Ki Sik Kim wrote on Twitter: "Why does the state interfere with how citizens dress? Park Geun-hye's government gives cause for concern that we are returning to the era when hair length and skirt length were regulated." Many female celebrities have posted photos of themselves in skimpy clothing online to make their feelings against the law known. Short skirts and shorts are extremely popular in South Korea. They are the fashion items of choice for the majority of the country's pop stars. Singer and fashion icon Lee Hyori tweeted: "Is the overexposure fine for real? I'm so dead."

Sources: Daily Mail / CNN

Writing

Everyone should be able to wear what they want, when they want. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

new laws / miniskirts / controversial / overexposure / public indecency / criticism / interfere / concerns / hair length / regulated / celebrities / fashion items / majority

True / False

- Miniskirts have been banned in S. Korea to stop women catching colds. T / F
- b) Anyone wearing a miniskirt could be imprisoned. T / F
- c) The president's father introduced a similar law when he was leader. T / F
- d) S. Korean police said they aren't so interested in miniskirt violations. T / F
- e) Politicians and celebrities said arms should also be covered. T / F
- f) A politician asked why S. Korea was returning to an age of regulation. T / F
- g) Women protested by uploading pics of themselves in revealing clothes. T / F
- h) A pop star said she thought the law was necessary for teenagers. T / F

Synonym Match

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1.	effectively	a.	control
2	curb	b.	revealing
3.	considerable	c.	indecent
4.	nudity	d.	butt into
5.	provocative	e.	pretty much
6.	up in arms	f.	reason
7.	interfere with	g.	nakedness
8.	cause	h.	superstar
9.	skimpy	i.	sizable
10.	icon	j.	angry

Discussion - Student A

- a) Do you think the law is repressive?
- b) What would people do if the next thing to be regulated was hair length?
- c) Would you be happy if your daughters wore miniskirts?
- d) Is there a minimum or maximum age for wearing a miniskirt?
- e) What fashion is unacceptable in your country?
- f) What is the minimum that people should wear in public?
- g) Should we go back to more conservative ways of dressing?
- h) What questions would you like to ask president Park Geun-hye?

South Korea bans miniskirts

1. What's the law called?

2. What's the government trying to do?

3. What's the penalty for wearing a miniskirt?

4. Who was president at the time?
What do you think of her?

5. What did the spokesperson for the Korean police say?

6. How have celebrities and politicians reacted to this law?

7. What do you think of this law?

8. Do you think there any clothes people should not be allowed to wear?

9. How has fashioned changed in the last 10 years?(3 ways)

a.

b.

c.

10. What kind of clothes do you like to wear?