

A2.14 Beliefs/Superstitions - Handout

- 1** These topic sheets deal with the subject of superstitions and beliefs. If the learner is devout, then perhaps this subject needs to be sensitively handled. These introductory questions are light-hearted though. The reading texts are short descriptions of people describing common superstitions in the U.K.. Hopefully, this will lead onto descriptions of similar superstitions in the learner's country. As always, the texts can be read aloud by the native speaker then the learner for pronunciation purposes.
- 2** These questions are far-reaching and there are a lot of words which may not be known by your partner: *ghosts, 'jinn' or genies, haunted, U.F.O.s, astrology, horoscopes (for the future), star signs (for personality descriptions), fortune teller and ancestors*. The learner can of course use monolingual or bilingual dictionaries in online form or paper-based. Your explanations could also helpfully reinforce the meaning of this vocabulary. The inclusion of 'jinn' is intended primarily for Muslim learners who often have much more interest in their existence than in the existence of ghosts. When discussing the more serious questions about the existence of God and the afterlife, please avoid conflict by agreeing to differ if needs be.
- 3** This is a very light-hearted activity designed to practise future forms: both *going to* and the *will* form of the future can be used for making predictions. Remember to keep all the predictions positive. Roles can then be reversed so that both partners can have a turn as 'fortune tellers'.
- 4** As usual, if you can brainstorm ideas with your partner the subsequent writing task will be greatly facilitated.