

Democracy

- Explore different types of government, political ideologies and voting systems.
- Understand how citizens can influence decision making through the democratic process.



British Values

Democracy

Noun

Meaning: a system of government by which the citizens of

Matching Pairs: 8 students in the class has been given a small folded piece of paper. This paper will either be a key word or a definition.

Key words need to find their matching definitions and *vice versa*. Other students can help in this process.

Once the word and definition have been matched, the matching pair should stand together to read out their *Matching Pairs* to the class.

All students stand up! Your teacher will throw a coin. If you think it will be heads, put your hands on your head. If you think it will be tails, put your hands on your hips. Sit down if you get it wrong. Keep throwing the coin until only 8 students remain.

the citizens of

volunteers, so
we'll do it: let's
throw the Coin



British Values

Democracy

a government which is elected by the people. Everyone who is eligible to vote has a chance to have a say in who runs the country.

Anarchy

a condition of lawlessness brought about by the absence of a government.

Communism

a government which owns things like businesses and farms. It provides its people's healthcare, education and welfare.

Monarchy

a country is governed by a king or queen. In some traditional monarchies, the monarch has absolute power. In a constitutional monarchy, like the UK, the democratically elected government limits the monarch's control.

Dictatorship

a country is ruled a single leader. The leader has not been elected and may use force to keep control. In a military dictatorship, the army is in control.

Teachers, use this slide to cut out the terms and the definitions for *Matching Pairs*



There are many different types of government in our world which create and enforce their own unique laws. Some governments are elected by the citizens of a country; in other countries the people have no right to choose their government at all.



Democracy	a government which is elected by the people. Everyone who is eligible to vote has a chance to have a say in who runs the country.
Anarchy	a condition of lawlessness brought about by the absence of a government.
Communism	a government which owns things like businesses and farms. It provides its people's healthcare, education and welfare.
Monarchy	a country is governed by a king or queen. In some traditional monarchies, the monarch has absolute power. In a constitutional monarchy, like the UK, the democratically elected government limits the monarch's control.
Dictatorship	a country is ruled a single leader. The leader has not been elected and may use force to keep control. In a military dictatorship, the army is in control.



Areas in blue are the countries that democratically elect their own government. Areas in grey do not have governments chosen by its people.



A **dictatorship** is when one person (or a small group of people) have absolute power over a country which means they can do whatever they want.

Some dictators (such as Kim Jong-un in North Korea) have inherited this power because their families have been dictators for many years. Other dictators are voted in during elections which are often corrupt. Once they become the government they change laws to give themselves absolute power.

What are the dangers of this type of government, do you think?

Why might a government stop its people having contact with the outside world? Should governments have such control?



In **North Korea** the government control the news, reporting only the stories they want to. Ordinary people are blocked from the internet and only allowed to access certain government approved websites. Most people are denied the right to a telephone and mobiles are illegal, however this is proving hard to enforce. Foreign journalists are banned and travel into the country is tightly controlled.



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The UK is a democracy, of course.

Voters must be aged 18 or over and have UK citizenship (people in prison at the time of an election are not allowed to vote).

The UK parliament is the legislative body of the country. It is made up of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Members of the House of Commons (MPs) are elected using a voting system. There are 650 MPs in total.

In a democracy there are a number of political parties who have their own ideas about the way their country should be run. MPs are the elected representatives of these parties.



Before an election each party puts their ideas together in what is called a manifesto. This tells the public how they want to control things such as hospitals, prisons, schools, taxation, laws and the country's relationships with other countries. Voters then decide.

The party which wins the majority of seats usually forms the government and can claim to have a mandate to implement the policies set out in the their manifesto.

Create a glossary of terms for the underlined words above. Add to them as you progress through the lesson.



British Values



Watch the clip for a summary of election process. :

<http://www.parliament.uk/education/teaching-resources-lesson-plans/general-election-60-secs/>

Voting systems in UK elections

- First past the post system
- Alternative Vote
- Proportional Representation

Which of the following forms of voting is used to elect members of the House of Commons?

- a) Alternative Vote
- b) First past the post
- c) Proportional Representation

a) First past the post





Watch this
Youtube clip for
an informative
summary of
these voting
systems...

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BoKIE1_vrYU

Identify and jot down the advantages
and disadvantages of First Past the
Post and Alternative Vote (AV)...



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First past the post system

Advantages

- Tends to produce a majority for the party that gains most seats
- Produces more stable governments with little need for coalitions

Disadvantages

- Proportion of candidates for a party elected is not in proportion to votes cast
- A government can gain a large majority of seats even though it only gained a minority of votes nationally

Could you add to these, from either your own knowledge or your watching of the clip?



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Alternative Vote

Advantages

- Tends to produce a government where seats held by parties are in proportion to votes cast
- Smaller parties which fail to get elected in a constituency can still achieve representation via top up seats

Disadvantages

- Candidates elected in top up seats are not linked to a particular constituency
- More likelihood of coalition governments

All things considered, which of the systems do you prefer? In a moment, you're going to participate in a quickie mock election to trial these systems.



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Did you know
that...

On 5 May 2011 the UK held a voting referendum to choose the method of electing MPs at subsequent general elections.

The referendum concerned whether to replace the present 'first past the post' system with AV.

The proposal to introduce AV was rejected by the electorate. Of the 43% of people who voted, 68% voted No and 32% voted Yes.

A referendum is a direct vote in which an entire electorate is asked to vote on a particular proposal leading to a new law. They are fairly infrequent.

The most recent referendum to be held was the Scottish independence referendum on 18 September 2014.

The current Conservative government has promised to hold a referendum on British membership of the European Union by 2017 at the latest.



British Values



Before we do this, however,
lets have a quick overview of
political ideologies...

Let's try out the First Past the Post and AV system for ourselves, in a quickie mock election! Around the room are displayed slides which will introduce you to five main UK parties; their current leaders and key concerns.

Spend just 5 minutes taking the information in from each of these parties. Discuss with a partner and then vote for the party, the leader and most importantly of all, the policies you would like to see implemented through government.

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Political ideologies

- Liberalism
- Conservatism
- Socialism

Ideology is an interrelated set of ideas and values that in some way guides or inspires political action

Conservatism believes in:

- Importance of tradition
- Gradual social change
- Seek stability and continuity



Socialism believes in:

Collectivism
Equality
Opposed to capitalism



Liberalism has influenced a variety of movements concerned with equal rights for all citizens

- Individual freedom
- Equality of opportunity
- State's role is to safeguard freedom of the individual

Left and right wing politics

...



The French Revolutionary era was where the terms **Left-wing** politics and **Right-wing** politics first **originated**. The reason for the terms was the seating of the régime of France at that time. The aristocrats sat on the **right**, and the commoners sat on the **left**

Anarchism

Revolutionary Socialism
(eg Communism)

Democratic socialism (eg
old Labour)

Social democrats (New
Labour)

Progressive Liberalism (eg
Lib Dems)

Conservatives

UKIP

Fascism (eg BNP)

LEFT

RIGHT

British Values

Other political ideologies

- Feminism
- Environmentalism (green Party)



Some political ideologies like environmentalism are hard to classify as left or right wing

Back to our vote! After you have read the candidates, rank them 1 to 5 on the cards provided.



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The Conservative Party



Theresa Mary May has been Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and Leader of the Conservative Party since 2016

- Eliminate the country's debt through a process of austerity
- Extra £8bn for the NHS by 2020
- Keep people working 30 hours on minimum wage out of tax
- 30 hours of free childcare per week for working parents
- Referendum on Britain's EU membership

British Values

The Labour Party

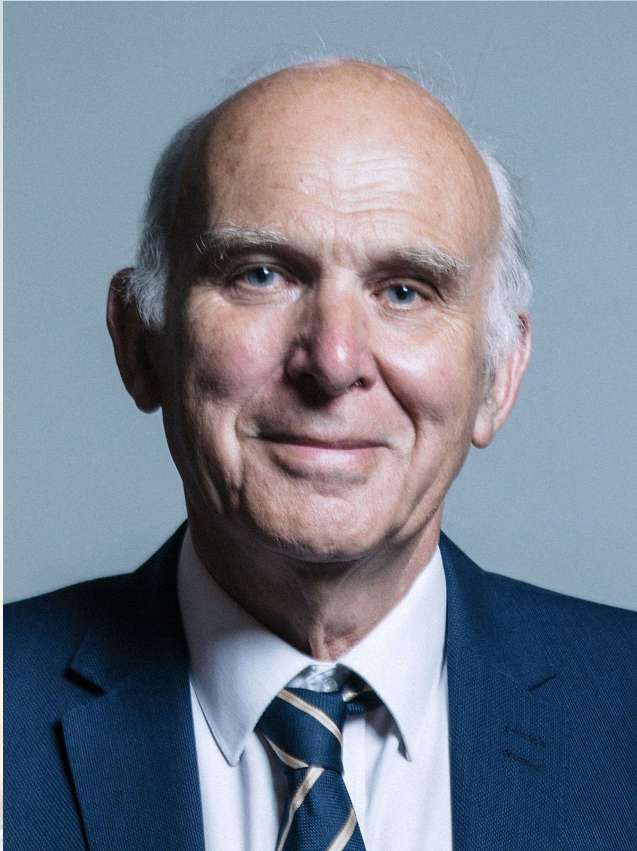


Jeremy Corbyn only became leader of the Labour Party on 12th September 2015

- Increase tax for higher earners and reduce tax relief for corporations.
- Ban zero working hours
- Re-nationalise the railways, postal service and energy companies.
- Scrap tuition fees, restore student maintenance grants and 6th form EMA.
- Cancel trident
- Fully-funded NHS, integrated with social care, with an end to privatisation in health'.

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The Liberal Democrats



- Balance the budget fairly through a mixture of cuts and taxes on higher earners
- Invest £8bn in the NHS. Equal care for mental & physical health
- Five new laws to protect nature and fight climate change

Sir John Vincent "Vince" Cable MP is a British politician serving as Leader of the Liberal Democrats and Member of Parliament for Twickenham since 2017..

British Values

The UK Independence Party



- Rapid referendum on Britain's membership of the European Union
- Prioritise control on immigration
- Extra £3bn a year for the NHS in England
- No tax on the minimum wage

Gerard Joseph Batten is an English politician. He is a Member of the European Parliament representing the European parliamentary constituency of London for the UK Independence Party.

British Values

The Green Party



- End austerity, return NHS and railways to the public sector.
- Work with other countries to ensure global temperatures do not rise by more than 2C.
- £85bn programme of home insulation & renewable electricity generation.
- Cancel trident and tuition fees

Natalie Bennett has led the party since 2012

British Values



Conservatives



Labour



Liberal Democrats



UKIP



The Green Party



Conservatives



Labour



Liberal Democrats



UKIP



The Green Party



Conservatives



Labour



Liberal Democrats



UKIP



The Green Party



Conservatives



Labour



Liberal Democrats



UKIP



The Green Party

Election result...

Now collect in the votes and add them up.

First Past the Post

Your first past the post winner is the one with the most votes. Simple. However, it might be interesting to see how many people voted for the other four parties and just what percentage of people actually voted for the first past the post winner.

Now add up your votes:
Alternative Vote

Your Alternative Vote winner can only win once they have broken through the 50% mark. This means that if you don't get a winner first time, then the party with the least amount of votes is eliminated and the 2nd choice votes of these voters are considered. Keep doing this until you break the 50%!

Have your views changed at all as to which system you prefer?

British Values

Social class:

Higher social classes tend to be more politically active.



Gender:

Fewer women become MPs and councillors but overall women are as involved as men in other aspects of politics.



Who participates most?

Age:

Young people (18-24) are least likely to vote and join political parties but are more likely to join pressure groups and demonstrations.

Can you suggest reasons for these patterns?

There are currently **191** female MPs out of a total **650** members of parliament.



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Ways in which people participate in politics...



You could rank these in terms of those you think most effective and those most common...

- Acting as a political representative e.g. MP or councillor
- Standing in elections or campaigning for party
- Membership of political party or pressure group
- Attending political meetings
- Fundraising
- Taking part in demonstrations
- Contacting media about political issue
- Signing petitions
- Voting
- Writing to MPs/government department
- Using media or internet to find out about political issues

British Values

**OH, YOU DON'T CARE
ABOUT POLITICS?**

*you
are* **FREE**
TO CHOOSE,
BUT YOU ARE NOT
FREE *from the*
CONSEQUENCE
OF
YOUR **CHOICE**

**THAT'S COOL, THE REST OF US WILL
DECIDE YOUR FUTURE FOR YOU**

British Values

Democracy

- Explore different types of government, political ideologies and voting systems.
- Understand how citizens can influence decision making through the democratic process.

Can you give examples in your own school where democracy is practiced?



British Values