Worksheet 1 General Election Quiz

Answer these questions in your group (there is one right answer per question).

(1) In the 2015 general election, what percentage of eligible voters cast a vote?
(a) 38%
(b) 66%
(c) 89%

(2) In the House of Commons, how many MPs are there?
(a) 500
(b) 650
(c) 750

(3) The Prime Minister is:
(a) the leader of the party/coalition with the most MPs
(b) the party leader whose name is chosen on the ballot paper by the most voters
(c) the eldest son/daughter of the former Prime Minister

(4) A geographical area represented by an MP is called:
(a) a ward
(b) a domain
(c) a constituency

(5) The MP for each seat is decided upon by a system called:
(a) Proportional Representation
(b) Rule of Law
(c) First Past the Post

(6) To stand as a candidate in your constituency, you must pay a £500 deposit plus:
(a) represent a well-known political party (such as UKIP)
(b) get certified by a GP, to prove that you are in good health
(c) be registered to vote and collect signatures from ten supporters in your area

(7) You can't stand as a candidate if you:
(a) are an atheist (i.e. don't have a religion)
(b) are in the police or army
(c) failed English, Maths or Science GCSE

(8) If you're unable to go to a polling station on general election day (e.g. you're on holiday), you can:
(a) ring up with your vote the day after the general election
(b) text/email your vote on the day of the general election
(c) vote before general election day by post

(9) You have the right to vote if you:
(a) are British but have lived outside of Britain for more than 15 years
(b) are long-term unemployed
(c) have committed electoral fraud in the last five years

(10) The political system in the UK is called a:
(a) prestigious democracy
(b) parliamentary democracy
(c) participatory democracy

Worksheet 2 The main political parties in the UK's 2017 general election

*Fill in as much information as you can, **using the party's official website** (you'll find this at http://www.parliament.uk/about/mps-and-lords/members/parties).*
Be ready to show your work to the class.

1. **Name** of political party I'm researching		
2. Name of **current leader/s** of the party		
3. Two of their current **campaigns**		
4. Two pieces of **recent news** involving this political party		
5. One of the main **principles** that the party stands for (look at their home page)		
6. Interesting excerpt from their **manifesto**		
7. Example of how **someone could get involved** in their party		
8. Date and location of their **next conference**		
9. **Relevant fact** (choose something that you think most students won't know)		
10. Number of seats won in **2017 general election** (leave blank if before June 8th 2017)		

Worksheet 2 The main political parties in the UK's 2017 general election EXAMPLE

1.	**Name** of political party I'm researching	Green Party	
2.	Name of **current leader/s** of the party	Co-Leaders: Caroline Lucas and Jonathan Bartley. Deputy Leader: Amelia Womack.	
3.	Two of their current **campaigns**	Abolish the bedroom tax.	Increase the minimum wage to £10 per hour by 2020
4.	Two pieces of **recent news** involving this political party	The Green Party 'fought hard' for Britain to remain in the EU.	They also committed to making LGBTIQA+ refugees welcome in the UK.
5.	One of the main **principles** that the party stands for (look at their home page)	Protecting our planet from climate change, by focusing on renewable energy.	
6.	Interesting excerpt from their **manifesto**	From their Youth Manifesto: "We would cancel all student debt issued by the Student Loans Company and held by the government, removing the burden of debt from a generation of students."	
7.	Example of how **someone could get involved** in their party	Sign up on their website to donate money to the Green Party, deliver leaflets for them and/or volunteer to help run their stalls.	
8.	Date and location of their **next conference**	September or October 2017 (date and location depend on results of 2017 general election).	
9.	**Relevant fact** (choose something that you think most students won't know)	The Green Party used to be called the Ecology Party.	
10.	Number of seats won in **2017 general election** (leave blank if before June 8th 2017)	2015: 1 2017: _____	

The 2017 General Election

Objectives

LO 1 I can share my opinions on the 2017 General Election.
LO 2 I can explore which the main political parties are in the UK.

INTERNET ACCESS REQUIRED
In advance, check access to the recommended websites via your IT department.

Class:	Date:	Last lesson:	
G & T pupils:	SEN pupils:	M:	F:

Connect

- Which current **social media campaigns** are relevant to the 2017 general election?

- Discuss with **your partner** whether students your age should have the right to vote in general elections.

Activate
Worksheet 1 General Election Quiz

- Put class into **pairs/threes**. Ask each group to discuss the following: Why is the UK general election relevant to everyone in the country, even citizens who are too young to vote?

- Ask volunteers to **feed back** to class. **Examples of thoughtful answers**:
  1. "The political party (or coalition) that is in power in the UK has lots of influence over how public money is spent, e.g. whether funding cuts are made to the NHS, whether spending on defence is increased and whether adequate benefits are available to vulnerable citizens (e.g. those with serious injuries)."
  2. "We might be too young to vote, but before long we'll be applying for further education, getting full-time jobs and living independently. Decisions that the government make now about the cost of living, university fees, taxation, etc. could have a huge impact on us when we leave school."
  3. The way in which the government handles Brexit will affect lots of things that are relevant to our families. For example, the price of certain products and services could increase/decrease significantly in the UK soon. In addition, extra jobs might be created or widescale redundancies could be made.

- Ask the class to stay in the same small groups and to fill in **Worksheet 1** (General Election Quiz).

- **Answers:**
  (1) In the 2015 general election, what percentage of eligible voters cast a vote? **66%.**
  (2) In the House of Commons, how many MPs are there? **650.**
  (3) The Prime Minister is **the leader of the party/coalition with the most MPs.**
  (4) A geographical area represented by an MP is called **a constituency.**
  (5) The MP for each seat is decided upon by a system called **First Past the Post.**
  (6) To stand as a candidate in your constituency, you must pay a £500 deposit plus **be registered to vote and collect signatures from ten supporters in your area.**
  (7) You can't stand as a candidate if you **are in the police or army.**
  (8) If you're unable to go to a polling station on general election day (e.g. you're on holiday), you can **vote before general election day by post.**
  (9) You have the right to vote if you **are long-term unemployed**.
  (10) The political system in the UK is called a **parliamentary democracy.**

Demonstrate
Worksheet 2 The main political parties in the UK's 2017 general election

- Tell students that they are now going to focus on researching the **main political parties** in the UK.

- Ask students to find the list of the **main political parties involved in the 2017 general election**: http://www.parliament.uk/about/mps-and-lords/members/parties/

- Allocate **at least one student to each of the twelve parties** (other students can choose their own or you could also assign them a party):
  (1) Conservative Party,
  (2) Co-operative Party,
  (3) Democratic Unionist Party,
  (4) Green Party,
  (5) Labour Party,
  (6) Liberal Democrats,
  (7) Plaid Cymru,
  (8) Scottish National Party,
  (9) Sinn Féin,
  (10) Social Democratic and Labour Party,
  (11) UK Independence Party
  (12) Ulster Unionist Party.
  NB list in alphabetical order.

- Ask students to fill in **worksheet 2**. Explain that the worksheet involves **online research** about the major political parties in the 2017 general election.

- Before they start writing/typing, show them **Worksheet 2 The main political parties in the UK's 2017 general election EXAMPLE**.

Consolidate

- Give each student BluTack and ask them to **stick their work on the wall** – somewhere where it will be clearly visible to other students. You might choose to group students' work together, e.g. "Hands up if you researched the Labour Party. You three should all stick your work where I'm pointing now."

- Ask students to get up and **read each other's work**. They should read about at least three political parties other than the one they researched. (Depending on your students, you might wish to suggest a one-way system for moving around the room).

- Ask for **class feedback** to the following:
  1. Why is it important to research different political parties before voting in a general election?
  2. Why do many citizens find it difficult to choose which party to vote for in a general election?
  3. Give a fact that you didn't know before this lesson, that you've learnt today. The fact should

be about a political party/the election process.

- Examples of good answers:
  1. Different newspapers and different social media campaigns influence citizens on how to vote – both in subtle and direct ways. It's therefore important to spend time looking at each party's actual manifesto to weigh up what parties promise to achieve if their leader becomes Prime Minister. It's then really important to research whether promises made by this party in the past have usually been kept!
  2. Some citizens feel that it's difficult to identify big differences between political parties. For example, the Green Party is obviously committed to the environment. However, all the other main political parties claim to prioritise environment issues too! In addition, it can be hard to decide which campaigns are introduced to win votes in an upcoming election and/or make memorable headlines – as opposed to which campaigns the party are genuinely committed to in the long-term.
  3. I'd heard of the Scottish National Party but I'd never heard of the Welsh Plaid Cymru party.

G & T

Activate activity: Ask G & T students to comment on what could be done to **improve voter turnout** in general elections – and to explain why high voter turnout is perceived as a positive in democratic countries.

Simplify

Demonstrate activity: ask students to fill in **five rows of their choice on Worksheet 2** and, if helpful, to use keywords rather than whole sentences.

Recommended websites

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-39631768

Homework

Find out how many seats are currently held by which parties in the House of Commons.