

Topic: Systems of government

Lesson: How do political parties work for you?	KS or Year Group: KS3
Resources: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Resource 1 – Identify the political parties2. Resource 2 – Party policies3. Resource 3 – Party policies (teachers' version)	Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All students will understand some policies of one or two parties.• Most students will understand a few policies of one or two parties and contribute effectively in the plenary.• Some students will understand several policies of the political parties, contribute effectively in the plenary and expand on their answers verbally.

National Curriculum

Key Concepts: 1.1a, 1.1d

Key Processes: 2.2a,

Range and Content: 3c

Lesson

This lesson aims to introduce the main three or four political parties, as well as familiarising students with the parties' policies. The more able will also be able to look at the nature of political parties and the differences between them.

Starter

- Distribute copies of **Resource 1 – Identify the political parties**. Students should fill in the sheets by writing down the name of the party leaders and their parties.
- As an extension, students could write down the name of as many different political parties as they can. Teachers can discuss with students how many different parties

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they think there are (there are around 200 registered political parties) and why there are so many.

Main activity

Activity 1

- Students to look at **Resource 2 – Party policies** and either (depending on how well stocked your resources cabinet is!) colour in each box to match up the policies to the parties or draw a line between the party's name and policy. This could also be done as an ICT activity using the accompanying Flash resource.
- Students should then circle the boxes which they think would make the country better (e.g. raising taxes on high polluters).
- Once this has been done the teacher should now show students which policy matches up to which party. This can be projected on the whiteboard or, alternatively, **Resource 3 – Party policies (teacher's version)** can be printed off and handed out. If it is only projected, students must be given time to get down the correct order on their own worksheets as this is necessary for the next activity.

Activity 2

- Students should now label the four corners of the worksheet according to the type of policies they are. More able pupils should be able to do this themselves. Less able students may need additional help in the classification (i.e. health, education, ID cards, taxes).
- The teacher should now designate the four corners of the classroom to a different political party. Either do this verbally or stick up a big A3 sheet in each corner to show students where to go.
- Students should now move to the corner of the classroom according to which political party they would vote for. Alternatively students could move according to which policy students support – and look to see whether students support all of that party's policies.
- The ultimate aim of this part of the activity is to show that different political parties cater to different people's views. There are four main parties and each offers something that everyone can support.
- In order to tease this point out of students they should complete a sentence expansion activity. Put up the start of this sentence on the board: *"There are lots of different political parties because..."*
- In pairs, give students 60 seconds to discuss a possible answer to this question. Now ask students to write down their responses. This should be a paragraph of approximately 30-40 words (this can be varied according to the class, and you could even make it exactly 40 words if you are feeling particularly cruel).

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Plenary

For the plenary, pair students up and ask them to write their sentences (and names) out on a post-it note and then stick them onto the board. When this has been done, pick one off at random and ask the pair to read their sentences out. You can then choose the one with the most promise and ask the student to explain or expand upon their answers verbally. In this way, you can test individual student's understanding of the lesson.

Aim high

Gifted and talented students can contribute more effectively in the plenary by contributing and expanding upon their answers verbally.

Assessment

Students worksheets can be marked formally, but informal assessment of the plenary can also be done.

Check the web

<http://www.youtube.com/ukpolitics>

A useful site to reinforce what's on paper in terms of party policies.

Summary of key learning

- Students will learn about the different political parties in the UK.
- Students will understand the different policies of the different political parties.

How do political parties work for you?

Resource 1 – Identify the political parties

Who are the political parties?

One of the roles of political parties is to encourage people to get involved in politics, but how involved in politics are you? See if you can name the leaders of the three main political parties (plus an extension task for any of you who finish early).

		
Name:	Name:	Name:
Leader of:	Leader of:	Leader of:

Extension:

List as many other political parties that you can think of below.

Resource 2 – Party policies

Supports making everyone have ID cards.

Letting businesses run some parts of the NHS.

Making more of the National Health Service (NHS) free.

Making more of the National Health Service (NHS) free when you need it most.

Letting businesses run some parts of the NHS.



Against making everyone have ID cards.

A National Citizen Service for all school leavers.



Against making everyone have ID cards.

Give 600,000 students one-on-one tutoring.



Would make taxes fairer, but not higher.

Stop making university students pay to study.



Would make rich people pay more tax.

Would raise taxes on high polluters.

Resource 3 – Party policies (teacher’s version)

Making more of the National Health Service (NHS) free when you need it most.

Letting businesses run some parts of the NHS.

Making more of the National Health Service (NHS) free.

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