Objectives

- Students develop their understanding of what makes a democracy versus what makes a dictatorship.
- Students understand a case study highlighting features of a dictatorship.

Lesson overview

This lesson is based on the conflict in Egypt which began with the protest of January 2011. It aims to highlight features of a dictatorship and to compare this to a democracy. Students should consider why the people of Egypt fought for a democratic society and what might happen within a democracy if basic freedoms were not followed.

Please refer to [http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-12301713](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-12301713) for additional information on Mubarak’s regime or read the information sheet provided.

Resources

Resources 1, 3 and 4 can be found below.

Resource 2 can be downloaded in PDF format from [www.teachitcitizenship.co.uk](http://www.teachitcitizenship.co.uk) (Quick search: 20779).

Starter

Resources 1 and 2

Hand out the information sheet and read through it with the students. They should then look at the pictures and discuss the following questions:

- Who is it?
- Where is it?
- What is happening?
- Why is it happening?
- When is it happening?

Picture 1 – Hosni Mubarak – Egyptian president from 1981 to 2011

Hosni Mubarak became president on 14 October 1981, following the assassination of President Anwar Sadat. His almost 30-year presidency made him one of Egypt's longest-serving rulers. His presidency was a reign that, according to accusations, used unacceptable methods to keep him in power (e.g. corruption, one party voting systems and intimidation).

Picture 2 – 25 January 2011

This was the day when Egyptian people decided to end the country’s dynasty with a revolution. Young Egyptians joined the ‘Khaled Saeed’ Facebook group to launch the call for an uprising against tyranny, oppression, torture, corruption and injustice. The
group was named after a young Egyptian man beaten to death by police. That call was echoed on other Facebook groups, on blogs and on Twitter. Egyptians took to the streets in almost every major town and city. The police tried to crush the protests, but unarmed people stood firm. Three days later, on the ‘Friday of rage’, more than a million Egyptians took to the streets in support of the uprising. Anti-riot police used maximum force, but finally had to retreat and Mubarak resigned.

**Picture 3 – Protests in Tahrir Square**

Thousands of supporters of Egypt’s long time president and opponents of the regime clashed in Tahrir Square, throwing rocks and fighting with improvised weapons.

**Picture 4 – Crowds celebrate after Mubarak steps down**

A girl laughs as she's hoisted on her father's shoulders on a bridge over the Nile river near Tahrir Square during a celebration over President Hosni Mubarak stepping down on February 11, 2011 in Cairo, Egypt.

**Activity 1**

**Resource 3**

Ask students to sort the cards to create a timeline of Mubarak’s regime, using Resource 3. NB The correct order can be found at the end of this resource.

Students should then answer the following questions:

- How did Mubarak come into power?
- What happened during Mubarak’s re-elections?
- Why do you think people protested?
- How do you think this compares to elections in the UK?

The class goes through the timeline together and students are asked to feedback on the questions. Ask why each country deserves a fair and free government.

**Activity 2**

**Resource 4**

Give students Resource 4 and ask them to discuss the questions in pairs.

- What type of government do we have in the UK?
  
  **Suggested answer:** a representative democracy.

- What type of government do you think Egypt had?
  
  **Suggested answer:** autocratic / a dictatorship.

- What type of government do you think protestors were hoping to achieve?
  
  **Suggested answer:** a less autocratic and more democratic form of government.
Get feedback from different pairs to highlight the difference between a democracy and a dictatorship. Ask what kind of things might be different in a democracy compared to a dictatorship. You could prompt students with phrases such as, ‘freedom of speech’, ‘voting rights’ and ‘representing different types of voters’.

**Activity 3**

The class discusses key elements of a democracy. Ask the class what might happen if certain rights were taken away like they were in Egypt. For example, what might happen in the UK if voters were not given the right to vote in secret? You could prompt students with phrases such as, ‘abuse of power’, ‘bribery’ and ‘pressure’.

**Plenary**

Read out the different statements below. Students should demonstrate what each statement is a feature of – a democracy or a dictatorship. To do so they can raise hands, move to separate areas of the room or use a ‘traffic light system’.

Check learning by asking a volunteer to describe two differences between a democracy and a dictatorship. Ask a different volunteer to comment on the benefits of living in a democracy such as the UK, e.g. all people over 16 are allowed to vote, voters can cast their vote in secret, party with majority vote should win, voters and candidate can freely debate and discuss issues.

**Statements (with answers in bold):**

- This type of government has free and fair elections. – **democracy**
- In this type of government, the people in charge are often break the law. – **dictatorship**
- Ordinary people feel powerless in this type of government. – **dictatorship**
- As people have a right to voice their opinions, they can try and change things they do not like, e.g. through voting. – **democracy**
- The majority (most people) get their way in terms of who is in charge. – **democracy**
- For this type of government, only a small group of people get their way. – **dictatorship**
- The leader can declare war on anyone or any country he or she chooses. – **dictatorship**
- In this type of government, citizens get a chance to change the leader. – **democracy**
- It may take violence to change the leader. – **dictatorship**
**Answers to Resource 3 – Timeline**

Mubarak becomes President in 1981 after his predecessor, Anwar Sadat, is assassinated by Islamic militants.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mubarak introduces emergency laws to fight against militants</td>
<td>1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mubarak increases power of police</td>
<td>1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>During the 1990s, militants launch an uprising and gunmen attack</td>
<td>1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mubarak attempts to assassinate himself when visiting Ethiopia</td>
<td>1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mubarak crushes the movement in 1997 by arresting thousands of</td>
<td>1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mubarak bans religious political parties from taking part in</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mubarak is re-elected three times – however he’s the only candidate!</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mubarak allows other candidates to run in the presidential election</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He wins easily but people accuse him of intimidating people into</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On 25 January 2011, thousands of anti-government protesters clash</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On 11 February 2011, Mubarak resigns and hands over power to the</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On 13 April, authorities investigate claims against Mubarak and his</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On 3 August 2011, Mubarak's trial opens in Cairo</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On 2 June 2012, the 84-year-old is found guilty and sentenced to</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Adapted from The Guardian** – [http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/jun/02/hosni-mubarak-rule-downfall-timeline](http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/jun/02/hosni-mubarak-rule-downfall-timeline)
Resource 1 – Mubarak information sheet

Hosni Mubarak ruled Egypt for almost 30 years from 1981 to 2011. Mubarak, who was vice-president in 1981, came to power after the president at the time Anwar Sadat was assassinated. He was eventually ousted after 18 days of demonstrations during the 2011 Egyptian revolution.

During his time in power Mubarak made a number of unpopular amendments and although he was re-elected three times during his reign he was the only candidate at each of these elections because he wouldn’t allow other people to stand for presidency! In 2005 Mubarak allowed the first ever multi-candidate presidential election which he won amid accusations of fraud and intimidation. For the entire time he was president Mubarak kept the country under emergency law, allowing the state sweeping powers of arrest and limiting basic freedoms.

In 2011 the Egyptian people decided to end the country’s dynasty with a revolution. Young Egyptians joined the ‘Khaled Saeed’ Facebook group to launch the call for an uprising against tyranny, oppression, torture, corruption and injustice. The group was named after a young Egyptian man beaten to death by police. The call was echoed on other Facebook groups, on blogs and on Twitter. El Ghad (an active political party) and a number of youth protest movements embraced the call from an early stage and started to mobilise support throughout the country.

On 25 January, Egyptians took to the streets in almost every major town and city. The police tried to crush the protests, but unarmed people stood firm against water cannons, armoured carriers and teargas. Three days later, on the ‘Friday of rage’, more than a million Egyptians took to the streets in support of the uprising. Anti-riot police used maximum force but finally had to retreat and Mubarak resigned, handing over power to the military. On 24 May it was announced that Mubarak and his two sons would stand trial over the deaths of protestors. The trial began in Cairo on 3 August 2011 and in June 2012 he was sentenced to life in prison.
### Resource 3 – Timeline cards

On 25 January 2011, thousands of anti-government protesters clash with the police in Cairo as they demand the removal of Mubarak.

In 2005, Mubarak allows other candidates to run in the presidential election. He wins easily but people accuse him of fraud and **intimidation**.

In 1981, Mubarak introduces emergency laws as part of his battle against militants and increases the power that the police have.

Mubarak crushes the movement by 1997 by arresting thousands of protestors.

On 2 June 2012, the 84-year-old is found guilty and sentenced to life in prison.

During the 1990s, militants launch an uprising aimed at setting up an Islamic state. Gunmen attack police, assassinate politicians and target foreign tourists, a key source of revenue. In 1995, militants attempt to assassinate Mubarak as he visits Ethiopia.

Mubarak becomes President in 1981 after his predecessor, Anwar Sadat, is assassinated by Islamic militants.

The protests last for three weeks and eventually Mubarak resigns on 11 February 2011, handing power to the military.

Mubarak's trial opens in Cairo on 3 August 2011. He denies all charges against him.

On 13 April, authorities investigate claims against Mubarak and his two sons of corruption, abuse of power and the killing of protestors. A month later, Mubarak is ordered to stand trial on charges of corruption and conspiracy in the shooting of protestors.

Mubarak makes constitutional amendments where he bans religious political parties from taking part in elections. Mubarak is re-elected three times – however he’s the only candidate!
Resource 4 – Types of government

Government: an organisation through which political authority is exercised.

Democracy: rule by the people, either directly (direct democracy) or when society elects people to make decisions for them (representative democracy).

Autocratic: a style of leadership with one ruler having unlimited power.

Dictatorship: a country ruled by a dictator.

Dictator: a leader who has complete power in a country.

What type of government do we have in the UK?

What type of government do you think Egypt had?

What type of government do you think protestors were hoping to achieve?