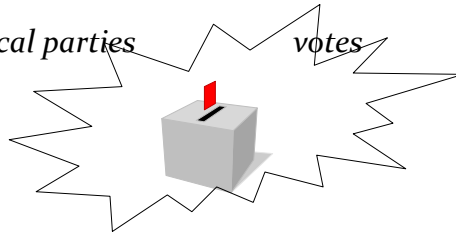


VOTING & ELECTIONS

LEVEL:	B1
TIME:	60 MINS

Activity 1: Lead-in - What words/expressions referring to voting and elections do you know in English?

e.g.: *candidates* *political parties* *votes* *turnout* *cast a vote ...*



Activity 2A: Read the text and complete the gaps with given words

ballot box - ballot paper - candidates - constituency - election day - electoral register - polling booth - polling stations

How to vote

(1) <u>Polling stations</u> open from 7am until 10pm. [...]	
You must vote at the polling station that you have been assigned to, although you can hand deliver a postal vote to any polling station in the (2) <u>constituency</u> .	
Polling stations are usually set up in schools, libraries and churches.	
On (3) <u>election day</u> , go to your local polling station. If you need assistance getting to the polling station, contact your electoral registration office to find out if they can help. You can also ask to have a companion with you when you vote, or staff in the polling station may be able to help you.	
Tell the staff inside the polling station your name and address so they can check that you are on the (4) <u>electoral register</u> . You can show them your poll card, but you do not need it to vote.	
The staff at the polling station will give you (5) a <u>ballot paper</u> listing the parties and (6) <u>candidates</u> you can vote for. You may be given more than one ballot paper if there is more than one election on the same day. [...]	
Take your ballot paper into (7) a <u>polling booth</u> so that no one can see how you vote. Read the ballot paper carefully, it will tell you how to cast your vote. Do not write anything else on the paper or your vote may not be counted.	
Finally, when you have marked your vote, fold the ballot paper in half and put it in the (8) <u>ballot box</u> . Do not let anyone see your vote. If you are not clear on what to do, ask the staff at the polling station to help you.	

Author: Michael Wilkinson, The Telegraph

Source: www.telegraph.co.uk/news/general-election-2015/11565986/how-to-vote.html

Activity 2B: Read the guidelines again - Is the voting procedure similar in your country?

If yes --> put a plus (+) in the free column

If no --> put a minus (-) in the free column

Discuss the similarities and differences.

Activity 3A: Watch the video report - Decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F)

Title: Tunisia Election Day

Author: Tunisia Live

Source: www.youtube.com/watch?v=YksdoAbMpvU&index=1&list=PL22E83937CE07557D

Tunisia Election Day

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Tunisians are fed up with voting in the election. | F |
| 2. Most of people haven't voted before. | T |
| 3. People feel they have an obligation to vote. | T |
| 4. On this election day Tunisians are choosing the president. | F |
| 5. The turnout is going to be low. | F |

Activity 3B: Discussion

Why do Tunisians find it so important to cast their votes?

Do you remember the first time you voted? How did you feel then?

Is it important to vote in your country?

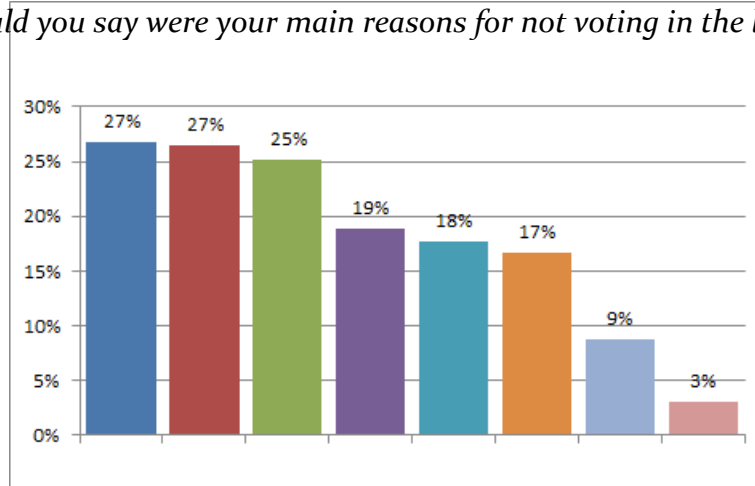
Are people enthusiastic about voting in your country?

Activity 4A: Brainstorming - Why don't many people vote? Give three reasons.

1. e.g. *because they are out of town*
2. e.g. *because they are lazy*
3. *because they think their vote doesn't count*

Activity 4B: Vocabulary - Look at the survey results and complete them with given words.

What would you say were your main reasons for not voting in the last election?



27% - Other

27% - Don't believe my vote will make any (7) difference

25% - Parties/(8) candidates are all the same

19% - Not (9) interested in politics

18% - Not enough information/(10) knowledge to choose

17% - What I believe is not (11) represented by the parties/candidates

9% - Not able to (12) access polling station or (13) get a postal ballot.

3% - Don't believe the UK (14) parliament is important

Source: survation.com/apathy-in-the-uk-understanding-the-attitudes-of-non-voters

Activity 4C: Discussion

Do the surveys mention the same reasons as you listed in 3A?

What strikes you most about the survey results?

Are such excuses justifiable? Why? / Why not?

What could be done about the fact that many people don't vote?

Activity 5A: Watch the videos - What were they made for?

Don't vote (00:00 - 02:06) Source: www.youtube.com/watch?v=KWpyKMJ1Xmo

Why should I vote? Author: Preston City Council

Source: www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-Lv-oLQN-A

Activity 5B: Watch the videos again and complete the table

What issues are mentioned in these campaigns? There are extra ones that you don't need to mark.

	<i>Don't vote</i>	<i>Why should I vote?</i>
Culture	-	-
Economy	+ financial disaster, the economy is in the toilet, rising gas prices, minimum wage	
Education	+ your children's education, literacy, reading	+ education
Environment and climate	+ global warming, polar bears can swim, polar ice caps are melting	+ parks and green spaces, climate change, recycling and litter
Foreign affairs	+ Darfur	+ Libya
Healthcare	+ unless you care about healthcare	+ health
Minorities rights	+ gay rights	-
Political systems	-	-
War and conflict	+ who cares about terrorism, war on drugs, gun control, the war	+ Libya
Women's rights	+ women's rights, civil rights	+ suffragettes
Work and career	-	+ jobs

Activity 5C: Discussion

What features of these videos can encourage people to vote?

Which campaign do you find more powerful? Why?

Which one would be more effective among your peers?

What kind of social campaigns are there in your country? Are they effective?

Activity 6: Project

Work in pairs/groups and design a viral ad encouraging people to join an event or activity (e.g. take up learning English, become environment-friendly, give up junk food etc.)