



Goals

- Can understand and recall some more advanced vocabulary related to politics.
- Can explain various political systems and give my viewpoint on an array of political topics.







Preview and warm-up

- In this lesson, you will learn **vocabulary** to describe electoral processes and **parliamentary representation**.



Ever wanted to be able to describe a **complex parliamentary system**?
Let's learn how!



Types of political systems

monarchy

A form of government with a **monarch** at the head. In the past, monarchies were headed by a King or a Queen.

autocracy

A form of government where one person has **absolute power**.

oligarchy

The control of an organisation by **a small group of people**. Governments can be **oligarchic** and so can non-government organisations.

dictatorship

The non-democratically elected government run by **one person, a dictator**, who has control over everything.

aristocracy

A form of government run by **the upper-class nobility**.

republic

A form of government in which the power of state is in the **hands of the people** and **the people they elect into government**.



Sides of politics

conservative

Conservatives generally like to keep things as they are in order to maintain stability. They **do not advocate changing things**. A conservative party is generally aligned to **the right** side of politics.



progressive

Progressives are the opposite of conservatives because they usually support **changing things** in order to make society better. **Progressives** are aligned to **the left** side of politics.



liberal

Liberals generally support **social changes** as long as they are **lawful**. The liberal political tradition **supports individual rights, free trade** and **market** orientated policies.



ecological

An **ecological** party is interested in issues to do with the **environment**. There are both **ecological conservatives** and **ecological progressives**.





Describing governments

Take 5 minutes to write your own definition for each of these political systems. Provide an example of each form of government and a description of the relationship between the political system and the people.

In a republic the people elect a politician to represent them and if they are not happy they vote them out at the next election.

autocracy

oligarchy

dictatorship

monarchy

democracy

republic

aristocracy



Monarchies and democracies: what's the difference?

Has your country experienced either or both of these forms of government? What are their advantages and disadvantages? Can they exist together? Describe some examples you know of from around the world.

The United Kingdom has a Royal Family. The Queen of England is also the Queen of Australia. Both of these countries are independent democracies.





Taking political sides

The political spectrum (those on the right to those on the left) often looks slightly different in every country. Make a list of things that characterise conservatives, progressives, and liberals in your home country, or a country of your choice.

Afterwards, share your descriptions with your teacher.



What do the Conservatives support?



Liberals support rights and are progressive.



Conservatives

Progressives

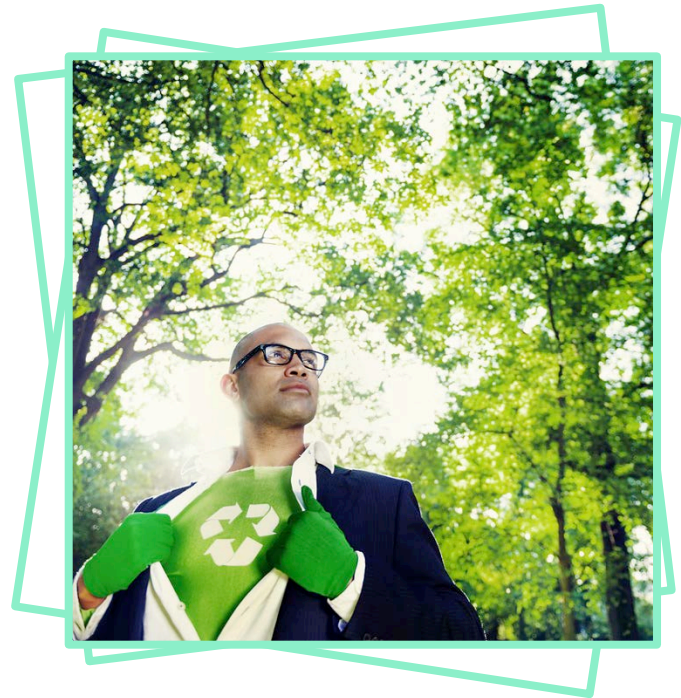
Liberals



Green politics

Environmental issues have risen to prominence as the effects of climate change have become more noticeable.

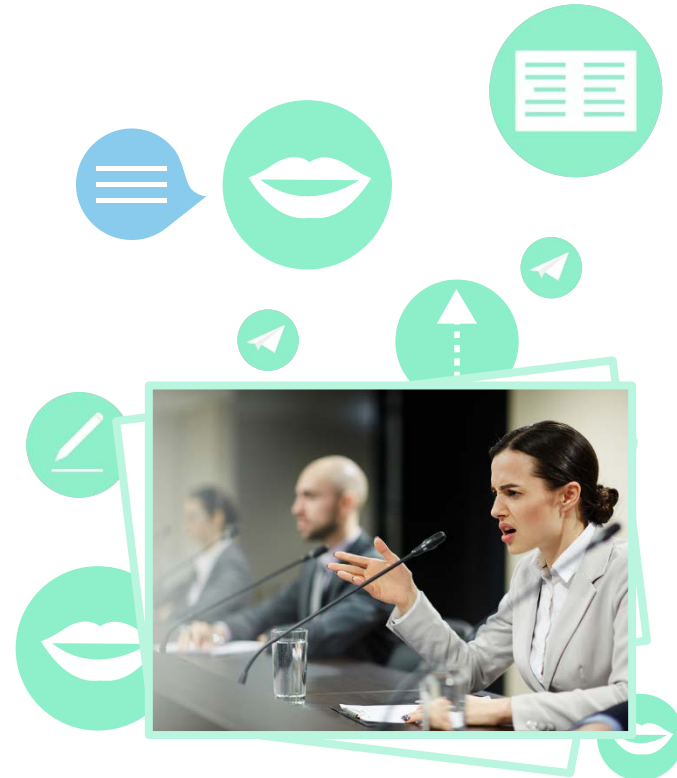
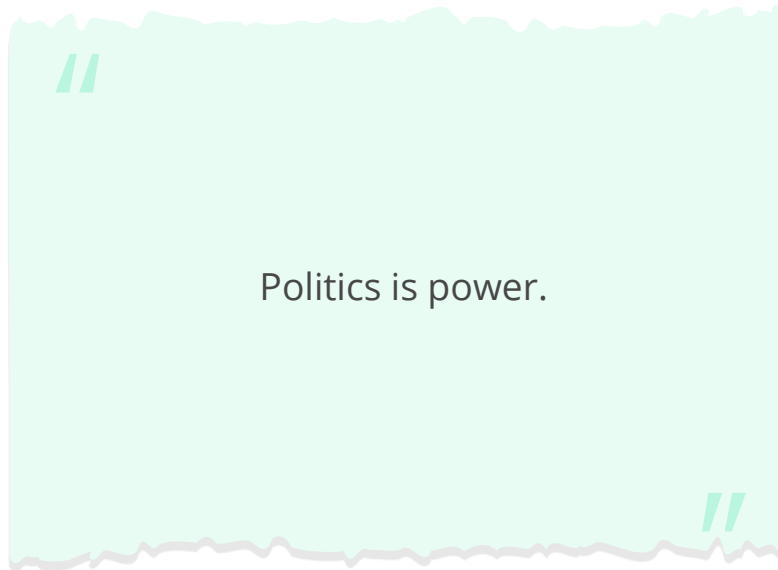
How have conservatives, progressives, and liberals responded to these issues in your country?





Politics is power

How would a conservative, progressive, or liberal respond to this statement? What forms of power are important to each group on the political spectrum?

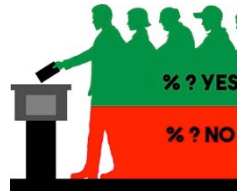




Political vocabulary

referendum

Referendums occur in democracies when the people vote on a **single issue outside of an election period**. Some countries have referendums often, some very seldom, and others never.



coalition

A **coalition** occurs when different parties **join together to form a government**.



majority minority

The **majority** is the **greater number**. The **minority** is the **lesser number**.



opposition

The **opposition** is the main political party that is not in government.





Political vocabulary

candidate

A person who is running for election.

Example: The **candidates** spent two full weeks campaigning before the election.

campaign

A **campaign** is organised by political parties to gain support for their objectives in the lead-up to an election.

Example: The political **campaign** was a real success and led to the election of a new government.

by-election

A **by-election** is an election held during a period of government when a member of parliament needs to be replaced. If a member of parliament dies or falls ill, a by-election occurs.

snap election

A **snap election** is an election that is called at very short notice.



Political coalitions

Coalition governments are formed between different parties.

Are coalition governments good or risky?

Write two paragraphs outlining your point of view with some examples to demonstrate it. Then share your opinion with your teacher.

Coalitions are good for politics because they keep everyone in check.

Coalitions are unstable and a government works best when there is a clear majority.





What issues do you think should be put into a referendum?



Anything that will have a substantial impact on the country.

If the issue will change the identity and constitution of the country, it should be put to a vote.



Describing political systems

Each country has a different kind of political system.
Describe the political system in your country and answer the questions below.



How often does voting occur?

Do you have a prime minister or a president? How are they elected?

How many chambers of parliament does your country have?

Do you have a preferential voting system? This means that you give a list of preferences when you vote.



Political vocabulary

polling stations

A **polling station** is a place where people vote on election day.

press conference

A **press conference** is a meeting between important people and the media.

go to the polls

To go to the polls means to vote in an election.

electorate

An electorate is an area that is represented by a specific politician. The **electorate** votes for this person to represent them in parliament.

member of parliament

A **member of parliament** is a politician who has been elected to parliament.

seat in parliament

A **seat in parliament** is held by a politician elected by their electorate. They are elected to these seats and hold them until the next election.



Political vocabulary

greater good

The **greater good** usually means that something is **of social benefit to most people**.

Example: He voted against his own party in favour of the **greater good** and showed real political leadership.

public interest

This means that it is in the interest of the people to know about something that is happening.

Example: The government leaks were considered to be in the **public interest** as they revealed the extent of financial corruption.

to sit on the fence about something

To sit on the fence about something means that a person has not made up their mind about an issue.

to be on the right lines about something

To be on the right lines about something means to understand an issue correctly even if the issue itself isn't completely clear.



New to the country...

Imagine you are Rosa. She is a newly-arrived migrant to your country, which is due to have an election in 2 weeks time. Although Rosa cannot vote in the election, she wants to know how it works and who the main parties are so that she can understand your country and what the people there think is important.

- Act out a role play describing the political system in your country.
- Include an explanation of the main political parties, of what happens on voting day, and of how political campaigns are run, including any important rules.





Discussing politics

Lulu, George, Sabine, and Andrea are discussing how parliamentary debate happens in their country. Role play these friends having a discussion using your own country as an example. Explain how parliamentary debate happens and what you think about it. Is it interesting, productive, boring or undemocratic?

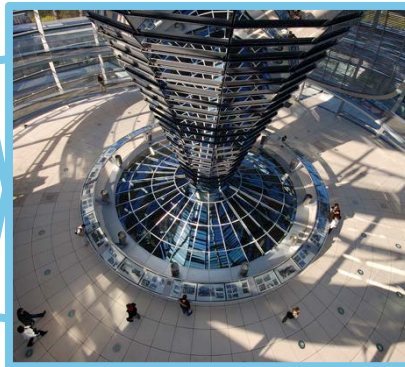
Politicians don't debate with each other in they **merely insult** one another in the best possible way.



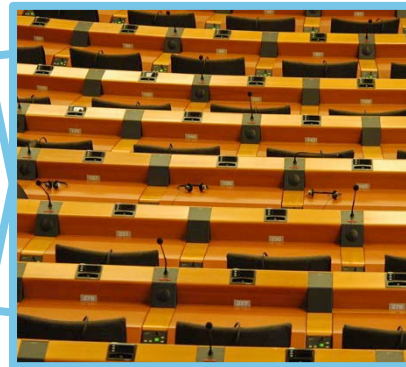
I **don't agree with you**. It looks that way because they sit so close together, but they put forward good arguments.



Our politicians stand behind the podium and lecture at the audience. You're lucky if you don't fall asleep!



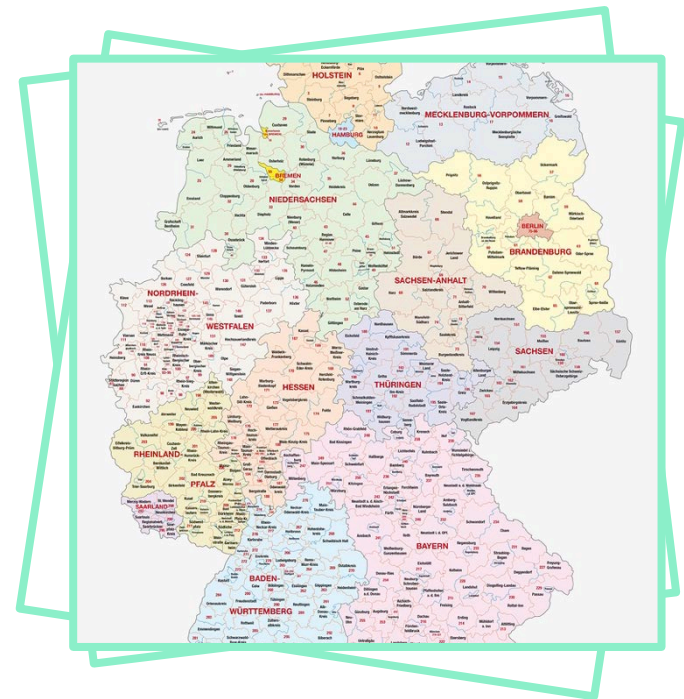
I'm going to sit on **the fence** on this one. I prefer to watch the football instead. I never listen to what any of them say.





Discussing how politicians are elected

Members of Parliament are elected by their electorate. How is your country divided up into electorates? Are these electorates very different in size or demographic? Do some electorates always have conservative politicians and some more progressive politicians? You can choose a country to discuss.





What type of political processes help maintain a democracy?





Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

no



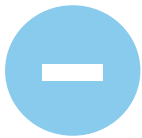


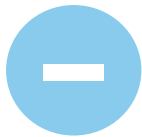
Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?









If you have time, go over
the most difficult slides again



