



Lesson plan

Topic : Political Systems
Key stage : KS 3
Age group : 11-14 years old
Subject : Citizenship, English



Objectives:

Students will gain a general overview of different political systems in the UK and other countries and they will know more about Parliament and the political parties in the UK.

Learning outcomes:

Knowledge:

- Understand the political system in the UK and the work of Parliament and political parties
- Understand other political systems in the world

Skills:

- Be able to recognize different political systems
- Be able to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of different types of government
- Be able to debate and write a short speech

Understanding:

- Understand that political systems and its relationship with the citizens
- Develop a critical understanding of advantages and disadvantages of different political systems

Total: 60 mins	Activities
Introduction (5 mins)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Let the students watch a video introducing how Parliament works. How the Parliament works in nearly 60 seconds 2. Ask students to share what they have learned from the video.
Development (45 mins)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask students to think of any questions that they have about Parliament and the political system in the UK. 2. Then play another video which is an overview of the structure and purpose of Parliament and the difference between Parliament and Government. Parliament and Government: An overview 3. Then ask students the following questions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What are the main parts of the UK Government? Is the Parliament part of the Government or is the Government part of the Parliament? b. What powers does the monarch have? c. What does the Prime Minister do? What about his/her ministers? d. What powers does the House of Commons have? e. What's the role of the House of Lords? 4. Explain to the students that the UK is a democratic country governed within the framework of a constitutional monarchy. The UK political system is a multi-party system. Then let students know more about democratic and non-democratic systems (e.g. dictatorship etc) and discuss about the advantages and disadvantages of different systems. 5. Debate: split the class in three groups and assign to each of them a political system (e.g. democracy, communism or dictatorship) or let students to suggest other systems. Refer to worksheet 1 and ask students to think and write down the advantages and disadvantages of their and the other types of government. 6. Discussion points for debate: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each type of government? b. Can you think of any country of the system? Either today or in the past? c. Which is the best and which is the worst? 7. Let students know more about political parties in the UK such as how many parties, who are they, what are their main opinions etc. Also let them know that there are different minority groups in the parties and use British Chinese as an example. 8. If time is allowed, play the videos of interviewees from different political parties and let them understand more about the people from minority group who participate in politic. http://www.britishchineseheritagecentre.org.uk/interviews-%E6%8E%A1%E8%AA
Conclusion (5 mins)	<p>In this lesson students have learned about the UK political system, the work of Parliament and other different political systems in the world. Students have a chance to learn more about the political representation of different ethnic minorities in the UK, specifically British Chinese.</p>

Homework (5 mins)	Referring to worksheet 2, ask students to summarize the points of the debate by comparing the advantages and disadvantages of the different systems. Then choose the best political system and write a 1-minute speech to persuade people to support this system. Then give a presentation during next lesson.
Further study	This online game will help students understand how the parliament works and what the duties of an MP involve. http://www.parliamentgames.co.uk/game/mp-for-a-week/ MP for a week http://www.parliamentgames.co.uk/game/mp-for-a-week/

Worksheet 1

Political system	Advantages	Disadvantages
Democracy Country like:		
Communism Country like:		
Dictatorship Country like:		

Worksheet 2

1. Summarize the advantages and disadvantages of the different political systems.

2. My speech

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We believe that is the best political system because

Some people may argue that

However we would argue that

Thank you.