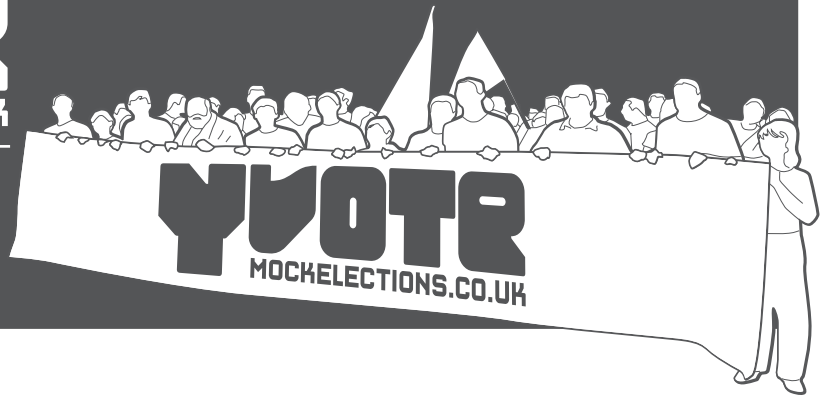


YVOTE

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HANSARD SOCIETY
Y VOTE MOCK ELECTIONS



Y Vote Mock Elections actively engage students with the issues around them by giving them the opportunity to stand as party candidates, run campaigns and of course, vote in a mock election. An ideal vehicle for citizenship teaching, mock elections bring the principles of democracy, parliament and government to life.

GETTING STARTED

Don't be deterred!! You do not need to use all sections of this pack to run a mock election!! Yet everything you may need can be found here - a step-by-step teacher's guide, along with corresponding Cue Cards for students and practical templates. Y Vote Mock Elections are a flexible Citizenship activity and you can adapt what we have suggested to suit your own needs.

If you would prefer you can follow the steps through in the teachers' online at www.mockelections.co.uk

Many of the campaign materials included in this pack are also available to pupils in the 'Run a Campaign' section of the website.

First choose the type of mock election that most closely suits your needs...

Quick Mock Election / running a Y Vote mock election with one class over two lessons. Go to page 3.

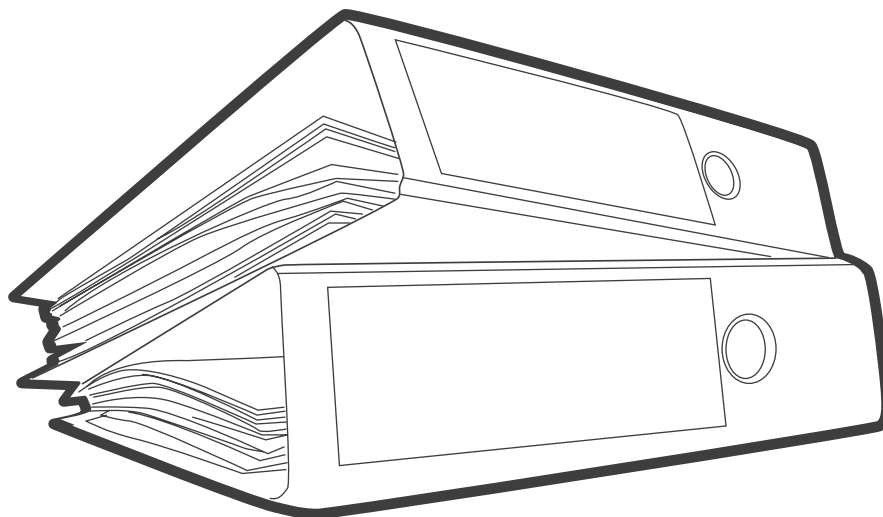
Standard Mock Election / running a Y Vote mock election with a number of classes over several days, using a combination of lessons, assemblies, tutor time and/or lunchtimes. Go to page 4.

Super Mock Election / includes many suggested extension activities... for those who have plenty of time and support from other staff! Go to page 9.

Follow the steps through for your chosen option. You will find the additional resources that you need in the rest of the pack.

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QUICK MOCK ELECTION

Running a mock election with one classes over 2 lessons

LESSON 1

RESOURCES: Print outs of party information and two different coloured highlighters per group or access to IT facilities; a large piece of paper and marker for each group, copies of the **manifesto template on page 32**.

Act as the election officer. Announce that an election is going to take place. Put it into context according to which type of election you are running (i.e. what is the election for and who are you electing – an MP? MEP? Councillor?). Split the class into mixed ability groups of around 5-6. Explain that each group is going to form a political party. [5min]

Give each group 2-3 minutes to think about what makes a good politician and decide who their candidate is – offering a reward/prize can serve as an incentive for pupils to come forward.

Allow pupils read the printed party information and ask them to highlight three things that they agree with in one colour and two things that they do not agree with in a different colour. Alternatively they can access the information online in the Voting section of the Y Vote website, making a note of the things that they agree and disagree with in a Word document. [20 mins]

Give each group a large piece of paper and a marker. Ask them to brainstorm issues that they care about. You may ask them to focus on local, national or international issues depending on the type of election. [5 min]

Take feedback from each group creating a brainstorm on the board. Ask them to explain why they care about certain issues. [5 min]

Ask each party to decide on their own policies based on the issues that they have written down and name of their party. They can stand as an existing party which they have read about or create their own. [15 min]

Ask each group to write a manifesto based on their policies. [10 min]

Extension activity: Get pupils to take our 'What Makes A Good Politician?' poll on the Y Vote website.

LESSON 2

RESOURCES: **Ballot papers** with the names of the candidates and parties on them **the template can be found on page 26-29**, a ballot box (a real one could be obtained from the local council, one could be made by pupils in a Technology class or you could just make a simple one out of a cardboard box!).

Explain that each party is going to have time to prepare a short speech explaining why people should vote for them. Each party also needs to design a poster and logo. There will then be time for each party to deliver their speech and present their posters.

Get each party to allocate tasks to certain individuals. One half should focus on designing campaign materials – a logo and a poster. The other half should focus on writing a short speech (around 2 minutes) which explains their manifesto pledges and tells people why they should vote for them. Again, you may wish to allocate jobs yourself if you think that allowing pupils to choose their own roles may be problematic. [25 min]

Allow each party to come to the front of the class, deliver their speech and present their poster and logo. [20 min]

Give out the ballot papers. Explain to the pupils that in this election they are not allowed to vote for their own party – if they are caught doing so their vote will be invalid! If you want to ensure that there is no cheating in this respect you could number the ballot papers in advance so that you know which ones have been allocated to each party.

Tell pupils to place an 'X' next to the candidate that they wish to vote for and place the ballot paper in the ballot box. [5 min]

Count the ballot papers and announce the result! [5 min]
NB/ If there is a tie then a name should be pulled out of a hat to decide the winner – this happens in real elections!

Plenary: Reflect on the election process – is an election like this a good and fair way of deciding who represents us? Will pupils vote when they are old enough? Why? Why not? [5 mins]

Extension activity: Following each speech allow people to question the candidates in a Q&A session.

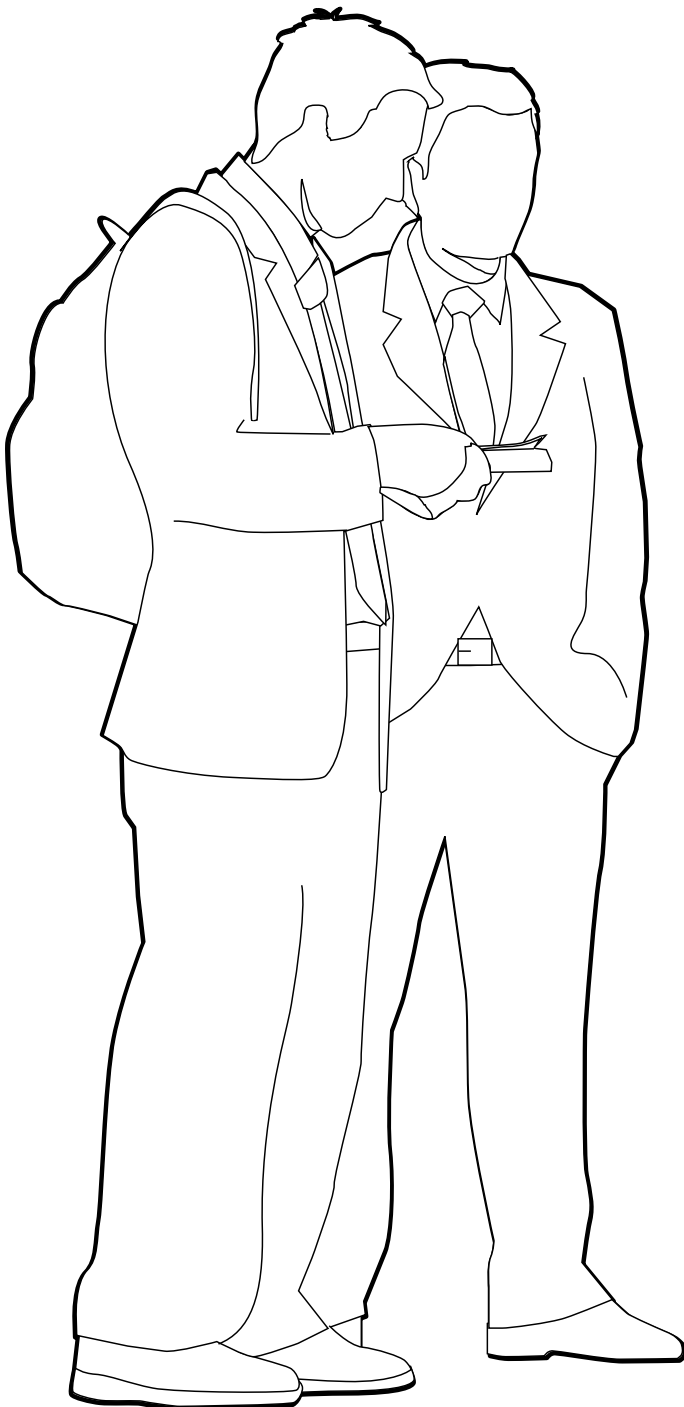
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TEACHERS

04



STANDARD MOCK ELECTION

Running a mock election with several classes

Everything you need to run a standard mock election can be found here in seven manageable steps. You can follow the steps through online if you prefer, downloading and printing templates as you need them.

Many of the campaign materials that are included in this pack are also available to pupils in the 'Run a Campaign' section of the website.

The instructions in this section assume that you are running the election with several classes. Y Vote Mock Elections are a flexible Citizenship activity and you can adapt what we have suggested to suit your own needs. It is for you to decide whether the activities should take place during lessons, in tutor time or at lunchtimes.



STANDARD MOCK ELECTION

Running a mock election with several classes or year groups

STEP 1 – INITIAL PREPARATION

- Decide what kind of mock election you want to run. Y Vote coordinate mock elections and collate results to coincide with real elections and this is often a great way for schools to give a mock election greater relevance and value. Information on all types of elections is provided in the **Voting** section of the website.
- Decide how many pupils are going to be involved in your election – are you going to run it with just one class, a whole year group or the whole school?
- Set out a timetable or calendar for your mock election. If necessary book a room for use on polling day.
- Inform other staff about the election as necessary. Let them know if you expect any of them to devote their tutor time or Citizenship lessons to election activities. Appoint an election officer (this could be yourself).

Extension activities:

1) Tell the local press about your Y Vote Mock Election

Why not issue a press release to let the local press know about your mock election? Newspapers are often very interested in school mock elections and they might even want to come along to speak to pupils and get some photos. See the **Press Release template (p.14)**.

2) Organise a hustings with local politicians! Why not invite local politicians into your school for a hustings event? Hustings can provide students with an opportunity to give politicians a grilling on the issues that really matter to them.

The Hansard Society's 'Elected Representatives in Schools' publications offer advice on how to get politicians into schools and suggest some activities you may run on the day and beforehand. It also gives advice on getting the local media to cover your event. You can request a free copy by **emailing citizenship@hansard.lse.ac.uk**

3) Contact the local offices of political parties - inform them of your Y Vote Mock Election - they can be invaluable in providing leaflets, badges and other campaigning resources for students to use.

4) Find out what other schools are doing – check out the **Y Vote map** on the website to see if there are any schools in your area running a mock election. Also, checking out the **Y Vote stories** section for case studies of what has gone on in other schools might give you some good ideas for activities in your own school.

STEP 2 – PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT & NOMINATIONS

• **Announce the election**, explaining what is involved and the different roles available (election team, candidate, campaign team). An assembly may be the best time to do this, depending on how many classes you have participating.

Offering some sort of reward for all candidates or the winning party is one way to encourage participation – you could arrange a visit to Parliament through your MP, or a visit to your local council offices, so that candidates can present their views to their real representatives.

Alternatively you may wish to allocate roles and have pupils put their campaigns together in lessons if you feel that pupils are unlikely to put themselves forward as candidates.

• Distribute nomination forms (p.20) along with Becoming a Candidate Cue Cards (p.15) to all participating students. This could be done in tutor time or as part of a citizenship lesson. Remind pupils of what the various roles entail and ask them to register their interest as either a candidate or a member of the campaign team or a member of the election team. Candidates need to decide which party to stand for (or create their own) – further information is provided on the cue card and in the 'Run a Campaign' section of the website.

• Create a Y Vote display to raise awareness of the project. Include clear information on how to get involved and any important dates. You can update the display by adding party manifestos and your 'Notice of Poll' at a later date.

Extension activity:

~~Pressure Groups/ Get pupils to explore the role of pressure groups~~ by visiting the **'Run a Campaign'** section of our website and doing research on real pressure groups. Groups of pupils who care about one specific policy or policy area (but do not want to stand for election as a party) could be encouraged to take the role of a pressure group in the election in order to influence party policies.



STANDARD MOCK ELECTION

Running a mock election with several classes or year groups

STEP 3 – SELECTING CANDIDATES & THE ELECTION TEAM

- **Accept candidates** that have been nominated by four other pupils and have submitted the form. Encourage candidates to recruit as many other pupils as possible into their party.

- Designate one member of staff to support each party and help allocated tasks. Parties need to think about what their policies will be and how they will campaign - suggest that they meet up some lunchtimes to plan their campaign strategy. **Use the 'Get Your Party Started' Cue Card (p.15).**

- **Ensure you have a strong Election Team** in order to register voters, distribute polling cards, count votes, etc – this can involve staff as well as pupils.

Organise a meeting with your team to discuss all of the tasks that need doing and allocate jobs as necessary. **Use the 'Election Team Preparation' Cue Card (p.18).**



STEP 4: VOTER REGISTRATION & POLLING PREPARATION

- Stick a **Notice of Poll' (p.23)** in several locations around the school notifying pupils of when the election is to be held, where the polling station will be and who the candidates and parties are.

- We suggest that you complete voter registration at tutor time. Alternatively designate a couple of lunchtimes for members of the Election Team to be in a place where many pupils will be passing (such as near the canteen). If you are to do it at lunchtimes be sure to give an announcement in assembly or at tutor time to inform pupils when and where registration will be taking place. Ensure that pupils know that they must be registered in order to vote – just like in a real election.

NB/ If you do not have sufficient time you may wish to omit the registration part of the mock election, however it is an important part of the electoral process .

- Print out and cut up enough **Polling Cards (p.24)** to hand to the pupils who register (all details other than the name and registration number should be filled out in advance of photocopying).

- Register pupils on the **Voter Registration Form (p.21)**. Each voter should have an individual voter registration number which is recorded on the form and then on their Poll Card (along with their name) which you give to them. If registration takes place at tutor time you can give a couple of forms and a batch of polling cards to each form teacher. Be sure to let them know which registration numbers to allocate to avoid duplication. Form tutors may choose to retain the Poll Cards until polling day so that they do not get lost!

Use the **Registering the Voters' Cue Card (p.18)** to inform the Election Team.

- **Prepare ballot papers (p.26-29)** for Election Day, writing the names and parties of the candidates on the template before photocopying. Remember that the type of ballot paper will depend on which type of election you are running.

- **Brief your Election Team** on what will happen on polling day. Use the **Election Team / Polling Day Cue Card (p.19)**

- Book a room or area for use on polling day. Ensure that you have a suitable ballot box and private polling areas. You may even be able to borrow a real ballot box from your local council, alternatively a cardboard box can be made into one quite easily!



STANDARD MOCK ELECTION

Running a mock election with several classes or year groups

STEP 5 – CANDIDATE CAMPAIGNS

- Get campaign teams to visit the **'Run a Campaign'** section of the website to read about campaigning, policy and political parties. Alternatively give them the **Policy and Campaign Cue Cards (p. 16 & 17)**

Pupils may want to stand for one of the existing parties or if there isn't a party that represents their views they may want to create their own.

They need to decide on their own policies and then **put together a clear manifesto**. Use the template provided (p.32).

- Encourage each campaign team to **canvass** at lunchtimes to get potential voters to vote for them.

- Organise a **hustings** event at lunch time or for an assembly so that the candidates can go head to head and set out their policies. Allow each candidate to give a short speech followed by a Q&A session. Be sure to publicise it well beforehand.

Extension activity:

1) Get each party to **design posters, leaflets and rosettes** to get their manifesto message out to the electorate. Use the **'Poster and Logo' Cue Card (p.16)** and the **'Rosette' template (p.30-31)**.

2) **Additional Campaigning** / Pupils who want to add real impetus to their campaign could be interviewed for the school newspaper, create a campaign video, build a website or create a Facebook group. These activities could open up links with English, Media Studies or IT lessons. See the **'Press Release', 'World Wide Web' and 'Campaign Film' Cue Cards (p.17)**. Alternatively pupils can access the **'Run a Campaign'** section of the website.

Campaign teams may want to visit different classes during tutor time to campaign for votes.

STEP 6: POLLING DAY

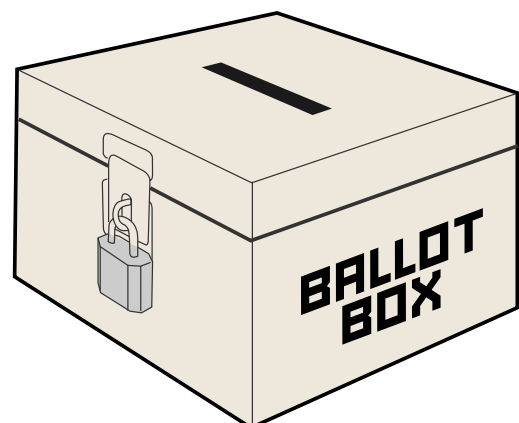
- Polling stations should be set up at an accessible point so that all students are able to find the time to vote. Be sure to allow plenty of time for voting.

- The ballot should be secret so ensure pupils have access to private voting areas and that ballot boxes are secure. Parties should not be allowed to canvass inside the polling station.

- Get voters to give their name so that a member of the Election Team can tick them off on the Voter Registration Forms and hand them a ballot paper.

NB/ In real elections it is not necessary for voters to present their polling card in order to be able to vote – it is for information purposes only. However, in order to avoid voter fraud you may want to consider requesting polling cards (if you feel that the Election Team may struggle to identify all pupils by name).

- Instruct voters on how to cast their vote. This depends on the electoral system for the type of election that you are running. For information on this see **Election Information** in the **Voting** section of the website.





STANDARD MOCK ELECTION

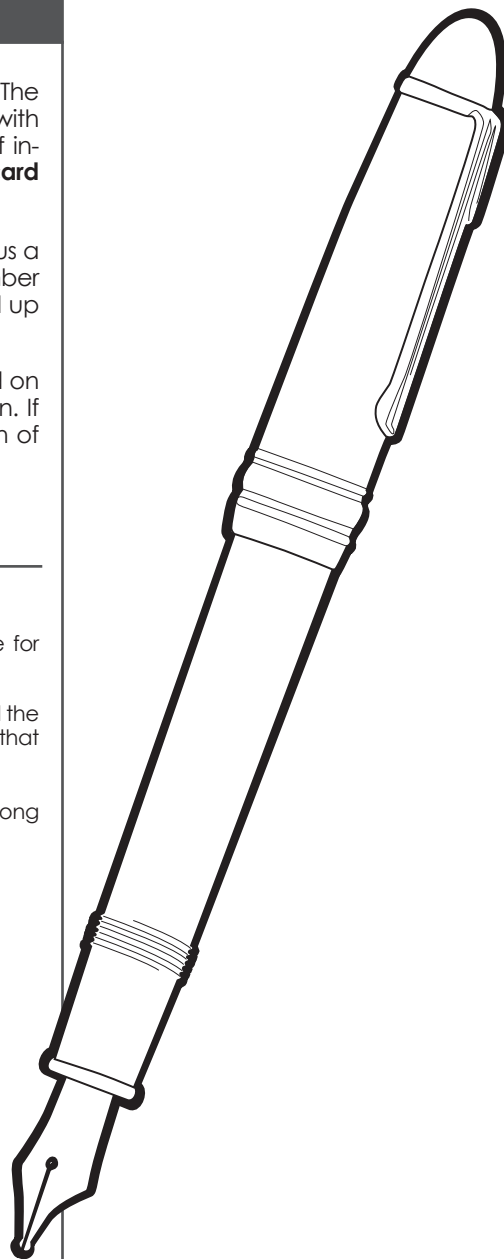
Running a mock election with several classes or year groups

STEP 7: THE RESULT!

- The total number of ballot papers should be counted. The counting clerk should then check the spoiled papers with the election officer in order to agree on the number of invalid slips. Use the **'Polling Day – Election Team' cue card (p.19)** to aid pupils within your Election Team.
- Sort the ballot papers into piles for each candidate (plus a pile for spoiled papers). Then count and record the number of votes for each candidate. Check that the totals add up to the total number as counted earlier.
- The way in which the winner is determined will depend on the type of election and voting system that was chosen. If necessary see Election Information in the Voting section of the website on how to calculate the winner.
- Announce the result in an assembly.

Extension activity:

- 1) Use the **'Certificate' template (p.34)** to create a certificate for the winner.
- 2) Get pupils to write a short article about the election and send the best one (along with any photos or video footage) to Y Vote so that we can host it on our website.
- 3) Tell the Local Press! - Send a press release to the local press along with photographs.



DON'T FORGET TO SUBMIT YOUR RESULTS AFTERWARDS ON THE Y VOTE WEBSITE!

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TEACHERS

09



SUPER MOCK ELECTION

Includes many suggested extension activities for those with plenty of time and support from other staff

Everything you need to run a super mock election can be found here in seven manageable steps. You can follow the steps through online if you prefer, downloading and printing templates as you need them.

Many of the campaign materials that can be downloaded here are also available to pupils in the 'Run a Campaign' section of the website.

Remember that Y Vote Mock Elections are flexible and you can adapt what we have suggested to suit your own needs. Some activities need to be run at lunchtimes with certain pupils but others may take place during citizenship lessons or tutor time.



SUPER MOCK ELECTION

Includes many suggested extension activities for those with plenty of time and support from other staff

STEP 1 – INITIAL PREPARATION

- Decide what kind of mock election you want to run – a General Election? Local Election? European Election?

Y Vote coordinate mock elections and collate results to coincide with real elections and this is often a great way for schools to give a mock election greater relevance and value. Information on all types of elections is provided in the **Election Information** section.

- Decide how many pupils are going to be involved in your election – a whole year group? The whole school?
- Set out a **timetable** or calendar for your mock election. Organise an assembly to announce that the election is taking place and book a room for use on polling day.
- Get your senior management team on board and brief all staff about the election in a staff meeting. Let them know if you expect them to devote their tutor time or citizenship lessons to election activities. Recruit other staff members to support you. Appoint an election officer (this could be you).

Extension activity:

1) Tell the local press about your Y Vote Mock Election

Why not issue a press release to let the local press know about your mock election? Newspapers are often very interested school mock elections and they might even want to come along to speak to pupils and get some photos. See the **Press Release template (p.14)**

2) Organise a Hustings with Local Politicians! Why not invite local politicians into your school for a hustings event? Hustings can provide students with an opportunity to give politicians a grilling on the issues that really matter to them. The Hansard Society's 'Elected Representatives in Schools' packs offer advice on how to get politicians into schools and suggest some activities you may run on the day and beforehand. There is also advice on getting the local media to cover your event. You can request a free copy by emailing citizenship@hansard.lse.ac.uk

3) Contact the local offices of political parties - inform them of your Y Vote Mock Election - they can be invaluable in providing leaflets, badges and other campaigning resources for students to use.

4) Find out what other schools are doing – check out the Y Vote map on the website to see if there are any schools in your area running a mock election. Checking out our Y Vote stories section for case studies of what has gone on in other schools might also give you some good ideas for activities in your own school.

STEP 2 – PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT & NOMINATIONS

- Announce the election in an assembly, explaining what is involved and the different roles available (election team, candidate, campaign team).

Encourage pupils to take part. Offering some sort of reward for all candidates or the winning party is one way to encourage participation – you may be able to arrange a visit to Parliament or your local council offices so that candidates can present their views to their real representatives.

- **Distribute nomination forms (p.20)** along with **Becoming a Candidate cue cards (p.15)** to students from all participating year groups. This could be done in tutor time or as part of a citizenship lesson. Remind pupils of what the various roles entail and ask them to register their interest as either a candidate, a member of the campaign team or a member of the election team. Candidates need to decide which party to stand for (or create their own) – further information is provided on the cue card and in the 'Run a Campaign' section of the website.

- **Create a Y Vote display** to raise awareness of the project. Include clear information on how to get involved and any important dates. You can update the display by adding party manifestos and your 'Notice of Poll' at a later date.

Extension activity:

1) **Y Vote Jobs** / Encourage pupils to visit the '**Run a Campaign**' section of the website to find out about the different jobs that make up a campaign team. Each party in your election needs to think about who is going to perform the tasks mentioned for their campaign.

2) **Pressure Groups** / Get pupils to explore the role of pressure groups by visiting our '**Running a Campaign**' section and doing research on real pressure groups. Groups of pupils who care about one specific policy or policy area (but do not want to stand for election as a party) could be encouraged to take the role of a pressure group in the election in order to influence party policies. Use the '**Pressure Group Cue Card (p.18)**' to assist them.

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11



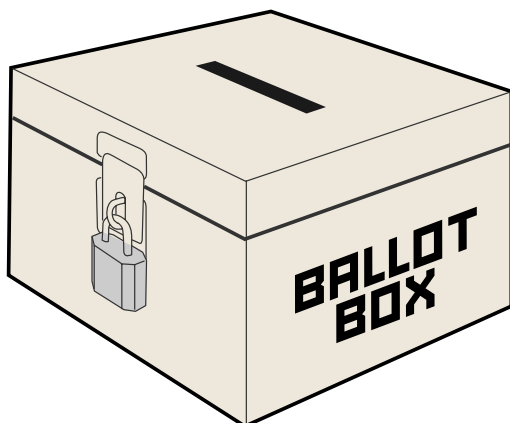
SUPER MOCK ELECTION

Includes many suggested extension activities for those with plenty of time and support from other staff

STEP 3 – SELECTING CANDIDATES & THE ELECTION TEAM

- Accept candidates that have been nominated by four other pupils and have submitted the form. Encourage candidates to recruit as many other pupils as possible into their party.
- Designate one member of staff to support each party and help allocate tasks. Parties need to think about what their policies will be and how they will campaign - suggest that they meet up some lunchtimes to plan their campaign strategy. Use the '**Get Your Party Started**' Cue Card (p.15).
- **Ensure you have a strong Election Team** in order to register voters, distribute polling cards, count votes, etc – this can involve staff as well as pupils.

Organise a meeting with your team to discuss all of the tasks that need doing and allocate jobs as necessary: Hand out the '**Election Team Preparation**' cue card (p.14).



STEP 4: VOTER REGISTRATION & POLLING PREPARATION

- Stick a '**Notice of Poll**' (p.23) in several locations around the school notifying pupils of when the election is to be held, where the polling station will be and who the candidates and parties are.
- We suggest that you complete **voter registration** at tutor time. Alternatively designate a couple of lunchtimes for members of the Election Team to be in a place where many pupils will be passing (such as near the canteen). If you are to do it at lunchtimes be sure to give an announcement in assembly or at tutor time to inform pupils when and where registration will be taking place. Ensure that pupils know that they must be registered in order to vote – just like in a real election.
- Print out and cut up enough **polling cards** (p.24) to hand to the pupils who register (all details other than the name and registration number should be filled out in advance of photocopying).
- **Register pupils** on the **Voter Registration Form** (p.21). Each voter should have an individual voter registration number which is recorded on the form and then on their Poll Card (along with their name) which you give to them. If registration takes place at tutor time you can give a couple of forms and a batch of polling cards to each form teacher. Be sure to let them know which registration numbers to allocate to avoid duplication. Form tutors may choose to retain the Poll Cards until polling day so that they do not get lost! Use the '**Registering the Voters**' Cue Card (p.18) to inform the Election Team.
- Prepare **ballot papers** (p. 26 to 29) for Election Day writing the names and parties of the candidates on the template before photocopying. Remember that the type of ballot paper will depend on which type of election you are running.
- Brief your Election Team on what will happen on polling day. Use the '**Election Team – Polling Day**' cue card (p.19).
- Book a room or area for use on polling day. Ensure that you have a suitable ballot box and private polling areas. You may even be able to borrow a real ballot box from your local council, alternatively a cardboard box can be made into one quite easily!

Extension activity:

Postal Votes / Get your Election Team to coordinate postal votes for any pupils that will be away on polling day (e.g. on a family holiday or school trip). Use the **Registering the Voters Cue Card** (p.18) and the **Postal Vote Application template** (p.22).



SUPER MOCK ELECTION

Includes many suggested extension activities for those with plenty of time and support from other staff

STEP 5: CANDIDATE CAMPAIGNS

- Get campaign teams to visit the '**Run a Campaign**' section of the website to read about campaigning and **policy**. Alternatively give them the information in paper version by copying the 'Policy' and '**Campaign**' Cue Cards (p.16). They should find out about the policies of real political parties and decide whether they want to stand for a real party or create their own.

They need to decide on their own policies and then **put together a clear manifesto**. Use the template provided (p.32).

- Get each party to **design posters, leaflets and rosettes** to get their manifesto message out to the electorate. Use the '**Poster and Logo**' Cue Card (p.16) and the '**Rosette**' template (p.30-31).

- Encourage each campaign team to canvass at lunch-times to get potential voters to vote for them.

- Organise a **hustings** event at lunch time so that the candidates can go head to head. Allow each candidate to give a short speech followed by a Q&A session. Be sure to publicise it well beforehand.

Extension activity:

1) **Contacting real political parties** / Where pupils are standing for real political parties why not get them to contact the local party headquarters for information and resources such as campaign materials?

2) **Additional Campaigning** / Pupils who want to add real impetus to their campaign could be interviewed for the school newspaper, create a campaign video, build a website or create a Facebook group. These activities could open up links with English, Media Studies or IT lessons. See the '**Press Release**', '**World Wide Web**' and '**Campaign Film**' Cue Cards (p.16). Alternatively pupils can access the 'Run a Campaign' section of the website.

Campaign teams may want to visit different classes during tutor time to campaign for votes.

3) Get pupils to conduct an opinion poll to find out what voters are thinking and what issues matter to them most. This could be tied into a Maths lesson where the results could be analysed and repre-

STEP 6: POLLING DAY

- Polling stations should be set up at an accessible point so that all students are able to find the time to vote. Be sure to allow plenty of time for voting.

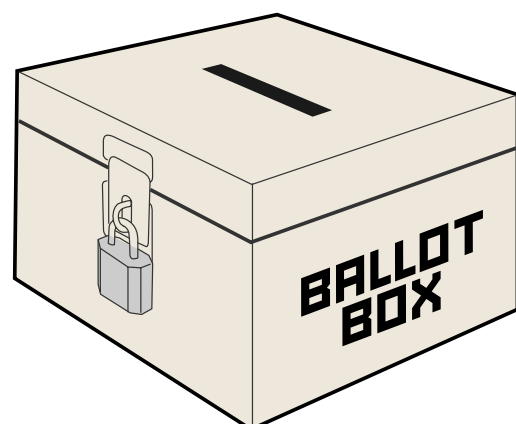
- The ballot should be secret so ensure pupils have access to private voting areas and that ballot boxes are secure.

- Parties should not be allowed to canvass inside the polling station.

- Get voters to give their name so that a member of the Election Team can tick them off on the Voter Registration Forms and hand them a ballot paper.

NB/ In real elections it is not necessary for voters to present their polling card in order to be able to vote – it is for information purposes only. However, in order to avoid voter fraud you may want to consider requesting polling cards (if you feel that the Election Team may struggle to identify all pupils by name).

- Instruct voters on how to cast their vote. This depends on the electoral system for the type of election that you are running. For information see **Election Information** in the **Voting** section of the website.





SUPER MOCK ELECTION

Includes many suggested extension activities for those with plenty of time and support from other staff

STEP 7: THE RESULT!

- The total number of ballot papers should be counted. The counting clerk should then check the spoiled papers with the election officer in order to agree on the number of invalid slips. Use the **'Polling Day – Election Team' Cue Card (p.19)** to aid pupils within your Election Team.
- Sort the ballot papers into piles for each candidate (plus a pile for spoiled papers). Then count and record the number of votes for each candidate. Check that the totals add up to the total number as counted earlier.
- The way in which the winner is determined will depend on the type of election and voting system that was chosen. See **Election Information** in the **Voting section** of the website.
- Use the **'certificate' template (p.34)** to create a certificate for the winner, copying it onto card and filling it in.
- Announce the result in an assembly and give the certificate to the winner.

DON'T FORGET TO SUBMIT YOUR RESULTS ON THE Y VOTE WEBSITE SO THAT YOUR SCHOOL IS INCLUDED IN OUR NATIONAL RESULTS!

- Teach the follow up lesson found in the teacher's section of the website to allow pupils to reflect on the experience and assess what has been learnt.

Extension activity:

1) Get pupils to **write a short article** about the election and send the best one (along with any photos or video footage) to **citizenship@hansard.lse.ac.uk** so that we can host it on the website.

2) **Tell the Press!** / Send a press release to the local press along with any photographs.

3) Why not **arrange a visit to Parliament** for the candidates where they can present their ideas to their MP? You can do this by contacting your MP / **www.writetothem.com** is a good starting point.

If getting to London seems like a pain you could always invite your MP into school. For advice on how to do this and ideas for activities you can order the Hansard Society's 'MPs in Schools' pack for free by emailing **citizenship@hansard.lse.ac.uk**. We have similar packs for MEPs, AMs, MSPs and other elected representatives.

If you have run a local election a visit to local government offices might be possible - contact a local councillor.

4) Contact the Y Vote Project Manager at **citizenship@hansard.lse.ac.uk** to take part in the **pupil evaluation** and the **teacher evaluation** to help us improve our resources in the future.



NEWS RELEASE

This template can be used as a guide for writing your own pre-election press release. An electronic version of the document can be accessed online in the teachers' section of the website.'

[insert date of issue of release]

Students at _____ in _____ will be experiencing democracy first hand when they participate in their own version of an election.

This year, a number of elections will be happening including local elections across England. Pupils will mirror the real elections by voting for student representatives _____ (date). The programme aims to actively engage students with the electoral process and show how politics affects their everyday lives.

The school's mock election campaign trail begins on _____ (date) with pupils busy _____ (activities students).

Student candidates standing in the mock election are _____ (names).

Results will be counted by _____ (name) and announced on _____ (date).

_____ (teacher's name) **said:** _____

Some points to consider might be that mock elections:

Raise awareness of citizenship and the benefits of active, participatory democracy / Engage young people by mirroring the excitement and buzz of a real election / Help address the trend of voter disengagement amongst young people / Help students gain an understanding of how the democratic process works.

_____ (student's name) **said:** _____

Some points to consider might be that mock elections:

Are fun and interesting / Bring politics to life / Help students understand how elections and the political process work / Make students feel like they are playing a part in something important

/ends

At the end of the press release, include a reference point and contact details so that journalists can contact you. They may want to:

- See what mock elections activities students are taking part in
- Interview or film students and teachers
- Interview or film at the school on Election Day or at the count

e.g. For further information contact:

(insert name of contact person) on (insert telephone number) or email (insert email address).

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CUE CARDS are designed as a step by step guide for to students to follow in organising their election.

BECOMING A CANDIDATE

Anyone can stand as a candidate, as long as four other people nominate* you. Candidates need to choose which political party to stand for. Check out the Run a Campaign section at www.mockelections.co.uk for info on all the political parties.

Your own party? If you don't think you fit into any of them, why not start your own party? Once you've picked your party, you need to get together a campaign team to help you through the elections. Your campaign team are really important because they will help you to...

- Decide on your party's policies** & aims.
- Get your campaign moving & encourage other students to vote for you.

Sign up! If you want to be a party candidate, fill in the form and give it the election coordinator teacher by the deadline! If more than one person wants to be the candidate, it will be up to the party members to decide who represents them.

- * **Nominate:** to suggest or propose a candidate.
- ** **Policies:** a plan of action for your party.

GET YOUR PARTY STARTED

Jobs: A candidate is only as good as their party, so make sure you have a great team. There are lots of jobs to be done within the party from designers to policy makers. It's important that everyone knows exactly what their job is, so draw up a table like this one and write it all down:

NAME	JOB TITLE	TASKS	DEADLINE

Use the Y Vote Jobs card to help you fill in the table.

Get Elected!: Once you've got your team you can start winning votes. There are two main things which convince people to vote for a party:

- Policies are your action plan, the things you would do if you were elected.
- The campaign is the activities you run to make sure voters hear about your policies. Campaigns involve things like speeches and posters and convince voters that you have the best ideas.

Use the Campaign and Policy cards to help you start winning votes!

Y VOTE JOBS

Candidate:	A person who stands for election to Parliament. A candidate can be nominated by a political party or stand as an independent.
Canvasser:	A party member who has the job of influencing people's voting decisions.
Designers:	People in charge of making posters and leaflets.
Electorate:	A group of people eligible to vote.
Policy Makers:	People who write the manifestos.
Political Party Members:	Members of a party who help to run the election campaign.
Press Officer:	A person who releases information about the party to journalists
Pressure Groups:	Organisations that campaign to influence political parties to support their point of view.
Speech Writers:	People who help politicians to write speeches for when they address the public.
Spin Doctor:	A party member who puts a specific angle on an issue.

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CUE CARDS are designed as a step by step guide for to students to follow in organising their election.

POLICY

Who do you think you are? Your policies (the things you would do) tell voters what your party is all about.

You need to have strong policies so that people know what your party believes in. If people believe in the same things and like your policies, they will probably vote for you!

- Most parties have a policy on education, environment, health, money and law and order.
- You can have some fun policies, but the sensible ones give your party a serious and professional image.
- Check out www.mockelections.co.uk to see what policies real parties have.

Manifesto

Parties usually have very long detailed policies. So, at election time they make a short Manifesto which tells people their main promises in a simple way.

- Use the Make Your Own Manifesto template to write your own. Keep it simple!
- Make colourful copies of your manifesto to hand out to voters around school.

Use the Policy Cue Cards to help you with your activities!

CAMPAIGN

Write a checklist of things that you will do as part of your campaign. Here are a few ideas for campaign activities:

- Design a logo. You can use the party logos available at www.mockelections.co.uk as a guide or come up with something new.
 - Use the Rosette Template to make rosettes and get as many people as possible wearing them.
 - Design eye catching posters & leaflets to display & give out around school.
 - If your school is holding a hustings event be sure to prepare a speech setting out exactly why people should vote for you
 - Get yourself into the local newspaper, school newsletter or radio station.
- Check out the Run a Campaign section of the Y Vote website for advice – www.mockelections.co.uk'.

PRESS RELEASE

Read all about it! What better way to get your message out there than getting yourself into the school paper. If you don't have one, get your election coordinator teacher to organise one for the election.

To get into the papers you need to write something called a press release. A press release gives journalists lots of exciting information that makes them want to write about you. Here are some tips...

- What is it about: a person, a party, an event?
- Why is the story important? Why would readers be interested?
- Include times, dates, facts & figures.

Top Tip: Keep it simple! The best press releases are short and sweet. Write no more than one side of A4 & remember to check your spelling.

POSTER AND LOGO

An eye catching poster and a bold logo are great ways to let people know about your party.

- Design a logo that is easily recognised and somehow shows what your party is about. Think of what you like and dislike about other logos.
- If you are part of a party that already exists, you could use or adapt their logo.
- Create posters with colours and images that will attract voters.
- Think about what issues your voters care about.
- How can you make your posters stand out from other people's?
- What should be bigger: the name of the candidate or the name of the party?

Top Tip: Make sure people get the message! Keep the poster bold and punchy; if there is too much information, voters will miss the point.

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CAMPAIGN FILM

Political parties make campaign films called Party Election Broadcasts. Parties normally show theirs on TV, but you could ask your teacher if you could show yours in a lesson or special election assembly.

Top Tips for your Campaign Film:

- **Plan:** A good film needs a good plan. So draw up a mind-map of all your ideas, decide what your message is and make a plan!

- **Script:** Keep your script short and simple. Make sure voters hear the most important messages. Remember to include your party slogans!

- **Storyboard:** This is a special plan used for films. It should tell you what will happen in every shot of the film. You could draw pictures or just write down what will happen. Come up with an exciting start and a memorable finish!

- **Filming:** Pick an interesting place to film and change camera angles to make it more exciting. Remember to stick to your storyboard!

WORLD WIDE WEB

The internet is really important in politics these days, especially when it comes to young people. So, grab voter attention on the world wide web.

- Social networking sites are extremely popular these days with young people and politicians alike. Why not start a group to publicise your campaign?

- Alternatively, why not create your own website or blog? Websites can be used for publicity, information and communication.

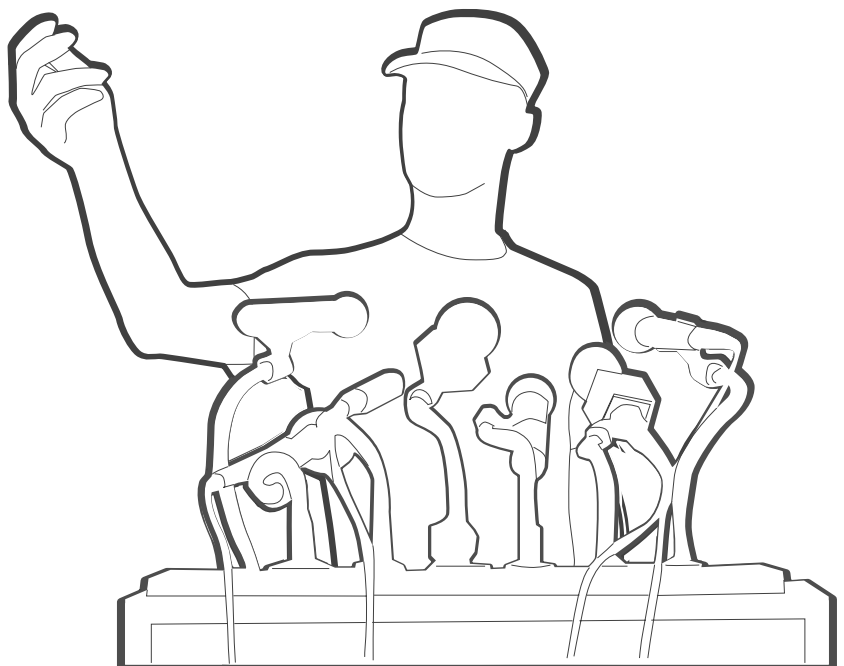
Websites / www.moonfruit.com

Blogs / www.wordpress.com

Sketch out your ideas before you start building the website. What do you want voters to see?

Think about putting things like your manifesto, events and party information on the site. Use your logo and party colours to brighten it up.

Top Tip: Remember, websites are great because you can keep updating them. See what the hot topics are and show voters that your party has its finger on the pulse!



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CUE CARDS are designed as a step by step guide for to students to follow in organising their election.

PRESSURE GROUPS

Get heard! Even if you do not join a political party, you can still have an effect on what political parties do. So, how?

- A group of people who care about the same issue can get together and make a pressure group.
- Pressure groups try to get political parties to support their ideas. They do this by running a campaign about one issue or a few related issues.

Here are two examples of real pressure groups:

//**Greenpeace:** Concerned with a wide range of environmental issues including global warming and genetic engineering.

www.greenpeace.org

//**Liberty:** Concerned with protecting human rights and civil liberties and issues such as young people and asylum.

www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk

Top Tip: Why not decide on what you are interested in and then see what existing pressure groups are doing to change things to get some ideas.

ELECTION TEAM PREPARATION

Ready, set... Without an election team, there's no election. The election team needs to get organised as soon as polling day is announced. They could be responsible for:

- Registering voters
- Organising postal votes
- Getting poll cards and ballot papers ready
- Preparing polling stations and ballot boxes
- Counting the votes

Jobs: There are lots of jobs to be done within the election team from stewards to journalists. It's important that everyone knows exactly what their job is, so draw up a table like this one and write it all down:

NAME	JOB TITLE	TASKS	DEADLINE

Use the Y Vote Jobs card to help you fill in the table.

REGISTERING THE VOTERS

Sign up! Every student in the school has the right to vote. If they want to vote, students must be on the electoral register*.

- Every form needs to be given a Voter Registration Form for students to sign up to vote. Your election coordinator teacher might ask you to get the forms ready.

Y Vote? Voting is not compulsory, so be ready to answer this question! Remind them that every vote counts towards electing the best party.

Postal Vote

Your election coordinator teacher might ask you to register students who know they are going to be absent on Election Day so that they can vote by post. Students must fill in a Postal Vote Application and return it to the right person by the deadline

* **Electoral Register:** a register with the names of everybody who has signed up to vote in an election.





POLLING DAY

Election team

CUE CARDS are designed as a step by step guide for to students to follow in organising their election.

BASICS

Running like clockwork? Once the voters have been registered, make sure that everything is ready for election day.

- **Poll Card:** On election day, every voter is given a Poll Card which has voting instructions on the back. They should fill it in and give it to the election team. In exchange give them a Ballot Paper.
- **Polling Stations:** Students should be able to vote privately at a polling station. On election day, the election team needs to make sure crowds are under control and polling stations are kept tidy.
- **Ballot Paper:** This paper shows the names of all candidates & parties and people use it to vote. The election team might need to help get these ready. The election team should number each Ballot Paper to help make sure that people only vote once.
- **Ballot Box:** After voting, they should put their ballot paper into a sealed box called a ballot box.

Y VOTE JOBS

Counting Clerks:	people who count up the ballot papers after the polling stations have closed.
Election Coordinator:	a person who oversees the whole election process.
Polling Clerks:	people who organise and run polling day.
Returning Officer:	assists the Election Coordinator in overseeing the counting of the ballot.
Stewards:	to control the crowds on polling day.

RESULTS

Get counting! Before you can announce the results, votes must be counted. Here are some tips on how to do it:

- Count up the total number of ballot papers.
- Sort the ballot papers into piles for each candidate, with one pile for spoiled ballot papers.
- Agree the number of spoiled ballot papers with the election coordinator teacher & counting clerk.
- Count the votes for each candidate and write them down. The total for all the candidates together should be the same as the total number of votes.
- Calculate who your winner is. How you decide depends on the election system you are using. Check out the Election Info section on www.mockelections.co.uk.

WHO WINS?

The returning officer makes a speech to announce the results:

"I, the returning officer for **(school name)**, announce that the total number of votes cast for each candidate are as follows **(total votes for each candidate in alphabetical order)**. I declare that **(candidate name)** has been elected as the Y Vote member for **(school name)**."

Now, remind your election coordinator teacher to register your school's results at www.mockelections.co.uk so that your results count in the Y Vote national result!

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NOTE FOR TEACHERS: Fill in name of Election Coordinator & closing dates before photocopying. Cut along the dotted line before distributing to students.

CANDIDATE NOMINATION FORM

Templates

- To stand as a candidate for the election, four people must nominate you and sign this form.
- Make sure you give this form to the Election Coordinator teacher by the closing date.
- You can stand as a candidate for a political party or you can be independent.
- Once you hand in this form, you have made a commitment to represent your party in this election.
- If you have any questions or don't understand the election rules, ask your Election Coordinator teacher.

NAME OF ELECTION COORDINATOR

CLOSING DATE FOR NOMINATIONS

I wish to stand as a candidate:

FULL NAME

THE PARTY I WISH TO STAND FOR

SIGNED

DATE

I have been nominated by:

1 Nominee

FULL NAME

SIGNED

2 Nominee

FULL NAME

SIGNED

3 Nominee

FULL NAME

SIGNED

4 Nominee

FULL NAME

SIGNED

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NOTE FOR TEACHERS: Fill in the return date before photocopying. This template is to be photocopied and cut along the dotted line before use.

POSTAL VOTE APPLICATION

Templates



POSTAL VOTE APPLICATION

This is your official Application for a Postal Vote. Use this form if you will be absent from school on polling day.

Your name

Registration number

Form/Tutor group

Reason for absence

Return to Election Coordinator by

I confirm my reason for being absent is genuine.

Signature

Date



POSTAL VOTE APPLICATION

This is your official Application for a Postal Vote. Use this form if you will be absent from school on polling day.

Your name

Registration number

Form/Tutor group

Reason for absence

Return to Election Coordinator by

I confirm my reason for being absent is genuine.

Signature

Date



POSTAL VOTE APPLICATION

This is your official Application for a Postal Vote. Use this form if you will be absent from school on polling day.

Your name

Registration number

Form/Tutor group

Reason for absence

Return to Election Coordinator by

I confirm my reason for being absent is genuine.

Signature

Date



POSTAL VOTE APPLICATION

This is your official Application for a Postal Vote. Use this form if you will be absent from school on polling day.

Your name

Registration number

Form/Tutor group

Reason for absence

Return to Election Coordinator by

I confirm my reason for being absent is genuine.

Signature

Date

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NOTE FOR TEACHERS: Fill in this form and display around school. This template is to be photocopied and cut along the dotted line before use.

NOTICE OF POLL

Templates

.....
Date of Election

.....
to
.....
Time of Polling

.....
Location of Polling Stations

CANDIDATES

Name	Party

DO NOT REMOVE – ISSUED BY THE ELECTION COORDINATOR.

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NOTE FOR TEACHERS: Fill in School/college name, polling station, polling day & polling hours before photocopying both sides. This template is to be photocopied and cut along the dotted line before use.

POLL CARD

Templates



POLL CARD

Please read the reverse of this card carefully to find out how to make your vote count.

Your name

Registration number

School / College

Your polling station is

Polling day

Polling hours

----- to -----



POLL CARD

Please read the reverse of this card carefully to find out how to make your vote count.

Your name

Registration number

School / College

Your polling station is

Polling day

Polling hours

----- to -----



POLL CARD

Please read the reverse of this card carefully to find out how to make your vote count.

Your name

Registration number

School / College

Your polling station is

Polling day

Polling hours

----- to -----



POLL CARD

Please read the reverse of this card carefully to find out how to make your vote count.

Your name

Registration number

School / College

Your polling station is

Polling day

Polling hours

----- to -----



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NOTE FOR TEACHERS: This is the reverse side of the Poll Card. This template is to be photocopied and cut along the dotted line before use.

POLL CARD (REVERSE SIDE)

Templates

CONGRATULATIONS ON REGISTERING YOUR VOTE

- 1 Fill out the front of this card and take it to the Counting Clerks on polling day.
- 2 The Election Officer will give you an officially stamped ballot paper.
- 3 Go to the polling booth.
- 4 Follow the instructions on the ballot paper and cast your vote.
- 5 Fold the ballot paper in two, put it in the ballot box.
- 6 If you make a mistake, show the Election Officer the spoiled ballot paper, and get another one.
- 7 Remember that you do not have to tell anybody who you voted for!

CONGRATULATIONS ON REGISTERING YOUR VOTE

- 1 Fill out the front of this card and take it to the Counting Clerks on polling day.
- 2 The Election Officer will give you an officially stamped ballot paper.
- 3 Go to the polling booth.
- 4 Follow the instructions on the ballot paper and cast your vote.
- 5 Fold the ballot paper in two, put it in the ballot box.
- 6 If you make a mistake, show the Election Officer the spoiled ballot paper, and get another one.
- 7 Remember that you do not have to tell anybody who you voted for!

CONGRATULATIONS ON REGISTERING YOUR VOTE

- 1 Fill out the front of this card and take it to the Counting Clerks on polling day.
- 2 The Election Officer will give you an officially stamped ballot paper.
- 3 Go to the polling booth.
- 4 Follow the instructions on the ballot paper and cast your vote.
- 5 Fold the ballot paper in two, put it in the ballot box.
- 6 If you make a mistake, show the Election Officer the spoiled ballot paper, and get another one.
- 7 Remember that you do not have to tell anybody who you voted for!

CONGRATULATIONS ON REGISTERING YOUR VOTE

- 1 Fill out the front of this card and take it to the Counting Clerks on polling day.
- 2 The Election Officer will give you an officially stamped ballot paper.
- 3 Go to the polling booth.
- 4 Follow the instructions on the ballot paper and cast your vote.
- 5 Fold the ballot paper in two, put it in the ballot box.
- 6 If you make a mistake, show the Election Officer the spoiled ballot paper, and get another one.
- 7 Remember that you do not have to tell anybody who you voted for!



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NOTE FOR TEACHERS: Candidate's surname followed by first name should be printed above the party name. Logos should go in the left hand box and ballot papers should be numbered and officially stamped. For information on voting systems and election types, see www.mockelections.co.uk.

This template is to be filled in, photocopied and cut along the dotted line before use.

BALLOT PAPERS (FIRST - PAST - THE - POST)

Templates

BALLOT PAPER

Vote for One Candidate Only.

Mark a cross (X) in the right hand box next to the name of the candidate you wish to vote for.

BALLOT PAPER

Vote for One Candidate Only.

Mark a cross (X) in the right hand box next to the name of the candidate you wish to vote for.

BALLOT PAPER

Vote for One Candidate Only.

Mark a cross (X) in the right hand box next to the name of the candidate you wish to vote for.

BALLOT PAPER

Vote for One Candidate Only.

Mark a cross (X) in the right hand box next to the name of the candidate you wish to vote for.



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NOTE FOR TEACHERS: Fill out the referendum question before photocopying. Ballot papers should be numbered and officially stamped. For information on voting systems and election types, see www.mockelections.co.uk.
This template is to be filled in, photocopied and cut along the dotted line before use.

BALLOT PAPERS (REFERENDUM)

Templates

Referendum on

BALLOT PAPER

Question

YES NO

Vote (X) for one option only

Referendum on

BALLOT PAPER

Question

YES NO

Vote (X) for one option only

Referendum on

BALLOT PAPER

Question

YES NO

Vote (X) for one option only

Referendum on

BALLOT PAPER

Question

YES NO

Vote (X) for one option only



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NOTE FOR TEACHERS: Candidate's surname followed by first name should be printed above the party name. Voters should mark their preferences in the right hand box. Logos should go in the left hand box and ballot papers should be numbered and officially stamped. For information on voting systems and election types, see www.mockelections.co.uk.

This template is to be filled in, photocopied and cut along the dotted line before use.

BALLOT PAPERS (REFERENDUM)

Templates

Referendum on

BALLOT PAPER

Question

YES NO

Vote (X) for one option only

Referendum on

BALLOT PAPER

Question

YES NO

Vote (X) for one option only

Referendum on

BALLOT PAPER

Question

YES NO

Vote (X) for one option only

Referendum on

BALLOT PAPER

Question

YES NO

Vote (X) for one option only



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NOTE FOR TEACHERS: This ballot paper can be used for European Elections (Closed List) and also for Additional Member Elections (in conjunction with the First-past –the post ballot paper).. The party logo should go in the left hand box and the name of the party in the middle box. Ballot papers should be numbered and officially stamped. For information on voting systems and election types, see www.mockelections.co.uk.

This template is to be filled in, photocopied and cut along the dotted line before use.

BALLOT PAPERS (ADDITIONAL MEMBER SYSTEM / EUROPEAN ELECTIONS (EXCL. N IRELAND))

Templates

BALLOT PAPER

Vote for One Candidate Only. Mark a cross (X) in the right hand box next to the name of the candidate you wish to vote for.

LOGO	PARTY NAME	VOTE X

BALLOT PAPER

Vote for One Candidate Only. Mark a cross (X) in the right hand box next to the name of the candidate you wish to vote for.

LOGO	PARTY NAME	VOTE X

BALLOT PAPER

Vote for One Candidate Only. Mark a cross (X) in the right hand box next to the name of the candidate you wish to vote for.

LOGO	PARTY NAME	VOTE X

BALLOT PAPER

Vote for One Candidate Only. Mark a cross (X) in the right hand box next to the name of the candidate you wish to vote for.

LOGO	PARTY NAME	VOTE X





MAKE YOUR OWN ROSETTE

Templates

What better way to promote your party and candidate than to wear a rosette in your party colours?

To make a rosette you will need:



•Scissors



•Glue



•Paint/coloured pens/coloured sugar paper



•A safety pin

1

Cover the small shapes with sugar paper/paint/pens the colour of your party.

2

Colour the small circle the same colour and put the party logo, party name and the name of the candidate on there.

3

Colour the long thin shapes the same colour or cut a piece of brightly coloured fabric to the same size.

4

Cut out all the shapes.

5

Glue the small end of the small shapes to the outside edge of the big circle.

6

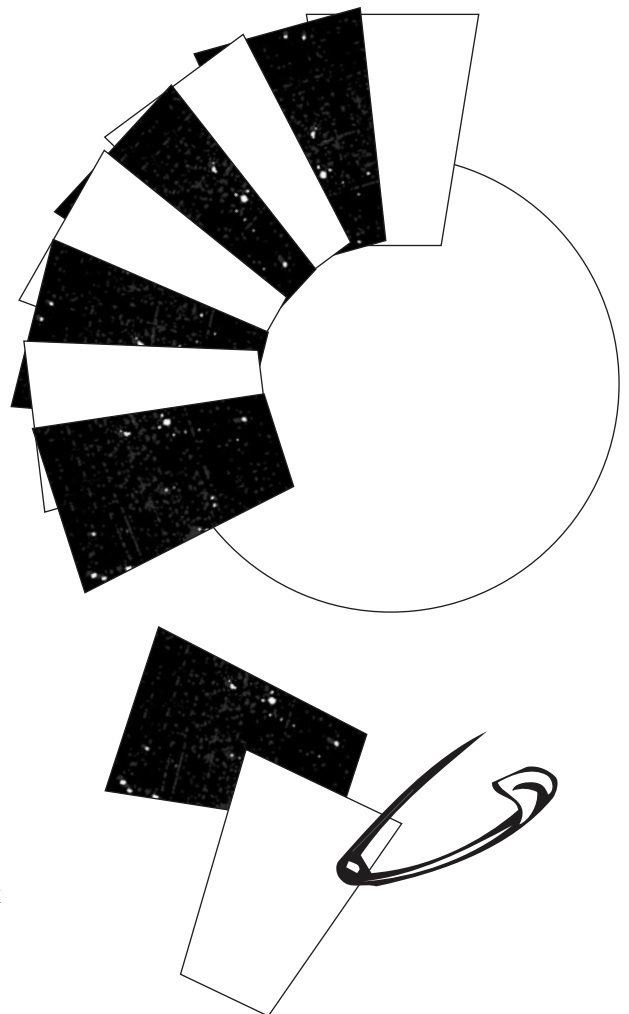
Glue the two long shapes/coloured fabric to the back of the big circle.

7

Stick the small circle in the middle of the big circle over the glued ends of the shapes.

8

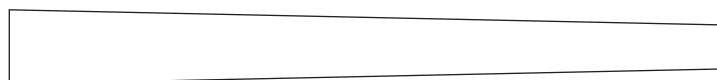
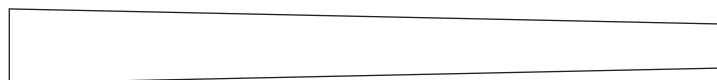
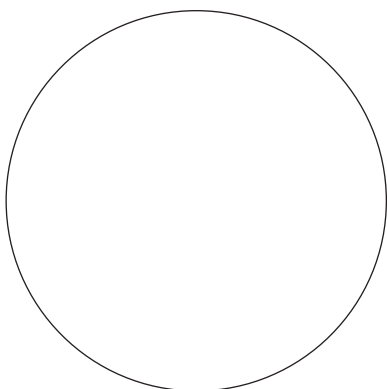
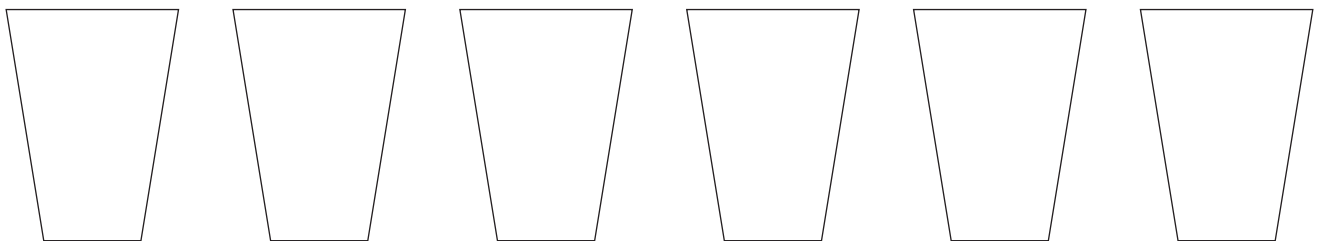
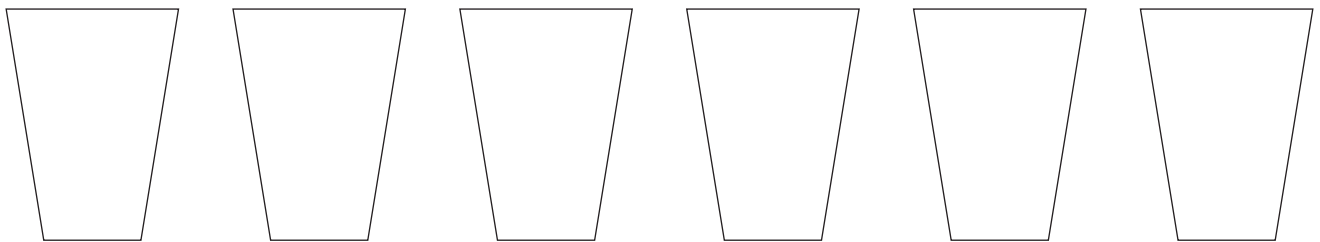
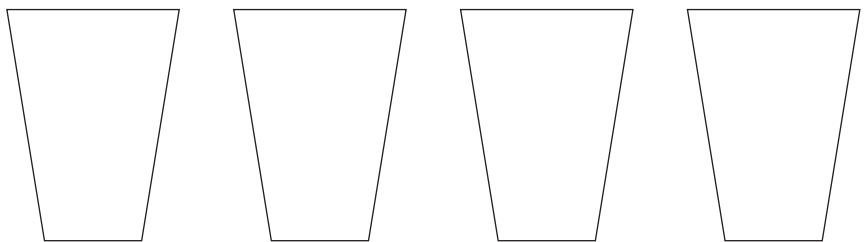
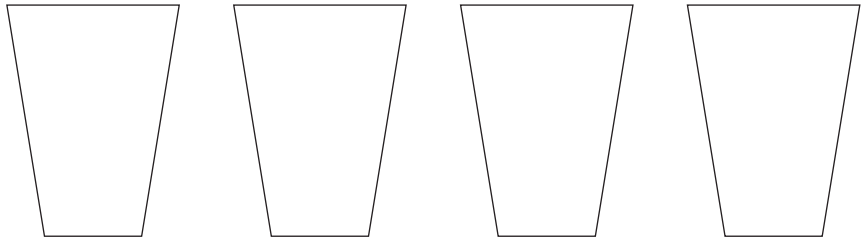
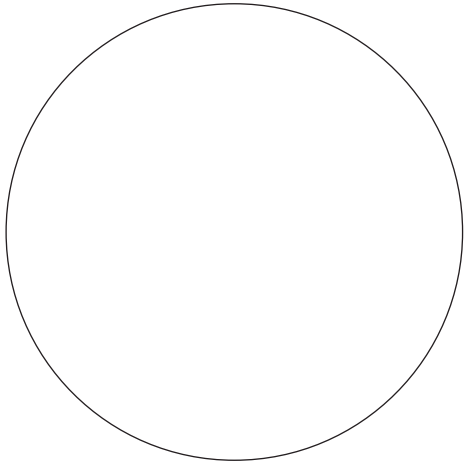
Stick your safety pin to the back of the rosette.



NOW PUT YOUR ROSETTE ON AND YOU'RE READY TO HIT THE STREETS CAMPAIGNING.

MAKE YOUR OWN ROSETTE

Templates



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MAKE YOUR OWN MANIFESTO

Templates

NOTE FOR TEACHERS: Distribute this manifesto template to your students as a model for their own manifestoes. This template is to be photocopied and cut out along the dotted line before use.

.....
PARTY

.....
CANDIDATE

MANIFESTO

PLEDGE 1

PLEDGE 2

PLEDGE 3

PLEDGE 4

PLEDGE 5



ELECTION JARGON BUSTER

Templates

BALLOT PAPER

This is the piece of paper you use to make your vote. It shows a list of candidates and voters have to write a cross next to their choice.

CANDIDATE

A person who wants to be elected. On Election Day voters decide which candidate to vote for.

CANVASSER

People who want a candidate to win can help them by becoming a canvasser for their election campaign. A canvasser asks voters who they will vote for and tries to get as many people as possible to vote for their candidate.

CONSTITUENCY

For General Elections the UK is divided up into 650 areas called constituencies. The voters in each constituency get to elect 1 MP to represent the people in their area.

ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Around election time, candidates and their supporters organise events and activities to convince people that they are the best person to vote for.

ELECTORAL REGISTER

Across the UK there are electoral registers. These are lists of all the people who have decided they want to vote at elections. You must have your name on this list before you can vote.

ELECTORATE

This is what we call everyone who is able to vote in an election.

MANIFESTO

This is something that political parties write around the time of an election, which tells us what they would do if they got elected. A manifesto usually contains pledges (plans of action) on important issues and is often a big part of the election campaign.

MP

At a General Election, the people in a constituency (area) can vote to decide who will represent them in Parliament. The person they choose is called a Member of Parliament or an MP.

PARLIAMENT

Where new laws are debated and created.

POLL CARD

This card is sent to everybody who is registered to vote – it has important information about the election like when, where and what time to vote.

HUSTINGS

A type of political debate where all candidates get to put their case forward in front of the electorate. Candidates give a short speech and then voters can ask questions



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This is to certify that:

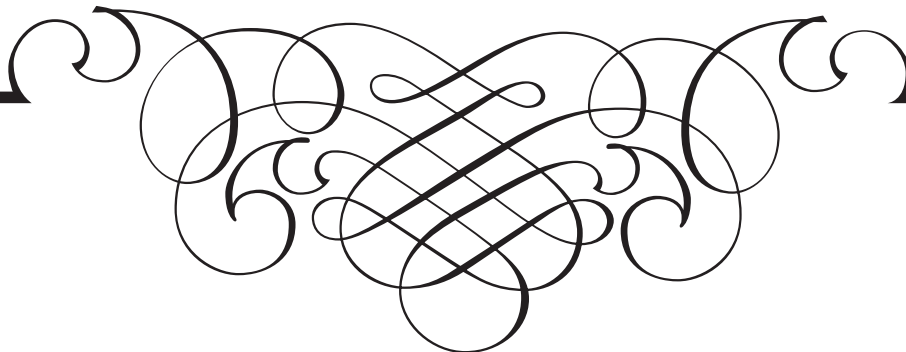
.....
won the Y Vote Mock Election at

.....
on / / with % of the vote.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "F. Booth".

Fiona Booth, Hansard Society

Headteacher



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The Y Vote Mock Elections site: www.mockelections.co.uk should be your first port of call for election information, lesson plans and the dedicated student area. These additional resources should also prove useful in planning and running your Y Vote Mock Election.

WEBSITES

The Hansard Society:
www.hansardsociety.org.uk

Heads Up:
An innovative online forum where young people discuss topical issues with decision-makers.
www.headsup.org.uk

The Electoral Commission:
www.electoralcommission.org.uk
www.aboutmyvote.co.uk
www.dopolitics.co.uk

The Department for Children, Schools and Families:
www.dcsf.gov.uk
www.teachernet.gov.uk

Association for Citizenship Teaching:
www.teachingcitizenship.org.uk

Citizenship Foundation
Including Citizenship lesson plans for PRUS:
www.citizenshipfoundation.org.uk

British Youth Council:
www.byc.org.uk

Operation Black Vote:
www.obv.org.uk

Electoral Reform Society:
www.electoral-reform.org.uk

UK Parliament:
www.explore.parliament.uk
www.parliament.uk
www.parliament.uk/educationUK

Youth Parliament:
www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk

Catch 21
www.catch21.co.uk

UK Office of the European Parliament:
www.europarl.org.uk

DVDS & VIDEOS

Big Ben and All That!
An interactive CD-Rom using bite sized filmed interviews with MPs, Peers and Teachers to explain the inner workings of parliament. This free resource includes interactive presentation facility and additional resources.
Hansard Society

General Elections Explained/Scrutiny Uncovered
What happens during a General Election? How do select committees work? These two 20 minute programmes are suitable for 15–18 year olds, students and those in sixth form/higher education colleges.

Available in both DVD and video format.
Parliamentary Education Service

You've Got the Power
A new resource pack that brings Parliament to life through a series of animated films. Available for use with both primary and secondary age students, the pack introduces how Parliament works.

Parliamentary Education Service

PUBLICATIONS

Representatives in Schools Series
Free resource packs that provide schools with the information they need to organise a student-led visit from their Elected Representative. Available in the series are: MPs In Schools, MEPs In Schools, Welsh AMs In Schools and MSPs In Schools.
Hansard Society

Democracy Cookbook
This comprehensive resource pack contains independent information about how politics works, what UK democratic institutions do and why they matter. Crucially, it is packed with interactive activities to support this information.
The Electoral Commission

The Work of an MP
A booklet designed to inform primary and early secondary students of the varied work of an MP.
Parliamentary Education Service

Discover Parliament
Aimed at 11 to 14 year olds, this booklet explains the work of parliament.
Parliamentary Education Service

Citizens and Society
A political literacy teacher resource-pack. Teachers are provided with the means to introduce ideas and forms of argument that enable students to become informed and questioning citizens.
Citizenship Foundation

Learning Through Elections
Lesson plans, activities and background information designed to support secondary teachers in bringing the concepts of citizenship and democracy to life during a general election.
Institute for Citizenship