Forms of Political Participation

AS Government and Politics

Induction lesson

Miss Rees
Connect:

- How do people participate in politics?
- Mind map all of your ideas using post-it notes on the board

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wwsi5cqM-E

- Voting
- Opinion Polls
- Forums
- Youth Parliament
- School Elections
- Focus Groups
- Write to an MP
- Direct/Indirect Action
Recap Learning

Can you remember these key terms from last time?

1. Democracy
2. Direct/Indirect Democracy
3. Power
4. Authority
5. Totalitarian Democracy
6. Liberal Democracy
7. Marxism
8. Capitalism
9. Apathy
10. Pluralism
Success Criteria

“A/A*” grade students will examine ways in which people participate politically. You will also analyse and evaluate why turnout at UK elections has declined in recent years.

“B” grade students will demonstrate an understanding of political participation and identify why people are becoming less involved in politics in the UK.

“C” grade students will explain why voter turnout has declined recently and describe ways we can participate in politics.
New Information

- **Democracy** – people choosing whether to vote – voluntary participation
- **Compulsory Voting** – Belgium, Greece and Australia
- Non democratic societies – *forced or manipulated participation* – can you think of examples?
- UK – choice – democracy – BUT you get **Abstainers**.

What do you think is meant by ‘abstaining’?
Voting is the most usual form of Political Participation

Voter Turnout refers to the percentage of the qualified voting age population that actually turn out on polling day.

A good turn out often indicates a healthy democracy.

Britian has more than often had a lower turnout than other European countries.
The general decline

- The UK has seen a decline in voter turnout recently. This has led to alarm bells about the degree of APATHY towards, or ALIENATION from the political system.

- Can you suggest reasons for this?
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Demonstrate

Analyse the data provided …..

- What has happened to voter turnout?
- Is the weather the main factor?
- http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-17943660

Probably not …….

- Loss of trust in politicians
- Alienation
- Expenses Scandals
- Apathy
- Can you think of any more reasons for low voter turnout?
Analyse and Evaluate

What can/should be done to increase voter turnout? Ideas please?

- The Greens, Lib Dems and Scottish and Welsh nationalists think the voting age should be reduced to 16 to help increase turnout.
- Would this help?

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<th>Against lowering the voting age</th>
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The BIG DEBATE

Lowering the voting age to 16

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So how can we participate asides from voting?

What other forms of Participation are there out there?

- Boycotts
- Joining a pressure group
- Campaigning
- Petitions
- Direct Action
- Opinion Polls
- Youth Parliament
- Protests
- Leafleting
- Canvassing
Review and Reflect

Key Questions

- Where in the world is it compulsory to vote?
- What is forced or manipulated participation?
- What is meant by an ‘Abstainer’
- Give 4 reasons why voter turnout has declined?
- What can be done to increase participation?
Choose two topics and answer all questions in each topic.

Each topic carries 40 marks.

Topic 1  Participation and Voting Behaviour

Read the extract below and answer questions 01, 02 and 03 which follow.

Measuring political participation

Turnout at elections to the Westminster Parliament has been relatively low in the early years of the twenty-first century. Many attributed this to political apathy. However, the report of the ‘Power Inquiry’, published in 2006, saw things rather differently:

‘Contrary to much of the public debate around political disengagement, the British public is not apathetic. There is now a great deal of research evidence to show that very large numbers of citizens are engaged in community and charity work outside of politics. There is also clear evidence that involvement in pressure politics – such as signing petitions, supporting consumer boycotts, joining campaign groups – has been growing significantly for many years. In addition, research shows that interest in ‘political issues’ is high. The area of decline is in formal politics: turnout at general elections has declined very significantly since 1997; turnout at other elections has remained stubbornly low for years; party membership and allegiance have declined very severely over the last thirty years.’


01 Explain the term apathy as used in the extract. (5 marks)

02 Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, identify and explain two factors, other than apathy, which might contribute to a decline in participation in formal politics. (10 marks)
01 Explain the term *apathy*. (5 marks)

02 Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, identify and explain *two* factors, other than apathy, which might contribute to a decline in participation in *formal politics*. (10 marks)
• 2 reasons why people do not participate
• Lack of trust (tuition fees)
• Safeseats
• Broken promises
• Lack of knowledge/education
• Communication barrier (EA 2nd L)

• Pick 2 reasons and back them up!!!
• Give examples
Assessment Objectives

AO1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories and debates.

AO2 Analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations, and identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences between aspects of the political systems studied.

AO3 Construct and communicate coherent arguments making use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary.
Answering 5 mark questions

• Offer a clear and accurate DEFINITION of the term or phrase chosen, in the context in which it is being used in the extract.

• The term is likely to be part of the political vocabulary of government and politics. This may NOT simply be a dictionary definition.

• Candidates may develop their explanation by referring to the extract. It may help to use phrases such as ‘… according to the extract …’ and ‘the extract argues that’

• ALL of the marks available on the part (a) question are awarded on the basis of AO1 (Knowledge and Understanding). In addition to explaining the term, therefore, try to give one or two pieces of additional information – such as examples or evidence – from your own knowledge.
Part (b) answers (10 marks)

- **FOCUS ON THE QUESTION** from the outset. You do not have time for lengthy and generalised introductions.

- **DEFINE** any terms clearly and concisely early on in your answer.

- Make sure that you make use of the information in the **EXTRACT** as well as making explicit reference to your own **KNOWLEDGE** (including knowledge of concepts and theories).

  Give your answer structure by **IDENTIFYING** and **EXAMINING** significant aspects relevant to the issue in question. Unless the question asks otherwise perhaps look for at least two significant aspects.

- Make sure that you **refer** to any **debate** that is relevant to the issue in question.