

# Mayoral and GLA elections 2016 materials pack

## Lesson plan 3 – Register to Vote

### Lesson 3 – Register to Vote

#### Aims:

- To generate discussion on voting and in particular women's voting rights globally.
- To raise awareness of students' eligibility to vote in the mayoral election in May
- To encourage students to register to vote

**Notes on levels:** This is suitable for E2 learners and can easily be adapted for higher or lower levels. There are opportunities to explore women's suffrage in the countries represented in the classroom and also an opportunity to explore the history of the Commonwealth and the countries that belong to the commonwealth.

**Language points:** This lesson is more focused on skills development; Developing scanning reading skills, reading for detail and filling in a form, which is authentic and can be submitted.

#### Resources and suggested stages:

**Resources** – Worksheet / flipchart paper for timeline activity / markers

Activity 1. Students discuss questions in Activity 1 in groups and then come together as a class to share their ideas and opinions. Teacher records a variety of opinions of the board and encourage students to discuss further.

Activity 2. Ask the students if they know the voting age in the UK (18) and their country? Is it the same or different? Teacher can have the information to hand using the link below to give answers to the students if they don't know about their country.

Ask students if they know when women first got the vote in the UK and in their country. Give out the 'Timeline' worksheet and students can find their country and UK and compare. It might be interesting to ask why they think that women got the vote after men.

Together the students create a class timeline of women getting the right to vote in the countries represented in the class. Students can share their experiences of women's suffrage in their country and the teacher can use this opportunity to gather information for further classwork in the future if the students show an interest in knowing more.

Activity 3. Ask the students 'Can you vote in the London Mayoral Election?' Students who think 'yes' stand on one group, students who think 'no' in another group and 'not sure' stand in another group. Teacher records the numbers in each group on the board. Teacher then directs the students the text for Activity 3 on their worksheet and students read the information to find out if they are eligible to vote or not.

Discussion about the difference between 'registering to vote' and 'vote'.

Students read the 'register to vote' information and decide if person 1 – 10 can register to vote. (Answers: 1Y, 2Y, 3Y, 4Y, 5N, 6Y(Commonwealth country), 7N, 8Y, 9Y(Commonwealth country), 10N (Link below to a list of Commonwealth countries)

Activity 4. Give out authentic voter registration form (print from link in resources) to students so they can complete them, those who wish to, can submit them. Take some extra forms to the class for students to take home for relatives and friends if they wish.

#### Links:

<http://www.londonelects.org.uk/im-voter/how-register-vote>

Voting ages around the world <http://chartsbin.com/view/re6>

Interactive timeline of women's right to vote <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/interactive/2011/jul/06/un-women-vote-timeline-interactive>

List of Commonwealth countries <http://thecommonwealth.org/member-countries>

For more paper copies of the voter registration form <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/voter-registration-forms-paper-versions>

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### **Activity 1:** Discuss in your group

What is voting?

Do you think people should vote?

Have you ever voted before, in the UK or in your country?

Share your ideas with the rest of the class

### **Activity 2:** Do you know...

What is the voting age in the UK?

What is the voting age in your country?

Your teacher will give you some information about when women got the right to vote in countries around the world. Read the information and find the answer to the questions below.

When did women get the right to vote in your country?

When did women get the right to vote in the UK?

**Activity 3:** Read the information from the 'London Elects' website. Can the following people **register to vote**? Write *yes* or *no*.

1. Sahra has a British passport, lives in London and she is 18 years old?
2. Mikael has a Polish passport and is 54 years old?
3. Ruben is 17 years old, comes from Columbia but has Spanish passport?
4. Hani is 19 years old, has an Italian passport and is Somali?
5. Borislav has a Turkish passport, is 53 years old and has been in London 10 years?
6. Reema is 36 and has a Bangladeshi passport?
7. Sali is from Palestine and hasn't got a passport.
8. Ahmed is 78, he's lived in London for 25 years and has a Dutch passport?
9. Gabriel is 21, he's been in London for 3 months and is from Sierra Leone?
10. Katerina is 45 and has a Ukrainian passport?

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You can vote in elections for the Mayor of London and London Assembly if you are:

- Registered to vote
- Live in London
- At least 18 years old on the day of the elections.

The last day to register to vote is the 18 April 2016. Mayor of London and London Assembly elections is 5 May 2016. You can register online in just a few minutes using a simple form by visiting [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote). There you can also print forms that will allow you to register by post.

### Can I register to vote?

You can register to vote if you are:

- 16 years or over (but you can't vote until you are 18 years old)
- A British Citizen
- An Irish, Commonwealth or European Union Citizen who is resident in the UK

If you have not registered, you cannot vote in any UK election or referendum.

**Activity 4:** Your teacher will give you a voting registration form to fill in so that you can register to vote in the UK. Fill in the form and give it to your teacher to check. You can then post this form, if you would like to register to vote in the London Mayoral elections.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/voter-registration-forms-paper-versions>

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### A Timeline of Women's Right to Vote

- 1893 New Zealand
- 1902 Australia
- 1906 Finland
- 1913 Norway
- 1915 Denmark
- 1917 Canada
- 1918 Austria, Germany, Poland, Russia
- 1919 Netherlands
- 1920 United States
- 1921 Sweden
- 1928 Britain, Ireland
- 1931 Spain
- 1934 Turkey
- 1944 France
- 1945 Italy
- 1947 Argentina, Japan, Mexico, Pakistan
- 1949 China
- 1950 India
- 1954 Colombia
- 1957 Malaysia, Zimbabwe
- 1962 Algeria
- 1963 Iran, Morocco
- 1964 Libya
- 1967 Ecuador
- 1971 Switzerland
- 1972 Bangladesh
- 1974 Jordan
- 1976 Portugal
- 1989 Namibia
- 1990 Western Samoa
- 1993 Kazakhstan, Moldova
- 1994 South Africa
- 2005 Kuwait
- 2006 United Arab Emirates
- 2011 Saudi Arabia