

Mayoral and GLA elections 2016 materials pack

Lesson 5 – Candidates Booklet and letter writing

Lesson 5 – Reading the candidates booklet / writing to candidates

Aims: This lesson is about reading the Candidates Information booklet, discussing parties and candidates and writing letters to Mayoral or GLA candidates.

N.B. The booklets will be sent to the home address of every registered voter after the candidates have been officially announced on 1st April. A link to where the booklet will be available is included in the links section and also a link to the 2012 booklet.

The party logos used in these resources are based on who is expected to stand. They may need to be modified.

Notes on levels: The main resource for this lesson is the real candidates booklet. Higher level classes will be able to draw out lots of information but lower level class may need to just focus on finding basic information. The Ss can also contribute their own knowledge about candidates or Ts may wish to provide simplified information based on the booklet.

Language points: “will” to talk about the future, the present perfect appears a lot in the 2012 booklet, expressing opinions and making requests, “I need”, “I want” will be useful in the letter writing.

Resources and suggested stages:

Resources - Party logos, Parties and candidates worksheets, letter model for lower levels, letter writing worksheet for higher levels

1. T gives out large logos and Ss share knowledge about parties. T may want to make a spectrum line for Ss to place parties on in terms of left to right.
2. Ss scan booklet for parties and candidate information.
3. Ss are split into small groups and given 2 or 3 candidates to find out about. Ss could just look for the word “will” and come up with “he/she will....” statements. Ss might circle words they recognise. T may wish to provide simplified statements about each candidate.
4. Small groups share with the class. Flipchart paper can be used to summarise each candidate. Discussion around what they say and what they mean.
5. Class discuss if they want to write to mayoral candidates or GLA candidates. For lower levels we have provided a template letter for GLA candidates with a layout activity. For higher levels we have included a worksheet on letter writing. Ss can use the demands they formulated in lesson 4 to inform their letter writing. If using the template students will need to copy out the letter to send.

Links:

The 2016 booklet will be available here: <http://www.londonelects.org.uk/im-voter/information-booklet>

The candidates’ information booklet from 2012 can be found here: www.londonelects.org.uk/download/file/fid/443

The list of CLA candidate will be here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/people/assembly>

Current GLA members are here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/people/assembly>

Action for ESOL. We are a UK-wide coalition of teachers and researchers, read our manifesto here: <http://actionforesol.org/action-for-esol-manifesto>

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Look through The Candidates Booklet for the elections

Can you find out the name of the party and the candidate for each logo?



Party _____

Candidate _____



Party _____

Candidate _____



Party _____

Candidate _____



Party _____

Candidate _____



Party _____

Candidate _____



Party _____

Candidate _____



Party _____

Candidate _____



Party _____

Candidate _____

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I am an ESOL student in _____. I am writing to you to ask you to support ESOL if you are elected to the GLA. ESOL funding has been cut by 60% over the last 6 years. London needs free ESOL classes.

English is important to me because:

Please support ESOL classes and campaign for secure funding in London.

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Dear
Dear
Dear
Dear
Dear
Dear
Dear

Yours sincerely
Yours sincerely
Yours sincerely
Yours sincerely
Yours sincerely
Yours sincerely
Yours sincerely

Date
Date
Date
Date
Date
Date
Date

Address	Address	Address
Address	Address	Address
Address	Address	Address

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Writing a letter to your GLA assembly member.

- Find out from a map/website/list who your assembly member is
- Use the list of demands you made in the last session as the basis for your letter.
- You can use the plan and examples below.

Say who you are...

I am a

- parent
- student
- tenant

or say a little more...

I am a

- parent with children at primary school
- student attending English classes
- parent and work part time
- tenant in a privately rented flat

Say why you are writing...

I'm writing because I feel very strongly about...

I'm writing to ask you about the GLA's plans for...

I'm writing to you because I am very concerned about ...

Explain individual points in more detail and give reasons

Local English classes are important because ...

Access to affordable childcare is essential because...

The facilities for young people in my area are...

Using sentences with 'if' and 'unless' can be useful.

- If classes are too far away it is difficult to attend.
- If the rents keep increasing there will be more homeless people
- Parents can't attend classes unless child care is provided

Say what you want your GLA assembly member to do (use your list of demands here)

- I hope you will...
- I would like you to ...
- I strongly request that you....
- Please can you...

Request a response

Please inform me...

Please let me know what you intend to do about...

Proof read your letter and make changes where necessary.