

Listening

1 🎧 Listen to a class discussion about politicians. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 Simon thinks politicians should be more honest about their private lives. ____
- 2 Kerry thinks a politician's private life is their own business. ____
- 3 Kerry is suspicious of politicians who try to keep their lives private. ____
- 4 Simon completely agrees with Kerry's point about politicians needing to be open about their home lives. ____
- 5 A politician was sacked because he liked to gamble. ____
- 6 Both Kerry and Simon think the politician shouldn't have lost his job. ____
- 7 Kerry wouldn't have had any sympathy for the politician if his job had been money-related. ____
- 8 Simon believes that people can divide their lives into different sections. ____
- 9 Kerry thinks that politicians should only be elected if they were educated in state schools. ____
- 10 Simon feels that politicians have a responsibility do everything right. ____

Reading

Nelson Mandela

On 5 December 2013, the world lost one of its greatest leaders and a respected global statesman. A remarkable ninety-one world leaders and numerous other representatives from the world stage attended Nelson Mandela's state memorial service five days later. His funeral was a quieter affair the following week, but still included a number of political figures, both past and present.

Born in Transkei, South Africa, in 1918, he was the first of his family to attend school and showed himself to be a very able student. He gained his school-leaving junior certificate in record time. It was there that he became known as Nelson, rather than his birth name of Rolihlahla, by one of his school teachers.

After graduating and qualifying as a lawyer, he joined the ANC (African National Congress), which was attempting to change the political and social situation in South Africa. They believed in ethnic and racial equality, but the all-white National Party, who had come to power in 1948, had introduced a policy of 'apartheid', a system of racial segregation. The ANC, who were supporters of equal rights and opportunities for black and white people, fiercely opposed the National Party's policy of race segregation and pledged to demonstrate through peaceful resistance.

In 1952, Mandela became deputy president of the party and pursued a policy of non-violent protest. In 1960, almost seventy demonstrators taking part in an anti-apartheid demonstration were killed by law enforcement officers. This terrible event became known as the Sharpeville Massacre. The National Party immediately sought to eradicate the ANC, and it was at this point that Mandela's party abandoned its non-violence policy and decided to bear arms and engage in violent struggle against the government. As chief of the military wing, 'The Spear of the Nation', Mandela left his home country to recruit support overseas.

As soon as he returned, he was thrown in prison for five years. In 1963, Mandela and the ANC were accused of planning to overthrow the government through the use of force, and were put on trial. The following year, Mandela found himself facing life imprisonment, and was held at Robben Island where he spent the majority of his twenty-seven years behind bars.

Conditions there were appalling. Everything that could have been done to break his spirit was done, from being allowed a visitor only once a year for thirty minutes, to having only a bucket for a toilet. Yet the tiny cell in which he was confined did little to crush his spirit. If the opposition thought Mandela's cause would lose momentum, they couldn't have been more wrong. He managed to acquire leadership over fellow prisoners and to also impress his guards through his strength of character and charisma. Outside the prison walls, disgusted by the government's lack of humanity, the world was watching. It was as if an attack on Mandela was like an attack on the whole of humankind.

Over time, international pressure forced the South African government to release Mandela, and he eventually regained his liberty in 1990, becoming leader of the ANC. Having been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize along with FW de Klerk in 1993, South Africans showed their appreciation for this great man at the polling stations in the first multi-racial election, and the country welcomed its first ever black president.

In the late nineties, Mandela stepped down as leader of the ANC, and in 1999 his position as South African president came to an end. A few years after this, Mandela decided to finally retire from life in the spotlight, although he was keen to carry on with his charity work up until his death.

2 Read the text. Circle the correct answers (a–d).

11 According to the writer, Nelson Mandela

- a didn't do very well at school.
- b wasn't keen on his real name and changed it at school.
- c was buried on 10 December 2013.
- d had an unprecedented number of important politicians attend his memorial service.

12 Members of the National Party

- a believed in racial segregation.
- b were in political opposition from the 1940s.
- c recruited young black lawyers.
- d believed in racial equality.

13 As a direct result of the Sharpeville Massacre,

- a Mandela escaped overseas, fearing for his life.
- b the National Party attempted to destroy the ANC.
- c Mandela left the ANC and joined a new organization.
- d Mandela became deputy president of the ANC.

14 While in prison, Nelson Mandela

- a was not allowed visitors.
- b became religious due to his difficult situation.
- c remained strong despite the terrible conditions.

d was able to leave the prison briefly each year.

15 After Nelson Mandela's release from prison,

- a the first segregated election was organized.
- b he narrowly missed out on an international award.
- c many people showed their respect by voting for him.
- d most people were hesitant about him becoming leader.

3 Complete the missing words using texts boxes placed after each sentence.

16 The entrepreneur used his house as a c _____ to get a loan. _____

17 In Craig's marriage his wife is in charge of everything. He accepts the fact that she _____.

18 My brother is a typical f _____: he expects others to do everything for him, but he is unwilling to return their favours. _____

19 We should d _____ I _____ if we want democracy to be successful. This involves encouraging people from all walks of life to participate in decision-making processes. _____

20 When I was a child my toys were s _____ e _____ with my brother. Our parents always made sure that both of us received the same amount of them. _____

21 The social campaign had a promising start, but it soon l _____ m _____ because of the fact that funding was short and its leaders were keen to withdraw. _____

4 Complete the sentences with the phrases formed by coupling words from lines A and B below.

A law distribution common minority social civic

B rights responsibility enforcement good of wealth engagement

1 _____ is concerned with the prevention and punishment of crime.

2 Left-wing parties want a more equal _____.

3 The _____ benefits society as a whole, not individual members.

4 Children can learn about _____ by being volunteers in the community.

5 _____ protect smaller, less powerful groups in society.

6 The council supported _____ projects to involve local residents in decisions.

5 Complete the gaps in the sentences with the right words. Use the textboxes provided to enter your answers.

- 1 There was a huge **t** _____ for the country's first democratic elections. Never had so many people voted in a single election before. _____
- 2 In the UK each **c** _____ elects one person (called an MP) to represent it in the parliament. _____
- 3 Some people destroy their **b** _____ **p** _____ as a form of protest against the political parties. _____
- 4 There was a long queue of people waiting to vote outside my local **p** _____ **s** _____.
- 5 The party promised to abolish poverty in its **m** _____.
- 6 Before each election politicians do what they can (which often involves coming up with various devices) in order to win the votes of the **e** _____.

6 Match the words (1–7) to the synonyms (A–G).

- | | |
|-------------|------------------------|
| 1 swear | A enemy |
| 2 nation | B weapons |
| 3 liberty | C pledge |
| 4 abolish | D freedom |
| 5 adversary | E country |
| 6 mankind | F eradicate |
| 7 arms | G the human population |

7 Complete the sentences with the correct words below.

economical with the truth toe the line quick off the mark boils down to capitalized on
came under fire plucked out of the air set the record straight came under scrutiny

- 1 He was told to _____ if he wanted to keep his job.
- 2 He knew that he wouldn't be popular at the enquiry, but it was important to him to _____.
- 3 What it all _____ is that as a country we cannot afford it.
- 4 The leader of the opposition made a huge mistake, so the government _____ his misfortune.

- 5 Property prices are rising, so if you want to buy a house, you need to be _____.
- 6 The journalist _____ for asking such an insensitive question at a time of national mourning.
- 7 I don't think he lied exactly, it's more that he was _____.
- 8 It was as if the Chancellor of the Exchequer just _____ a figure _____.

9 Join the sentences to make one sentence. Use a defining or non-defining relative clause.

- 1 The police interviewed the woman. She saw the car crash.
The police interviewed the woman _____.
- 2 We visited a house. John Lennon had lived there.
We visited a house _____.
- 3 The writer won an award. His book was made into a film.
_____ won an award.
- 4 I saw the politician. He was arrested for corruption last year.
I saw the politician _____.
- 5 You made the dinner yesterday. It was delicious.
The dinner _____.
- 6 Emma helped the boy. His mother had disappeared.
Emma helped the boy _____.
- 7 The museum will exhibit the artefacts. The museum has received funding.
_____ will exhibit the artefacts.
- 8 The waiter spilled coffee over my dress. He has apologized.
The waiter _____.