Vocabulary Ex.: Politics

1 Political systems

Complete the list below with these words:

democracy	president	king / queen
Prime Minister	dictator	dictatorship (2)

1. Britain is a parliamentary democracy with either a . . . . . or a . . . . . as Head of State. The government is headed by the . . . . . .
2. Under the . . . . . , Mussolini, Italy was a . . . . . . It is now a republic with a . . . . . .
3. People living in a . . . . . want to vote, but can't. People living in a . . . . . can vote, but often don't exercise their right.

Every country has a different political system. To talk about the British system, for example, you need: MP (Member of Parliament), House of Commons / Lords. For the American system you need: Federal government, Senate, senator etc. For your own country you may say, for example, "The Duma is the Russian parliament."

2 The political process

Only one of the words is correct. Choose the correct one.

1. Politicians / Politics are all the same. They never do what they say they will.
2. I think there should be an election / a referendum on really important issues so the Government knows what the people think.
3. It's easy for the opposition / opponents to make promises but it's much harder to carry them out once they get into power / control.
4. No party had a clear majority. Two parties have formed a co-operative / coalition.
5. No American President can serve more than two four-year terms / periods in office.
6. Britain has to have a national / general election at least once every five years.
7. The Manager / Minister of Finance has said that taxes will be cut in the budget in May.
8. The most important members of the government are all in the cupboard / cabinet.

3 Elections

Complete the dialogue with these words:

voter	candidate
manifesto	power
campaign	polling station
vote	parties
constituency	policies

A: Have you voted yet?
B: No, but I'm going to the (1) . . . . . on my way home.
A: Sometimes I don't know why we bother. The main (2) . . . . . might have a few different (3) . . . . . , but basically they're all the same – they make lots of promises during the election (4) . . . . . and as soon as they're in (5) . . . . . , they do something completely different.
B: I know. I saw the Conservative (6) . . . . . in town yesterday, but he didn't say anything I haven't heard a thousand times before, and in my (7) . . . . . the Social Democrat always wins anyway.
A: I voted for the Green Party last time, and Social Democrat the time before, but this time my (8) . . . . . is going to somebody who promises to reduce income tax and that's in the Conservative (9) . . . . . , but none of the others.
B: A different party every time! You're a politician's nightmare – the floating (10) . . . . . !

Use the correct form of these verbs to complete the sentences:

get	call	hold	win

a. I've just heard on the news, the Government has . . . . . an election. It's going to be . . . . . on June 6th.
b. In the last election the Social Democrats . . . . . with a huge majority.
c. I don't agree with anything the Socialists say. They'd never . . . . . my vote.

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4 Political promises

Political parties often make promises in their election manifestos. Match the verbs and the endings:

We are going to ...

1. build	a. crime, unemployment
2. create	b. more houses, schools, hospitals, roads
3. protect	c. more jobs
4. reduce, fight, tackle	d. the environment
5. reduce, cut	e. better education, better health care
6. provide	f. taxes

5 Political ideologies

Use a dictionary if necessary to complete the table:

System / belief	Person
1. capitalism	. . . . .
2.	socialist
3. communism	. . . . .
4.	fascist
5. nationalism	. . . . .
6.	anarchist

Complete this comment using the following words:

socialists	middle	working-class
extreme	right-wing	independence

In Britain both the Conservative Party and the Labour Party like to think they occupy the (7) . . . . . ground of British political life. Both parties, however, find it difficult to escape their roots: the Labour Party in traditional (8) . . . . . and trade union politics; the Conservatives in the countryside and business communities.

In many parts of the world groups like the Scottish Nationalists would like (9) . . . . . .

It can be difficult to say exactly what many political words mean because they can mean different things to different people and different things in different countries. As a rule, (10) . . . . . are more left-wing than social democrats, while conservatives are more (11) . . . . . . Fascists are people with (12) . . . . . right-wing views.

6 Personal views

Use these words to complete the sentences:

liberal	left-wing	extreme
patriotic	right	politically aware

1. My Dad gets very upset if I say anything negative about Britain. He's very . . . . . .
2. She's got some very . . . . . views. She thinks all immigration should be stopped.
3. My parents didn't mind when Dave and I said we were going to live together. They've got quite . . . . . views on most things.
4. Students tend to be more . . . . . than most other sections of the community. Like most young people, they're usually fairly . . . . . . As they get older, they move more to the . . . . . !

People can have reactionary / conservative / progressive / liberal / radical views on political and social issues.

Mark each of the following ideas:

L (left-wing) R (right-wing)

5. The rich should be taxed more to pay for education and health care for the poor.
6. People should take out private pensions.
7. Immigration laws should be stricter.
8. We should give more to help developing countries.
9. Nursery education should be free for everyone.

LIVEWORKSHEETS