

Politics and Youth

Worksheet A – Political people and places.

- 1) This person is the head of the government.
- 2) This person is the head of state.
- 3) These people are elected to represent their areas (known as constituencies). They are also known as MPs.
- 4) This place is where the Parliament meets.
- 5) This is the name of the main right-wing party.
- 6) This is the name of the main left-wing party.

The Queen / The Conservative Party / The Prime Minister / Members of Parliament / The Houses of Parliament / The Labour Party

Worksheet B – Find Somebody Who...

Find somebody who...	Name	Extra information
... knows the name of the British Prime Minister.		
... would like to be a politician.		
... thinks that voting in elections is very important.		
... thinks there should be more women politicians in their country.		
... believes that most politicians are too old!		
... can name five politicians from their own country.		

Worksheet C – sentence completion

Complete the following sentences to express your own opinion. Then compare your sentences with a partner.

- 1) In my opinion, most politicians...
- 2) If I were Prime Minister or President of my country I would...
- 3) The political system in my country is...
- 4) I wish politicians would...
- 5) In an ideal world...

Worksheet D – Politics and Youth – Reading

Read the text about Politics and Youth and put the paragraph headings in the right place.

- A – **Street politics**
- B – **Green generation**
- C – **Parties and partying**
- D - **Hi-tech politics**

Politics and Youth

Last year the BBC announced that more young people voted on Big Brother than the election. Does this make UK youth politically apathetic?

1 –

I spent a couple of days asking young people in the Manchester and London area how they felt about party politics. I spoke to 11 twenty-somethings and only one had voted in the last general election. Here's some of their comments;

'To be honest I'm not too bothered. I don't keep up with developments at Westminster [the site of UK government]. These days my job, my cash flow and socialising are more important!'

Tom, 28, from Manchester.

'I can't relate to any of the politicians. They all seem fairly similar and rarely listen to young people. Only one party [the Liberal Democrats] made student debt an issue, and they are a long way from coming to power.'

Fiona, 25, from London.

These two examples were typical of many young people's attitudes to state politics.

2 –

This would suggest that we are just not interested in politics but a closer study is more revealing.

For many young people politics is not about Westminster. Issues like the US-UK led Iraq war have sparked debate and action in recent years. In 2003 over a million people marched through London, many of them young and passionate.

3 –

Technology played a huge role in organising this protest on a global scale. It has become a factor in providing many young people across the world with a chance to interact and discuss without the traditional middle-man of the politician or news media.

The British Council's Café Society project allows young people from countries across the world to meet in a relaxed, informal setting and share opinions through video conferencing.

4 –

David Cameron, the leader of the Conservative Party, started cycling to work as gesture of the need to take green issues more seriously. Since then politicians have been keen to win the green label and secure the support of the younger generation. Young people are often perceived to be the 'greenest' age group. Indeed environmental issues are taken far more seriously than ever before. Perhaps they'll leave behind a greener UK.