

Warmer: Reasons to become a politician

These are all reasons given why people might get into politics.

Which do you think are positive?

- a. They care about society
- b. For personal benefits
- c. To change the world
- d. Ambition
- e. For the publicity
- f. Narcissism

▶ (0:00-0:35)

Task 1 – Listening to opinions

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQwhDW2uCok>

Watch the video of members of the public giving their opinions about why politicians. Match the reasons in the box with the person on the right.

▶ (0:36- end)

Task 2 – Listening for points of interest

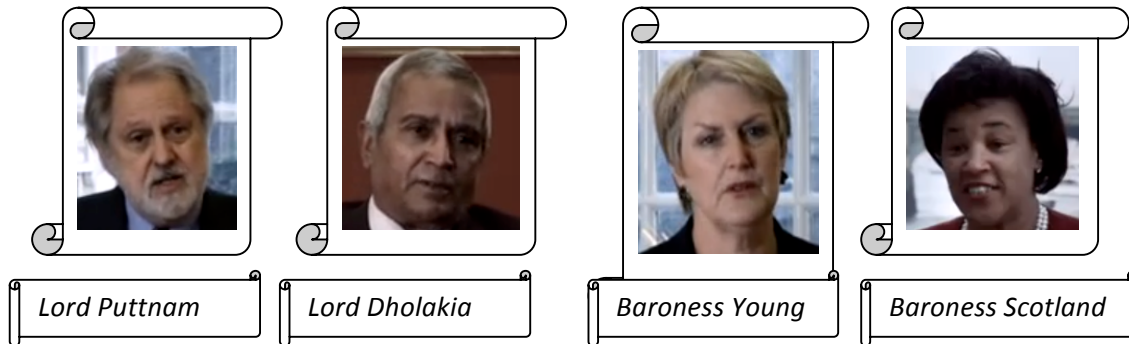
Find out if the people next to you are interested in politics. What areas of politics are they interested in?

Watch the video and see if any of your ideas are mentioned.

▶ (0:36- 1:30)

Task 3 – Identifying similar points of view

Look at these people from the video. What do their titles tell you?



Before you watch, read the general statements about politics in the box below.

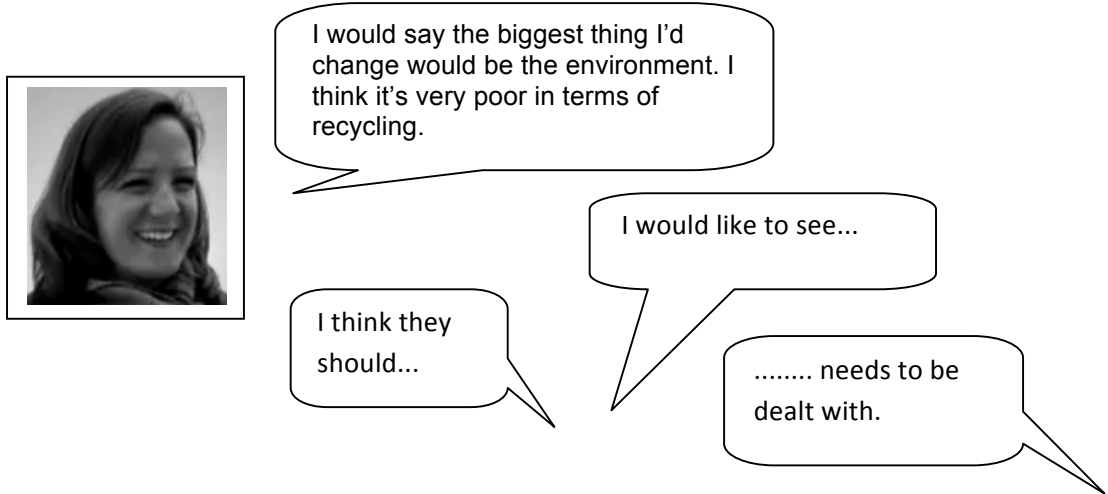
Which do you agree with most?

- a) Many people do not feel positive about politics.
- b) People should be involved in any decisions which affect them.
- c) Politics is a good career because you can be successful internationally.
- d) The best politicians are hard workers and are serious about their job.
- e) Politics is not important in everyday life.
- f) Politics is involved in every part of life.

Listen to the politicians and tick the statements you think they agree with.

▶ (1:31- 2:10)

Task 4 – Talking about big issues



I would say the biggest thing I'd change would be the environment. I think it's very poor in terms of recycling.

I think they should...

I would like to see...

..... needs to be dealt with.

Use the big issue cards from your teacher and find out what your partner thinks about these issues and what they would change.

Watch the people on the video give their opinions and make notes on their ideas in the table below.

The environment	Transport	The justice system	Education	Poverty
<i>Improve recycling</i>				

Did you hear any other issues mentioned. Are they issues in your country?

▶ (2:11- end)

Task 5 – Understanding people’s opinions

Choose words or phrases from the box and fill in the gaps in the extracts below.

You can use a dictionary and the words underlined in the text can help you.

accountable	specialise	change	engaging
	part of a process	issues	owe

“

If anybody’s ever thought this isn’t right, this doesn’t feel right, there’s something wrong going on here, this is an injustice then really you ought to be ¹ in politics.

Think hard about it because it’s very time consuming. Take advice from people who are already there and I would also say ²in something that you really know about and really care about.

It’s got social ³, it’s got political issues, it’s got the grand ideas like justice, truth and fairness and all of that.

We have a responsibility to keep them ⁴for the position that they are in.

I think it’s finding ways of getting people to be able to make themselves feel that they can make a positive ⁵ to things.

I’d say if you have any interest in your own, and your family’s and your children’s future, you ⁶ it to yourself to get engaged in some way, shape or form in what’s called politics.

I think people should get into politics because of the great satisfaction of being ⁷whereby we want to improve our society.

”

Watch the video and check your answers.

Task 5 – Language focus – Prepositions in politics!

We say contribute *to* or be involved *in* a decision.

However, for some words there is more than one choice of preposition:

to be responsible for **or** to
to be (held) accountable for **or** to
to be engaged in **or** to

Choose the correct preposition for each phrase:

1. Parents are responsible *to/for* their children.
2. The Deputy Leader is responsible *to/for* the Leader of the Party.
3. In the past, the monarch wasn't accountable *to/for* anyone. They could do what they wanted and no-one could do anything about it!
4. Should politicians be held accountable *to/for* the bad decisions of their leader and asked to resign?
5. She was engaged *in/to* him for four years before marriage.
6. The young people are not at all engaged *in/to* politics. They are more interested in the latest music or fashion!

Task 6 – Role play 'Why get into politics'

Your teacher will divide you into three groups.

- Group As are members of the public
- Group Bs are Members of Parliament
- Group Cs work for the college magazine

Your teacher will give you some role play cards to help you and you will have 15 minutes in your groups to prepare for your role play.