



Tithe an
Oireachtais
Houses of the
Oireachtas

Lesson Plan: The Everyday Work Of The Dáil

Junior Cert/Cycle CSPE

Learning Intentions:

At the end of this lesson students will

1. Understand the running order of a typical day in Dáil Éireann
2. Know what happens when these terms appear: Leaders Questions, Topical Issues, Committees, Order Paper and Forum
3. Appreciate the work of members of the Oireachtas inside and outside the chambers

Key Skills: Communicating, Working With Others, Managing Information and Thinking

Resources:

<http://beta.oireachtas.ie/>

<http://beta.oireachtas.ie/?tab=dail>

<http://beta.oireachtas.ie/en/members/office-holders/ceann-comhairle/forum-mental-health/>

<http://beta.oireachtas.ie/en/committees/>

http://learning.educatetogether.ie/pluginfile.php/13096/mod_resource/content/4/A%20Brief%20Guide%20to%20How%20Your%20Parliament%20Works.pdf

Introduction:

At the beginning of the lesson ask the students to recap on the key terms such as Dáil, TD, Seanad etc. (these terms can be found in the glossary section <http://beta.oireachtas.ie/en/visit-and-learn/glossary/>)

Then either individually or in groups what do they think a TD does during his or her day? Display these answers on the board.

Development: Go to the first website you will use <http://beta.oireachtas.ie/?tab=dail> and go through the Dáil schedule. Ask the students to pick out one or two things that will be happening over the next few days. Ask them to suggest what they think Leaders Questions are and check the answer on either the glossary or how your parliament works p.12. Ask them to note what time the Dáil starts and finishes. Ask them what they think of the start time. Go through the layout of the day and explain what an order paper is (using either the glossary or p.11 of this link http://learning.educatetogether.ie/pluginfile.php/13096/mod_resource/content/4/A%20Brief%20Guide%20to%20How%20Your%20Parliament%20Works.pdf Ask the students what they think Topical Issues are and then compare their answers to p.14 of the how your parliament works document. Ask the students to pick out one or two items of interest on any day that is listed on <http://beta.oireachtas.ie/?tab=dail>

Then go to the committees' site <http://beta.oireachtas.ie/en/committees/> and ask them to note what time they start at. Then ask what committee deals with each of the following: Items of interest to children, schools, Brexit and Climate Change. Pick any committee and see what members are involved in it. Ask the students do they notice anything about the membership and whether or not there are any members from their own constituency on it. Then go back to the committees' site <http://beta.oireachtas.ie/en/committees/> and see what committee is meeting on the day you are looking at it. Look at the detailed schedule and have a short discussion around what the class thinks might be under discussion. Then see if it is televised on Oireachtas TV (<http://beta.oireachtas.ie/en/oireachtas-tv/>) and watch a little bit of it. Then go this website (<http://beta.oireachtas.ie/en/members/office-holders/ceann-comhairle/forum-mental-health/>) Ask students what they think a forum is and what this forum is about? Then ask them either individually or in groups what good comes from having a forum such as this. Then ask could they think of any other topics that might be suitable for a public forum such as this.

Conclusion: To conclude the lesson ask the students to explain: Leaders Questions, Topical Issues, Committees, Order Paper and Forum. Ask the students to imagine that they are a member of Dáil Éireann and to prepare a typical day in the life for the next class. This might help <https://www.oireachtas.ie/parliament/media/housesoftheoireachtas/contentassets/documents/Daily-in-the-Life-EN.pdf> or this from the Northern Ireland Assembly http://education.niassembly.gov.uk/years_11_12/mla_for_a_week/activity