



LESSONS CHECKLIST

The Exploring Democracy series is designed to help teachers cover strand 3 of the Junior Cycle CSPE (Civic, Social and Political Education) course.

It comprises 20 lesson plans plus democracy actions to help you cover most* aspects of the course. Each lesson plan includes printable worksheets and is accompanied by a slide show.

Transition year teachers may be interested in using the extension activities that are included in each lesson plan and the democracy actions as the basis for activities.

* The following learning outcomes are not covered by this series:

- ▶ 3.8 explain the role and relevance of local, national and international courts
- ▶ 3.9 list the nine grounds under which discrimination is illegal in Irish law, with examples

DEMOCRACY ACTIONS

Title	Notes	Date
Participate in a mock referendum		
Participate in a mock election count using PR-STV		
Organise a consultation		

THE MEANING OF DEMOCRACY

Title	Learning Outcome	Notes	Date
Power and influence	3.1 Create a visual representation of the day-to-day contexts and institutions to which they belong, highlighting where they have power and influence		
How decisions are made	3.2 Describe decision-making processes and the roles of different groups in their class/school		
Systems of government	3.3 Compare two or more systems of government, taking particular note of the ways in which the state interacts with its citizens, and citizens can shape their state		
Government in Ireland	3.3 Compare two or more systems of government, taking particular note of the ways in which the state interacts with its citizens, and citizens can shape their state 3.4 Use the correct terminology to describe Irish and European democratic institutions, structures, political parties and roles		
Citizens and the state	3.3 Compare two or more systems of government, taking particular note of the ways in which the state interacts with its citizens, and citizens can shape their state		
Voting	3.4 Use the correct terminology to describe Irish and European democratic institutions, structures, political parties and roles		
Democratic institutions	3.4 Use the correct terminology to describe Irish and European democratic institutions, structures, political parties and roles		
Strengths and weaknesses of democracy	3.5 Discuss strengths and weaknesses of the democratic process		

THE LAW AND THE CITIZEN

Title	Learning Outcome	Notes	Date
Young people and the law	3.6 Identify laws that directly relate to their lives		
Our laws, our Constitution	3.5 Discuss strengths and weaknesses of the democratic process 3.7 Explain how laws are made, enforced and evolve over time		
How laws are enforced	3.7 Explain how laws are made, enforced and evolve over time		
Debate a Bill	3.5 Discuss strengths and weaknesses of the democratic process 3.7 Explain how laws are made, enforced and evolve over time		
How laws change society	3.10 Investigate how individuals or groups have used the law to bring about change in society		
Gender equality in politics	3.10 Investigate how individuals or groups have used the law to bring about change in society		
Changing society	3.10 Investigate how individuals or groups have used the law to bring about change in society		

Learning outcomes 3.8 and 3.9 are not covered by this series.

THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA IN A DEMOCRACY

Title	Learning Outcome	Notes	Date
Media freedom	3.11 Debate the pros and cons of media freedom		
Digital media and European elections	3.12 Examine case studies of the use of digital or other media in a political election or referendum		
Print media and elections	3.12 Examine case studies of the use of digital or other media in a political election or referendum		
Broadcast media and local elections	3.12 Examine case studies of the use of digital or other media in a political election or referendum		

CONCLUSION

Title	Learning Outcome	Notes	Date
Conclusion	3.13 Reflect on what has been learned in this strand		