



LESSON PLAN

Democratic institutions

Learning outcome 3.4

Use the correct terminology to describe Irish and European democratic institutions, structures, political parties and roles

Students will learn to

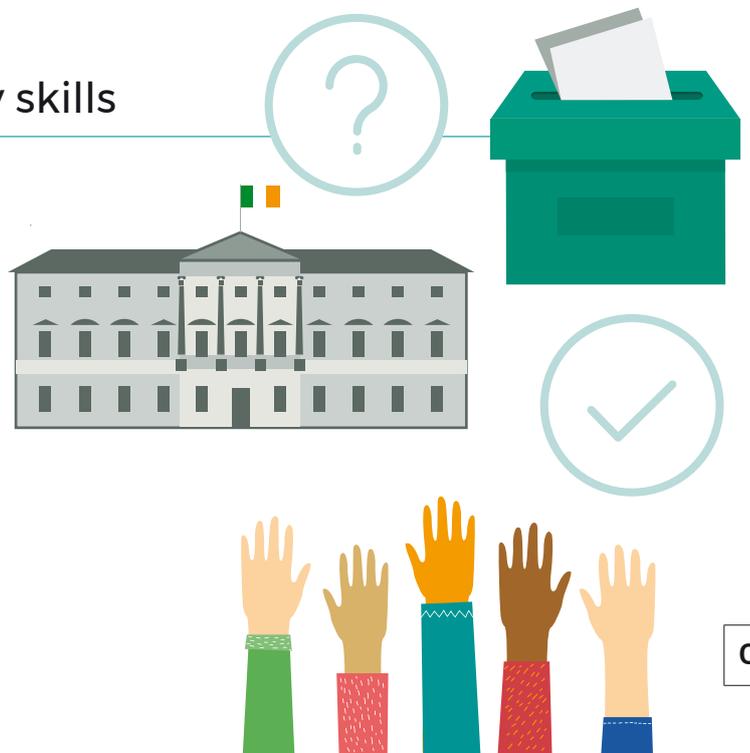
- ▶ Use the correct terms to describe political institutions and processes
- ▶ Consolidate their understanding of the keywords of democracy

Materials

- ▶ Slide show
- ▶ Worksheet: Voting – one for each pair of students
- ▶ Colour-coded keyword cards – one card for each student
- ▶ Colour-coded explanation cards – one card for each student
- ▶ Blank A2 sheets x 3

Assessment for learning/Key skills

- ▶ Discussion
- ▶ Think-Pair-Share
- ▶ Working with others
- ▶ Being creative



1 Recap

Recap what we mean by “the State”.

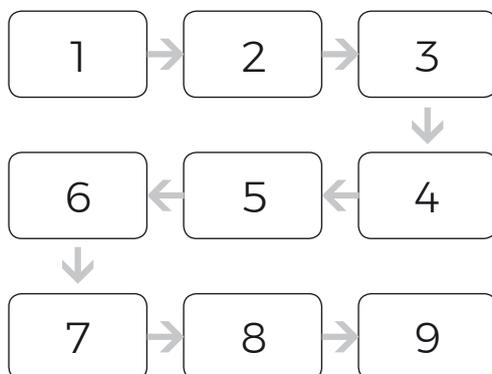
Consider showing the presentations from the lessons **Government in Ireland** and **Voting** for a recap on terms related to the Oireachtas..

2 Complete the Voting worksheet

Distribute the Voting worksheet (see page 4) and ask the class to complete it in pairs.

Solution

- 1 To vote I need to be age **18**
- 2 In order to vote, my name must be on the **Register of Electors**
- 3 On polling day I must go to the **polling station**
- 4 On polling day I need to bring **evidence of identity**
- 5 When I get there, I will be given a **ballot paper**
- 6 I put my vote in the **ballot box**
- 7 If I make a mistake, this will be a **spoiled vote**
- 8 At the count the votes are counted by using **PR**
- 9 At the count, the **quota** is calculated



3 Match the cards

SLIDE 2

Give each student a keyword card (see pages 5-7) and an explanation card (see pages 8-10) .

Ask students to move around the room and exchange cards with others until each student has a matching pair.

4 Make a keyword poster

SLIDE 3

Divide students into three groups according to the colours of their cards.

Give each group a sheet of A2 paper.

Ask each group to make a poster designed to explain their keywords to a first year class. Each poster should include all keywords and provide a summary of its title.

When the posters are completed, give the groups time to swap them around and look at them.

Ask the teams to nominate two people to stay with their poster to explain their key terms while the other students move around the class and ask them questions.

5 Conclusion: 3-2-1

SLIDE 4

Ask each student to write down:

- ▶ Three terms that they can explain fully
 - ▶ Two terms that they did not know before the class started
 - ▶ One term that they are still unsure of
-

→ Extension activity

Word poem

Write a word poem using the word bank made up of the keywords and words on the explanation card. Only connecting words can be added to this. The poem does not have to rhyme. Write the poem on an A2 sheet and recite it to the class.



Worksheet: Voting

Complete these statements.

At the count the votes are counted by using _____

On polling day I need to bring _____

In order to vote, my name must be on the _____

When I get there, I will be given a _____

If I make a mistake, this will be a _____

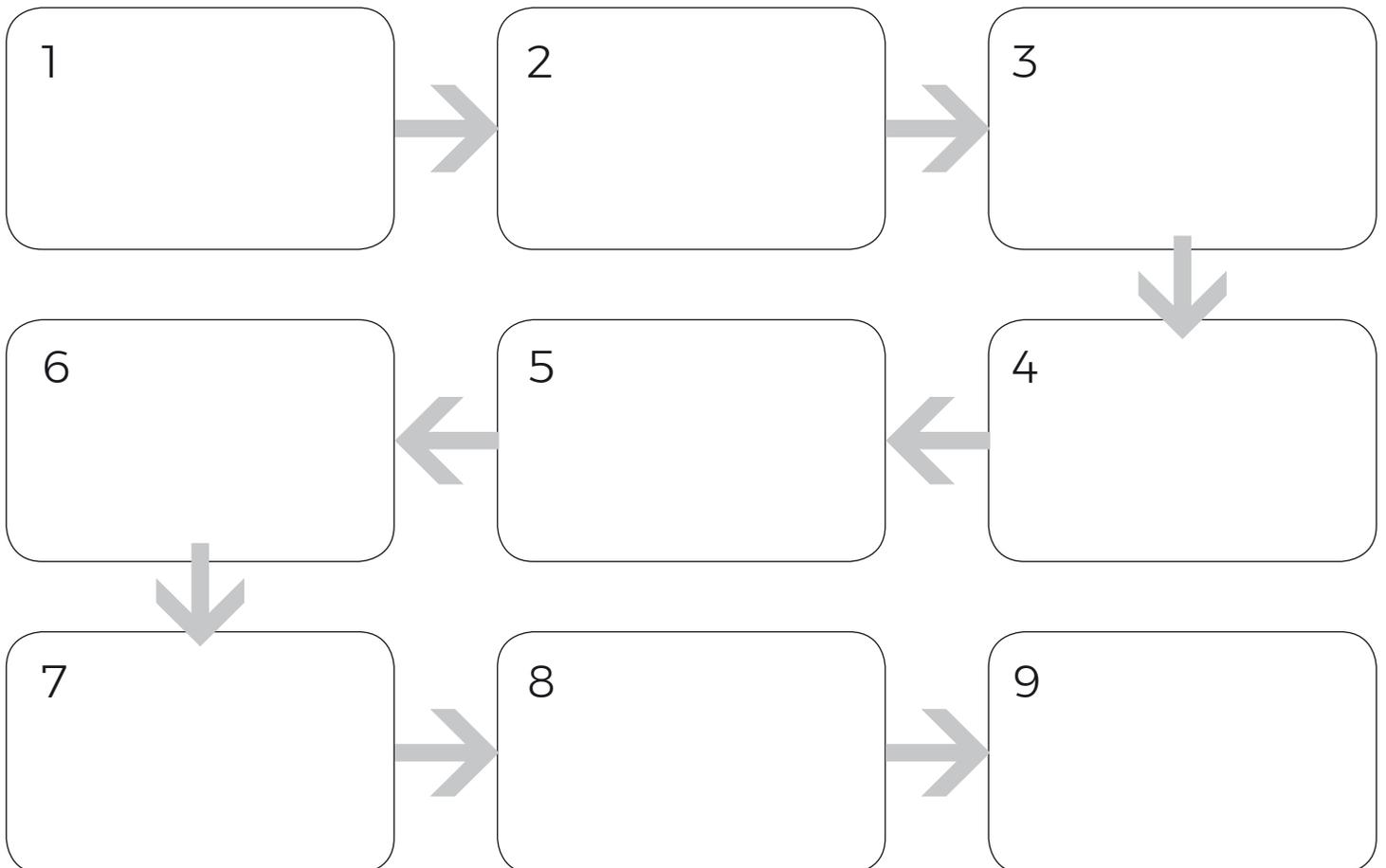
I put my vote in the _____

At the count, the _____ is calculated

On polling day I must go to the _____

To vote I need to be age _____

Now write them in the grid in the correct order.



Keyword revision cards

The Houses
of the
Oireachtas



Dáil



The Houses
of the
Oireachtas



Seanad



The Houses
of the
Oireachtas



Taoiseach



The Houses
of the
Oireachtas



Committees



The Houses
of the
Oireachtas



Minister



The Houses
of the
Oireachtas



Leinster
House



The Houses
of the
Oireachtas



Tánaiste



Keyword revision cards

**Voting
in Ireland**



Register
of electors



**Voting
in Ireland**



Polling card



**Voting
in Ireland**



Ballot paper



**Voting
in Ireland**



Polling station



**Voting
in Ireland**



Quota



**Voting
in Ireland**



Ballot box



**Voting
in Ireland**



PR-STV



Keyword revision cards

Citizens and the State  Citizen 

Citizens and the State  Democracy 

Citizens and the State  Referendum 

Citizens and the State  Laws 

Citizens and the State  Constituency 

Citizens and the State  Political parties 

Citizens and the State  Elections 

Explanation cards

**The Houses
of the
Oireachtas**



Where TDs work, chaired by
the Ceann Comhairle

**The Houses
of the
Oireachtas**



Where Senators work,
chaired by the Cathaoirleach

**The Houses
of the
Oireachtas**



The leader of the
Government

**The Houses
of the
Oireachtas**



Group of TDs and Senators
who work on a specific issue

**The Houses
of the
Oireachtas**



The TD responsible for a
Government Department

**The Houses
of the
Oireachtas**



The building where the Houses
of the Oireachtas are located

**The Houses
of the
Oireachtas**



The deputy leader of the
Government

Explanation cards

**Voting
in Ireland**



List of names of people
who can vote

**Voting
in Ireland**



Every voter gets one of these
in the post before voting

**Voting
in Ireland**



List of names of
candidates given to every
voter on polling day

**Voting
in Ireland**



The place where voting
takes place

**Voting
in Ireland**



The number of votes
needed to be elected

**Voting
in Ireland**



Where ballot papers are
placed on polling day

**Voting
in Ireland**



The system of voting
in Ireland

Explanation cards

**Citizens and
the State**



A legally recognised
national of a state

**Citizens and
the State**



Government of the people,
for the people and
by the people

**Citizens and
the State**



Voters are asked to vote
yes or no to a change to
the Constitution

**Citizens and
the State**



Rules

**Citizens and
the State**



The area which
politicians represent

**Citizens and
the State**



A group of people with
the same beliefs who work
together to be elected

**Citizens and
the State**



When new representatives
are voted for