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

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

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.

1  2  3
6  5  4
7  8  9
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Keyword revision cards</th>
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<td><strong>Citizens and the State</strong></td>
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<td>Elections</td>
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<td>The Houses of the Oireachtas</td>
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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