

Active Citizens: Political Parties

How many UK political parties can you name?

Do you know which political party each of these symbols is for?



Labour



**Liberal
Democrats**

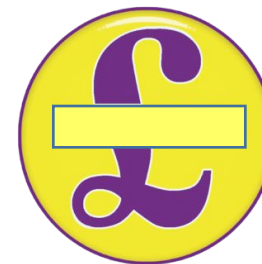


Conservatives



Green Party

**Plaid
Cymru**



**Scottish
National
Party
(SNP)**



Active Citizens: Political Parties

Your teacher will allocate your group one of the political parties. Attempt the to answer the following questions:

1. Who is the leader of your party?
2. Do you have many MPs?
3. What are your party's main policies?



Active Citizens: Conservative Part



1. Who is the leader of your party?

David Cameron

2. Do you have many MPs?

Largest party in parliament with 303 MPs

3. What are your party's main policies?

- **Reduce the deficit**
- Plans to build 200,000 starter homes
- **Income tax:** Ensuring all people who work 30 hours per week on the minimum wage pay no income tax .
- **Cutting income tax and freezing fuel duty**
- **NHS:** An extra £8bn a year for the NHS by 2020
- **Childcare:** Doubling free childcare allowance for three and four-year-olds to 30 hours
- **Capping welfare and reducing immigration** so our economy delivers for people who want to work hard and play by the rules.
- **Education:** Opening 500 more free schools .
- **Transport/Travel:** No above-inflation rises in rail fares until 2020
- **Foreign policy :**An EU referendum by 2017



<https://www.conservatives.com/>



Active Citizens: Labour Party



1. Who is the leader of your party?

Ed Miliband

2. Do you have many MPs?

Currently the second largest party with 257 MPs

3. What are your party's main policies?

- **Reducing the deficit:** Cut the deficit every year
- **Housing:** Build at least 200,000 new homes a year by 2020
- **Income tax:** No increase to the basic or higher rates of income tax, National Insurance or VAT.
- **Changing income tax:** Bring back the 50p top income tax rate for those earning over £150,000. End the non-dom rule that allows some wealthy UK residents to limit the tax they pay on earnings outside the country
- **Freezing fuel duty:** Freeze energy bills until 2017 and give the regulator powers to cut bills.
- **NHS:** Invest £2.5bn more than the Tories in health to recruit 8,000 more GPs, 20,000 more nurses and 3,000 more midwives
- Guarantee GP appointments within 48 hours
- **Childcare:** Extend free childcare from 15 to 25 hours for working parents of three and four-year-olds.
- **Business** "Cut and then freeze" business rates. Guarantee an apprenticeship for all school leavers. Ban zero-hours contracts.
- **Immigration:** Stop migrants claiming benefits until they have lived in the UK for two years.
- **Education:**..Protect the education budgets from early years through to post-16 education. Young people study English and maths to age 18 Ensure all teachers in state schools are qualified. University fees cut by 1/3rd From £9000 to £6000
- **Transport/Travel:** Freezing rail fares for one year
- **Foreign policy:** Reform the EU so it "works for Britain". Allow no further transfer of powers to Brussels without a referendum.

<http://www.labour.org.uk/>



Active Citizens: Liberal Democrats



1. Who is the leader of your party?

Nick Clegg

2. Do you have many MPs?

56 MPs, currently the third largest party in the House of Commons

3. What are your party's main policies?

Reducing the deficit: To eradicate the structural deficit by 2017/18.

Housing: Establish a goal to build 300,000 homes a year, including in 10 new garden cities. Establish new "rent-to-own" homes where monthly payments buy a stake in the property

Income tax: Increasing the personal tax-free allowance to £12,500. Taking "tough" action against corporate tax evasion and avoidance

Changing income tax: Create a fair plan to reduce the deficit by ensuring the rich pay "their fair share" and corporations are unable to avoid "tax responsibilities"

Freezing fuel duty: Freeze energy bills until 2017 and give the regulator powers to cut bills.

NHS: Investing £8bn more in the NHS. Equal care for mental and physical health.

Business: Invest to make the UK a world leader in low carbon cars, energy efficiency and hi-tech manufacturing, and continue the Regional Growth Fund to back growing

Education: Protect education spending from cradle to college. An extra £2.5bn for England's education budget

Guaranteeing education funding from nursery to 19 and qualified teachers in every class

Foreign policy: Ensure Britain plays a "constructive part" in the European Union

<http://www.libdems.org.uk/issues>



Active Citizens: UK Independence Party



1. Who is the leader of your party?

Nigel Farage

2. Do you have many MPs?

2 MPs (Mark Reckless and Douglas Carswell)

3. What are your party's main policies?

Reducing the deficit: Eradicate the deficit by 2017/18.

Immigration/ Foreign policy: Leave the EU and take back control of our borders. End immigration for unskilled jobs for a five-year period to re-balance our work economy

Cutting foreign aid by £9bn

Housing: Protect the green belt. Bring empty homes back into use. Build one million homes on brownfield sites

Income tax: Take minimum wage out of tax, raise the 40p tax rate threshold to £55,000, introduce a new 30p tax band and scrap inheritance tax.

Environment: No new subsidies for wind farms and solar arrays

NHS: We will spend a total of £12 billion more on the NHS. Fund 20,000 more nurses, 8,000 more GPs and 3,000 more midwives

Invest an extra £1.5 billion into mental health and dementia services over the next five years. Scrap hospital parking charges

Business: A cut in business rates for small businesses.

Defence: spend 2% of GDP on defence.

Education: Bring back grammar schools and support a range of secondary schools including vocational, technical and specialist schools

Waive tuition fees for science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine (STEMM) subjects at university

Transport: Scrap HS2: this is an expensive. A reliable, cost-effective transport network



http://www.ukip.org/policies_for_people



Active Citizens: Green Party



1. Who is the leader of your party?

Natalie Bennett

2. Do you have many MPs?

One MP (Caroline Lucas)

3. What are your party's main policies?

- **Reducing the deficit** : The Green Party, Plaid Cymru and the SNP all want to see austerity scaled back. In its manifesto, They all say they do not support the continuation of "austerity" policies.
- **Housing** Abolish the "bedroom tax" Provide 500,000 social rented homes by 2020. Bring empty homes back into us
- Cap rents, introduce longer tenancies and licence landlords to provide greater protection to renters.
- **NHS**: End the "creeping privatisation" of the NHS and repeal the government's Health and Social Care Act 2012. Increase the overall NHS budget by £12bn a year to overcome the current "funding crisis" Raise alcohol and tobacco taxes to help fund this
- **Education**: Promote a "comprehensive system" of local schools staffed by qualified teachers. Bring academies and free schools into the local authority system. Lower the voting age to 16. It comes after Scotland allowed 16 and 17-year-olds to vote.
- **Income tax**: Reduce National Insurance contributions. Introduce a wealth tax of 1-2% on people worth £3m or more. Salaries above £150,000 a year to incur a 60% income tax rate
- **Oppose austerity**. There is an alternative – investment in a low carbon economy, creating real jobs of the future.
- **Turn the national minimum wage into a genuine living wage** so that everyone can put food on the table and pay the bills..
- **Scrap the welfare cap** to ensure that we can truly help the poorest and most vulnerable in our society.
- **Enforce a cap on bankers' bonuses** and reduce the pay gap between those at the top and those at the bottom.



<http://policy.greenparty.org.uk/>



Active Citizens: Scottish National Party

1. Who is the leader of your party?

Nicola Sturgeon

2. Do you have many MPs?

6 MPs

3. What are your party's main policies?

•**Reducing the deficit** : The SNP Green Party and Plaid Cymru all want to see austerity scaled back. In its manifesto, They all say they do not support the continuation of "austerity" policies.

Referendum: Bring forward legislation for an independence referendum.

NHS: Protect the NHS budget with extra £1bn over four years.

Independence for Scotland, staying in the European Union.

Environment: Increase domestic energy generation from renewables to 100% by 2020, ensuring 130,000 jobs are delivered in the low-carbon economy. No to new nuclear power stations.

Education. No university fees for Scottish students studying in Scotland, requiring additional funding of £93m a year. Cut by half, or 60,000, the number of pupils taught in the worst the number of pupils in "crumbling" schools. Lower the voting age to 16. It comes after Scotland allowed 16 and 17-year-olds.

Defence: Scrapping the Trident nuclear programme would be a "fundamental" issue in a potential coalition deal with Labour after the general election.

Housing: Guarantee to retain secured tenancies at affordable rent and implement Tenant Deposit Scheme, to help the estimated 8,000 to 11,000 Scots who have their deposit wrongly withheld. Tough tenancy rules for those who commit anti-social behaviour.

Transport: Better transport links to Scotland -M74 Raith Junction and M8, M73 and M74 network improvements. Edinburgh-Glasgow rail improvement programme which will see the electrification of "much" of the central Scotland rail network.

<http://www.snp.org>



Active Citizens: Plaid Cymru



1. Who is the leader of your party?

Leanne Wood

2. Do you have many MPs?

3 MPs (Elfyn Llwyd, Hywel Williams and Jonthan Edwards)

3. What are your party's main policies?

- **Reducing the deficit** : Plaid Cymru , th e Green Party and the SNP all want to see austerity scaled back. In its manifesto, They all say they do not support the continuation of "austerity" policies.
- **independent country**: More powers for the **Welsh Assembly**. In the long term, Wales can flourish as an independent nation and full member of the European Union.
- **Defence**: Plaid Cymru (and the SNP, Green Party) all oppose the renewal of the UK's nuclear missile system.
- Fight for the rights of **Welsh speakers**, and for the preservation of the Welsh national identity.
- **Immigration/ Foreign policy**: Plaid Cymru back EU membership -it will campaign to stay in EU in event of a referendum.
- **NHS**: Health and care is a devolved power in Wales, A pledge to end what they call the "creeping privatisation" of the NHS
- **Society**: Plaid Cymru recognises the invaluable contribution that migrants have made to Wales. They celebrate tolerance, mutual understanding and difference.
- **Voting**: Lower the voting age to 16. It comes after Scotland allowed 16 and 17-year-olds to vote.



Active Citizens: Quick Quiz

1. Which party currently has the most MPs? **The Conservative Party**
2. Natalie Bennett is the leader of which political party? **The Green Party**
3. Which party wants the UK to leave the European Union? **The UK Independence Party**
4. Which party has pledged to increase the tax paid by those earning over £150,000 a year?
The Labour Party
5. Which party wants to protect spending on education 'from cradle to college'?
The Liberal Democrat Party
6. What is the name of the party that wants Wales to be an independent country?
Plaid Cymru



Active Citizens: Election Broadcast

Imagine that you are employed by the party allocated to your group by your teacher.

You have been asked to **produce a party election broadcast** to get your party's **key message** across to the public.

In your group, decide what is your **key message**?

How could you get this message across to the public in a **two minute film**?

Prepare your broadcast and then present it to the class.

Interview a member of the public or expert?

Short play?

Speak to camera and explain why your policies will improve Britain?



Active Citizens: Political Spectrum

People sometimes talk about different parties as being 'left-wing' or 'right-wing'.

Does anyone know what these terms mean?



The terms "left" and "right" appeared during the French Revolution of 1789 when members of the National Assembly divided into supporters of the king to the president's right and supporters of the revolution to his left.



Active Citizens: Political Spectrum

Today, parties on the left tend to support higher taxes and more government spending. Political parties are described as right wing if they want less government spending and lower taxes.

Where would you place the political parties on the political spectrum?



Active Citizens: Create Your Own Political Party

In your groups you are now going to create your own political party.

1. What will be your **policies**?
2. Who will be your **leader**?
3. What will be your party's **name**?
4. Will you be **left-wing or right-wing**?
5. Could you design your **party logo**?
6. Could you produce **materials** to promote your party? *Posters, leaflets, manifestos and election broadcasts*



Active Citizens: **St James' Mock Election**

Become a
more active
citizen?

- On Thursday May 7th St James' will hold a Mock General Election – **You** (pupils, staff, office staff etc.) will all have the opportunity to vote.
- A mock polling station will be set up in school. You will have the opportunity to vote before school, during break and lunch and after school up to 3:45.
- On Friday May 8th the results will be announced.
- Which party will the St James' Community vote for?
- ***Get involved – make sure you vote***




Active Citizens: **How to vote**

1. Go to the registration table.
2. State your Name and Form to registrar.
3. You will be given a voting slip.
4. Go to one of the tables set up (on your own).
5. Register your choice of party by putting a cross **x** in the box to the right.
6. **Only vote for one party only**
7. Put your voting slip in the ballot box on next to the registration table



Active Citizens: Voting slip





St James' Mock General Election	
 Conservatives	
 Greens	
 Labour	
 Liberal Democrats	
 UKIP	

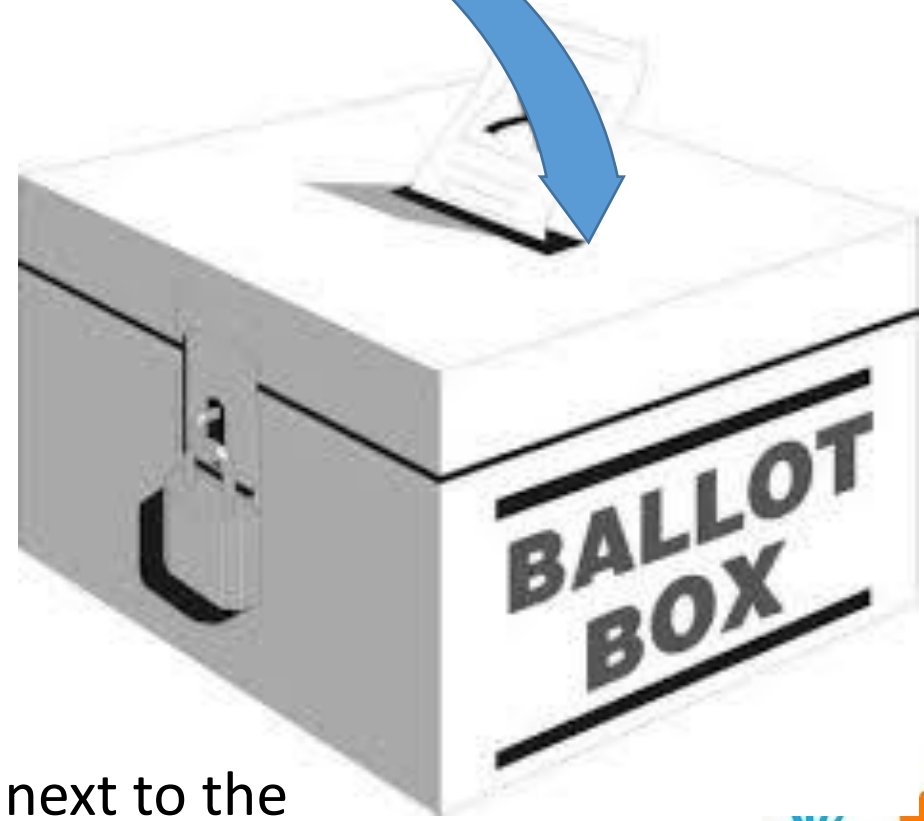
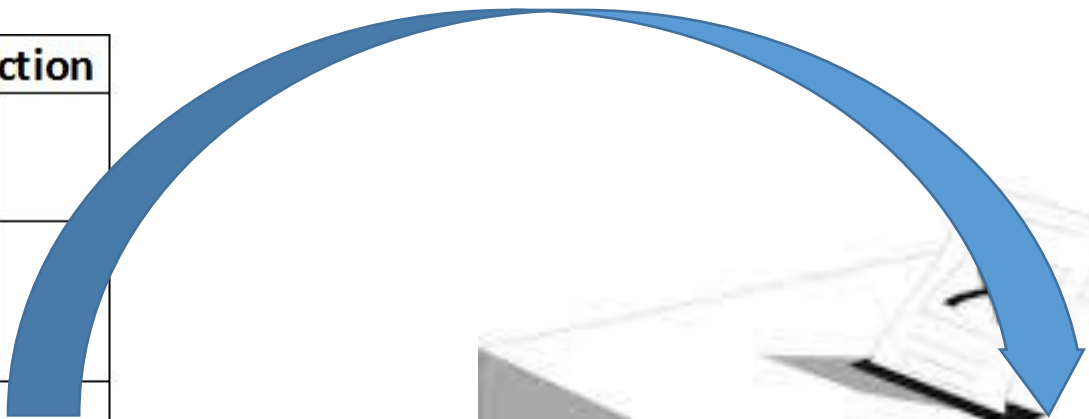
St James' Mock General Election	
 Conservatives	
 Greens	
 Labour	X
 Liberal Democrats	
 UKIP	

1. Register your choice of party by putting a cross **x** in the box to the right.
2. Only vote for **one** party



St James' Mock Election

St James' Mock General Election	
	Conservatives
	Greens
	Labour
	Liberal Democrats
	UKIP



Put your voting slip in the ballot box on next to the registration table



WOTE