Mock Elections 2019
Quick Mock Election Guide

Running A Mock Election With One Class Over Two Lessons

CLASS 1

Introduction
Act as the Election Returning Officer. Announce that an election is going to take place. Put it into context (the general election on 12 December to elect 650 MPs to Parliament etc). You could play the video – *'How does the general election work?'* – produced by Parliament's Education Service.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLiC1xpbIKM&list=PLj3mInRJqIenFMIYz-zHb55sNASr8zW2O&index=6&t=0s

Step 1
Split the class into mixed ability groups of around 5-6. Explain that each group is going to form a political party. [5 mins]

Step 2
Give each group a few minutes to think about what makes a good politician and decide who their candidate is – offering a reward/prize can serve as an incentive for pupils to come forward. [5 mins]

Step 3 (optional)
Ask pupils to research information about the political parties.

They could research information via the party websites (use the *Which Party?* Cue Cards – make sure you select the right one for your country as different parties stand in different parts of the UK). The BBC's 2019 Election site https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election/2019 may also be useful.

They should make a note of three or four policy ideas they agree with and three or four they don't like. [15 mins]

Step 4
Give each group a large piece of paper and a marker. Ask them to brainstorm issues that they care about. These can be local, national or international issues. [5 mins]

Step 5
Take feedback from each group, creating a brainstorm map on the board. Ask them to explain why they care about certain issues. [5 mins]

Step 6
Ask each party to decide on their own policies based on the issues that they have written down and then name their party. They can stand as an existing party (if you have included Step 3) or create their own. [10 mins]

Step 7
Ask each group to write a manifesto based on their policies. [10 mins]

At the end tell them they will be campaigning and voting in the next class!

CLASS 2

<u>**RESOURCES**</u>

- **Ballot papers** with the names of the candidates and parties on them (see Templates Pack)

- **Ballot box -** one can be made out of a cardboard box – an archive storage or photocopy paper box is ideal (for an example, see Step 6(ii) on page 16 of the Standard Mock Election Toolkit for Teachers)

Introduction
Explain that each party is going to prepare a short speech explaining why people should vote for them. Each party also needs to design a poster and logo. There will then be time for each party to deliver their speech and present their posters.

Step 1
Get each party to allocate tasks to certain individuals.
- One half should focus on designing campaign materials – a logo and a poster.
- The other half should focus on writing a short speech (around 2 minutes) that explains their manifesto pledges and tells people why they should vote for them.

Allocate jobs yourself if you think that allowing pupils to choose their own roles may be time consuming. [25 mins]

Step 2
Ask each party to come to the front of the class. The candidate should deliver their speech and the rest of the party members present their poster and logo. [20 mins]

Depending on time available you could allow a period for Q&A.

Step 3
Give out the ballot papers. Explain to the pupils that in this election they are not allowed to vote for their own party – if they are caught doing so their vote will be invalid! If you want to ensure that there is no cheating in this respect you could number the ballot papers in advance so that you know which ones have been allocated to each party. [5 mins]

Step 4
Tell pupils to place an 'X' next to the candidate that they wish to vote for and place the ballot paper in the ballot box. [5 mins]

Step 5
Count the ballot papers and announce the result! [5 mins]

NB. If there is a tie then a party name should be pulled out of a hat to decide the winner – this happens in real elections!

Plenary: Reflect on the election process – is an election like this a good and fair way of deciding who represents us? Will pupils vote when they are old enough? Why? Why not? [5 mins]

TO ENSURE YOUR SCHOOL'S RESULT IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL MOCK ELECTIONS CAMPAIGN RESULT, DON'T FORGET TO SUBMIT YOUR RESULTS AFTERWARDS USING THE LINK THAT HAS BEEN EMAILED TO YOU.

THE DEADLINE IS 6PM THURSDAY 12 DECEMBER.

If you have any feedback about the toolkit/resources, please contact us at
mockelections@hansardsociety.org.uk