Elections

Curriculum Guide:
Social Studies, Numeracy, Religious and Moral Education, Citizenship

Teaching Levels: 1, 2 and 3 (P4 - S3)

Citizenship Themes:
Political Awareness, Media Awareness

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- Our class election page 29-30
- Election word bank page 31-32
INTRODUCTION

This activity allows the class to take part in an election and explore the concepts of representation and participation.

Suggestions on using the election materials
Each group gets a copy of the relevant materials to help them produce the following:
- Manifesto
- Speech
- Poster
- Press Release

There are differentiated materials for these sections.

The group should:
- decide how to split the work up. There could be a period of group research where everyone works together to find out about policies and political parties. Then, there could be a chance for individual work, where one person concentrates on a particular piece – e.g. one person designs the poster, one writes the press release etc.
- make up a party and decide on their name or teachers can assign each group to a particular political party if it is preferred that the groups follow established parties and policies
- decide who will be their candidate for the party (by election?)

If the group has time they could also produce rosettes or badges for the candidate and group to wear.

Teachers need to stress that groups should not make promises that they will not be able to keep – e.g. free sweets for everyone at break time.

There could also be 2, 3 or 4 pupils who form a group of polling clerks who organise the ballot papers and polling place. They should follow the instructions on the Clerk sheet.

Once each group is ready/time limit is up
- Candidates will each give their speech to try to persuade people to vote for them and their party
- Questions – the teacher could prepare questions to ask the candidates on current topics. Other pupils might want to ask other questions.
- Posters, manifesto leaflets and press releases should be on display for others to see
- Rest of class should compare candidates using forms provided and then decide who they are going to vote for in the election. Groups do not have to support their candidate from now on – they might prefer to vote for someone else.

Voting should take place in a polling place
- The rules should be displayed
- The ballot should be secret
- The system used should be First Past the Post. (However, a second vote could take place with a method of PR being used for comparison)
- The teacher could give instructions to a few voters to carry out something different – e.g. one could spoil their paper, another could rip it and ask for another. It would give an idea of what might happen at the polling place.
Counting of the votes
- All votes should be sorted into piles for each candidate and then counted
- Teacher to act as Returning Officer and announce results

Extension
- Methods of Proportional Representation – research into methods of PR – see http://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/
- Discussion – why is voting important?
- Find out who their constituency MSP and regional MSPs are. See www.scottish.parliament.uk/msps Invite them to the school and ask questions about their election campaign, how they became MSPs etc.

Also in the materials:
- Information sheet on the electoral system for the Scottish Parliament
- Election Question Sheet – 22 questions about the campaign/election
- Election Quiz – a multiple choice quiz about elections
- Record of the Class Election – a record sheet for the methods, results and work carried out.
- Election word bank
HOW MSPs ARE ELECTED

Additional Member System
This is a form of Proportional Representation

2 VOTES
Everyone who can vote has two votes.
One vote is for the constituency and one vote is for the region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONSTITUENCY</th>
<th>REGION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • One vote is made to elect a local MSP
• People vote for a person
• First Past the Post is used to count the votes — the person with the most votes wins
• There are 73 constituencies in Scotland | • One vote is made for a party
• 7 MSPs are elected for one region
• There are 8 regions in Scotland
• Political Parties make up a list of people for each region.
• A formula is used to work out how many MSPs each party gets based on the number of votes the party has received
• Each Party takes the number of MSPs from their list, so if one party wins 4 regional places, the first 4 people on the list become MSPs |

There are 73 Constituency MSPs and 56 Regional MSPs. Altogether, there are 129 MSPs
Did You Know?

- You must be over 16 years old to be able to vote in Scottish Parliament elections
- You must also be living in Scotland and registered to vote
- Each ballot (voting) paper needs to be marked with a single X otherwise it will not be counted
- The ballot papers are different colours, so voters don’t get mixed up with them. The colours can change each election.

Regions of Scotland
There are 8 regions of Scotland:

- West of Scotland
- South Scotland
- Mid Scotland and Fife
- North East Scotland
- Lothians
- Central Scotland
- Glasgow
- Highlands and Islands

What is...?

Q: PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION?
A: This is a system of making the percentage of representatives a Party gets closer to the percentage of the votes each party got in the election.

Q: FIRST PAST THE POST?
A: A very simple way of counting votes and deciding a winner. The person with the most votes wins.
HOW TO BE A CLERK

You are a Polling Clerk and you are not going to prepare any of the campaign for the candidates. Instead, you are going to work on setting up the Polling Place, the ballot papers and the voters’ list.

The Voters’ List
In order to vote in Scottish Parliament elections, you must be on the Electoral Register. For your class elections, the clerks need to make sure that everyone who can vote is on the Class Electoral Register. You need to find out who is in your class by asking everyone for his or her name, and class/year group. You need to type this information up into a list to be used in the Polling Place.

The Ballot Papers
Once the candidates for election are known, you need to get the information from them. You will need their name and the name of the Party they are standing for.

On Voting Day
You are in charge of the Polling Place. Collect the Ballot Box from the Returning Officer, and place it on or near your desk in the Polling Place. There should be two clerks at the desk at all times.

Make sure the Voting Booths are set up correctly – that they are away from other people so people can vote in secret and that there are pens available for the voters to use. (Perhaps the pens should be attached to some string and stuck to the desk to make sure the pens don’t disappear!)

When a voter comes to the desk, ask them their name and score it off on the list. If you have a rubber stamp, then stamp the Ballot paper to show that it is an official paper. (If you don’t have a stamp, sign the ballot paper instead). Give the voter the ballot paper. If any voter spoils (wrongly marks) their paper, and asks for another one, give them another paper but make sure that you destroy the spoiled paper and put it in the bin.

At the end of the voting time, you need to hand over the Ballot Box to the Returning Officer who will arrange for the votes to be counted.

Here is an example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BROWN, BEN</th>
<th>The Birthday Party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JONES, JEMIMA</td>
<td>The Slumber Party</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN BALLOT BOX

Ballot boxes are the containers that all the votes from a Polling Place are placed in on the day of the election. If you want to hold your own election then you will need a Ballot Box for your Polling Place.

To make a Ballot Box, you will need:
- A large cardboard box
- A lid for the box, or a piece of cardboard or paper to cover the top of the box
- Black Paint or black paper to cover the box
- Paper to cut out letters
- Scissors
- Glue

1. Cover or paint the box black.
2. Once the box has dried, cut a slit in the lid. Make sure it is big enough to get a folded voting paper through.
3. Fix the lid or cardboard onto the top of the box – remember, it has to be secure as Ballot Boxes must not be opened until after all the votes are made.
4. Cut out the letters for “Ballot Box” in white paper and stick them to one side of your ballot box.
5. Your Ballot Box is ready for use!
HOW TO SET UP YOUR POLLING PLACE

The Polling Place is the place where people go to vote.

To set up the Polling Place you will need the following:

- Desk for the officials
- Sign for polling place
- Voting papers
- Ballot Box
- Rules of the Polling Place
- A private place where people go to vote
- A class list
- Pens for the voters
- A rubber stamp for marking voting papers

When you are setting up the Polling Place, consider these points:

- A desk is needed for the officials to sit at and issue the voting papers
- A class list is necessary to make sure that everyone only votes once. Names should be scored out as the person collects their voting paper
- Voting is secret so no one should be able to see the person as they mark their voting paper
- The rules of the Polling Place must be displayed clearly for everyone to read
HOW TO SELECT A GOOD CANDIDATE

In order to have the best chance of getting your candidate elected, the person has to have good qualities that will mean that they are well suited to the job.

Here are some qualities you might want to consider when selecting your candidate.

• Are they good at speaking in public?
• Are they good at meeting and talking to people of all ages?
• Do they have strong views on some issues?
• Are they good at getting something done about things they feel strongly about?
• Are they a hard worker?
• Are they a good listener?
• Are they interested in a variety of subjects?
• Are they good at working in teams?

Can you think of any more qualities that a person who wants to stand for election to Parliament should have?

Write them down so that you remember them.

If you are following a political party, you will need to consider the main policies of the party – does your candidate agree with the main policies of your party?
HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN ROSETTES

Rosettes are the badges worn by candidates to show what political party they belong to. They are usually in the party’s colours and have the name of the Party in the centre.

If you want to make a rosette for your candidate, here’s how to do it:

You will need:
• A copy of the rosette template sheet
• A safety pin
• Scissors
• Glue
• Pens

To make the rosette:
1. Colour the small shapes and the two long shapes in the colour of your party
2. Colour in the smallest circle and add the name of the candidate and the party and any logo you are using
3. Cut out all the shapes
4. Stick the small end of the small shapes onto the outside edge of the large circle
5. Attach the two long shapes so they hang down from the rosette
6. Cover up the rough inside edge by sticking the smaller circle in the middle
7. Attach the safety pin to the back of the rosette.
8. It’s now ready for your candidate to wear!

If you don’t want to make a rosette – you could always make a badge for your candidate – just design it on cardboard or paper with the candidate’s name, party and logo and then attach a safety pin to the back of it.
HOW TO WRITE A MANIFESTO

A manifesto is a document that sets down all the views and opinions that a political party has on certain issues and it will tell the reader the ways that the party would change these issues if they were elected as the government. On an individual basis, a manifesto is what the candidate would try to do for the people he or she represents in Parliament if they were elected.

To write your own manifesto for your party, you will need to decide which issues you are going to concentrate on.

If you want to see what issues the main political parties look at, go to their websites:

**The Labour Party**  
www.labour.org.uk  
www.scottishlabour.org.uk

**The Conservative Party**  
www.conservatives.com  
www.scottishconservatives.com

**The Liberal Democratic Party**  
www.libdems.org.uk  
www.scotlibdems.org.uk

**The Scottish National Party**  
www.snp.org

**The Green Party**  
www.greenparty.org.uk  
www.scottishgreens.org.uk

To write your manifesto, follow the steps below:

1. Choose 4 or 5 issues, either that you think are important or maybe that the main political parties have as issues in their manifestos.
2. Try to have at least one local issue, one national issue and one international issue.
3. Order these issues – which issue do you think is the most important and one that your party should make the main issue in their campaign. Remember you need to think about what the voters might see as the main issue.
4. Now decide what you would do to try to change these issues if you were to be elected. These are your policies. Be clear about your opinions on the issues but don’t make promises that you can’t keep – for example free sweets at break.
5. You need to write up your issues and policies in a leaflet that would be sent to all houses in the area for people to read and find out what you would do for them. Include pictures on the issues – either that you draw yourself, or ones from the Internet or newspapers. Remember you are trying to persuade people to vote for you so you have to think about what they want and would like to see happen.
HOW TO WRITE YOUR MANIFESTO

1. Take a piece of A4 paper and fold it into three (see picture below)
2. On the front of your leaflet put the name of the party and name of the candidate
3. Now on each page inside you should write about an issue you and your group think is important
   say what the issue is
   say why it is important
   write about what you would do to change it and make it better
   you might like to put in a drawing or photo of this issue
HOW TO WRITE A PRESS RELEASE

A Press Release is a method of putting out information for the media (see wordbank) to use. It will tell of an upcoming event or give a statement about something that has just happened.

You need to write a Press Release to tell the media that your candidate for the Scottish Parliament elections has just been chosen.

It needs to be clear and give lots of information about the candidate. Try to include something that will make the media interested in your candidate – a quote from the leader of the party or some other well-known and respected person who supports your candidate.

Follow the steps below to write your press release:

1. Choose a title which explains clearly what your press release is about. Make it bold.
2. Your first paragraph should be about the candidate – who they are, age, background etc.
3. Your next paragraph should concentrate on the issues and policies the candidate will be using in their campaign. Highlight the most important issue.
4. Then mention the party and that the candidate has the full support of the party – now is the time to bring in a quote from the leader of the party to say how well he thinks the candidate would do as an MSP. You can also bring in a quote from a local well-known and respected person who supports the candidate.
5. Have some quotes from the candidate saying how hard they will work for the people and the area if they are elected as MSP.
6. Include details of a public meeting that the candidate will be speaking at so people can hear the views and make their mind up who to vote for. Remember you want to try to reach as many people as possible to persuade them to vote for your candidate.
7. Include contact details for yourself as the press officer.
PRESS RELEASE TEMPLATE

Party Candidate Announced

…………………………………...........……………………………….. has been chosen as the candidate for election to the Scottish Parliament for the..........................................Party.

…………………………………...........…………will be an excellent choice for the voters as he/she has lots of experience and skills. Mr Joe Smith, leader of the..........................................Party said “I think…………....will be an excellent MSP because …………………………………………...............................................................
……………………………………………………………………........and I hope the voters will choose him/her as their elected representative.”

Some of the issues………………...........will be campaigning about are…………………………………………………………………………….
……………………………………………………………………….
……………………………………………………………………….
……………………………………………………………………….

However, the most important issue is……………………...
……………………………………………………………………... because …………………………………………………………………
……………………………………………………………………...
…………..............................................................

As our candidate says “………………………………….
……………………………………………………………………...”

Our candidate will be giving a speech at………………….
…………………………………….School on……………….............and hopes that people will come along and listen. “This is your chance to listen and make an informed choice about who you think will be the best person to represent you. I promise I will do the best I can to get things done for the people of…………………” said…………….........

For further information, contact…………………...................
…………………….., Press Officer for the........................................ Party.
HOW TO WRITE AND GIVE A SPEECH

A speech is something that one person gives to an audience of people. It is a formal way of talking to people and telling them what you think.

When you are writing a speech remember these things:

- Keep it short. People don’t listen if you go on too long
- Keep it interesting – you want to make people listen to what you have to say so don’t bore them
- Don’t use too many facts and figures – people will forget them
- Keep it focused on what you are talking about – don’t go off on another subject
- Keep it formal – don’t put in too many jokes and don’t use slang words
- Try to finish on something really positive that people will remember about you – you want them to go away thinking you are great and would make a brilliant MSP!

Practice your speech once it has been written – talk to yourself, in front of a mirror, or get some friends to listen first before you do the real thing!

When you are giving your speech, try to do these things:

- Look at people – making eye contact is better than staring at the floor
- Speak clearly – don’t mumble, people want to hear what you have to say
- Speak slowly – don’t go too fast or people won’t have time to take in what you are saying
- Stay within your time limit.
SPEECH TEMPLATE

Good morning/afternoon. I am……………………………............and I am the candidate for the...........................Party.
I am standing for election to the Scottish Parliament. There are many reasons that I feel I would make an excellent MSP.

I have good personal qualities. I am..............................................and I can.............................................................................
I am good at.............................................................................

Also, I have the support of the..........................Party

I will work extremely hard for you, the people of ........................................if I am elected. There are several issues which I feel need to be addressed and I would try my best to change these issues if I was a MSP.

The most important issue is..........................................................and I would try to make this better by..........................................................

Another issue I would focus on would be..........................
I would work towards................................................................

Ladies and gentlemen, I urge you to vote for me in the elections to the Scottish Parliament. I will try my very best to make sure things are changed for the better when I am in the Scottish Parliament. Vote for me on Election Day and you won’t be disappointed!

Some words and phrases to use when writing your speech

- Hard working
- Make decisions
- Helpful
- Good speaker
- Friendly
- Get things done
- Work in teams
- Caring
- Strong views
- Polite
- Get on with all types of people
HOW TO DESIGN A POSTER

Like any poster, a poster during an election campaign needs to grab the attention of the voters and make them remember the party, the candidate and the issues.

To make an attention grabbing poster include the following:
- The name of the party
- The name of the candidate
- The logo of the party – this is a small symbol which sums up the party’s name
- Some of the issues the candidate is campaigning about – both in words and pictures
- A slogan that people will remember about the candidate or party

Make it clear and bright and keep writing to a minimum
Write the name of the party and draw the logo here

Write your slogan here

Draw a picture which shows your candidate meeting with people to persuade them to vote for him/her.

Write the name of the candidate and what he or she will do if they get elected

Find a picture from the Internet or newspapers which is about one of the issues your candidate would try to change if they were elected.
CHECK LIST ON CANDIDATES - TEACHER NOTES

There are two suggestions here to help pupils organise their thoughts about what makes a good candidate and who they are going to vote for.

The first sheet is a table that they fill in for each candidate. They need to write in the issues the candidate is campaigning about and then select one of the statements for the manifesto, poster and press release. At the end, the pupils should have a record of each candidate which should help them to decide who to vote for. The teacher will need to ensure each pupil has enough sheets for the number of candidates in the class, or display the checklist on a screen or whiteboard so pupils can work in their jotters.

The second choice is a scoring system where marks are given to each candidate for each part of the campaign where 3 is the best and 1 is the worst. At the end, the candidate with the highest score is the one they think is best. A discussion point could be that the candidate who gets the highest score might not be who they end up voting for – what other factors come in to play at election time? Again, the teacher will need to ensure each pupil has enough sheets for the number of candidates in the class, or can see it on a screen or whiteboard.
# CHECK LIST ON CANDIDATES

## Candidates Checklist

Fill in the table below – you will need one for each candidate. You will need to write in the issues the candidate is campaigning about and then choose one of the statements for the manifesto, poster and press release.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate Name:</th>
<th>Party:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Most important issue:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other issues:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| The Party Manifesto | \- was very informative about the issues   
|                     | \- told me a bit about the issues         
|                     | \- did not tell me much about the issues  |
| The Party Poster    | \- was eye-catching and informative        
|                     | \- was interesting and gave me a bit of information 
|                     | \- didn’t make me want to support this party |
| The Press Release   | \- told me lots about the candidate        
|                     | \- told me a bit about the candidate      
|                     | \- was not much use to find out about the candidate |
| Did the candidate persuade me to vote for him? | \- Yes, a lot \- Maybe \- No, not at all |
# CHECK LIST ON CANDIDATES

## Candidates Checklist

Give each candidate a score out of three, where 3 is the best and 1 is the worst for each of the points below. Then add up the scores. The one with the highest score is the candidate you think is the best. But will you vote for them?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate Name:</th>
<th>Party:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### How much did you support the issues?
- A lot • 3
- A little • 2
- Not at all • 1

### Speech
- was good, clear and informative • 3
- was quite informative • 2
- did not give much information about the candidate or the issues • 1

### The Party Manifesto
- was very informative about the issues • 3
- was ok and told me a bit about the issues • 2
- did not tell me much about the issues • 1

### The Party Poster
- was eye-catching and informative • 3
- was interesting and gave me a bit of information • 2
- didn’t make me want to vote for the candidate • 1

### The Press Release
- told me lots about the candidate • 3
- told me a bit about the candidate • 2
- was not much use to find out about the candidate • 1

### Rosette/Badge
- well made and colourful • 3
- quite well made and quite colourful • 2
- a poor effort • 1

### Did the candidate persuade me to vote for him/her?
- Yes, a lot • 3
- Maybe • 2
- No, not at all • 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total (out of 21)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
POLLING PLACE RULES

1. Campaigning by candidates or their supporters is not allowed inside the Polling Place
2. Voters must collect their voting slip from the Front Desk
3. Voters must take their voting slip into the private booth to cast their vote
4. A cross (X) should be placed beside the person’s name that you want to vote for

Example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BROWN, BEN</th>
<th>PETERS, ANDREW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Birthday Party</td>
<td>The Winning Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JONES, JEMIMA</td>
<td>YOUNG, JOHN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Slumber Party</td>
<td>The Happy Party</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. If you make a mistake on your voting paper, return it to the Front Desk and swap it for a new one
6. If there is more than one cross or mark on the paper, then it is not valid and will not be counted
7. Voting Papers should be folded in half before they are placed in the Ballot Box
8. Once a voter has voted, they should leave the Polling Place
POLLING PLACE
ELECTION QUESTION SHEET – SOME SUGGESTIONS

The Campaign
1. What qualities make a good candidate for election?
2. Why is a manifesto important during an election campaign?
3. Write down 5 ways of campaigning
4. Why is it important to let the media know about your campaign and candidate?

Choosing Who to Vote For
5. Would you vote for someone because you agreed with the party’s policies, even if you didn’t like the candidate? Give reasons.
6. Would you vote for someone because you liked him or her, even if you didn’t like their policies or the party they belonged to? Give reasons.
7. How did you choose who to vote for?
8. Was it a difficult decision to make?
9. In your opinion, which part of the campaign influenced you to vote for the person the most? Was it the speech, the poster, the manifesto or the press release? Choose one and give reasons why you think that.

Voting
10. Why is voting an important thing to do?
11. Why do people vote in secret?
12. Why are votes anonymous?
13. What is the role of polling clerks?
14. What measures are taken to make sure no one can vote more than once?

Counting the Votes and The Result
15. Look at the results
   a. How many votes did the winner get?
   b. How many votes did all the other candidates get altogether?
   c. Did more people vote against the winner than for that person? Is that fair?
16. What do you think voters would think about the result?
    Who would be unhappy with the result?
    Who would be happy with the result?
17. Are votes “wasted” using the First Past the Post system of counting votes?
18. What are some other methods of voting? (e.g. show of hands)
19. Why are these methods not used?
20. Proportional Representation (P.R.) is another system of voting:
    What are the advantages and disadvantages of P.R?
    Who benefits from P.R?
    Name some of the systems of P.R.

General Questions
21. Why are elections important?
22. Will you vote in elections when you are over 18?
    Give reasons for your answer.
How much have you learned about elections? Try this quiz to find out...

1. The person who stands for election is called
   a. A clerk
   b. A candidate
   c. A MSP

2. When a party produces leaflets, manifestos and posters in the period before an election, they are
   a. Campaigning
   b. Training
   c. Preparing

3. The document which has a party’s policies in it is called
   a. A press release
   b. A manifesto
   c. A rosette

4. Before you can vote, you must
   a. Be registered to vote
   b. Tell your teacher you want to vote
   c. Pay money

5. It is important to vote as
   a. Your teacher told you to do it
   b. The clerks would be bored and have nothing to do
   c. It’s our chance to have a say in who represents us

6. People can’t vote twice because
   a. They are not allowed back in the polling place
   b. Their name is scored off the list of voters
   c. A special pen recognises their fingerprints and sets off an alarm

7. People vote in secret
   a. To make it more exciting
   b. To stop voters being bribed or intimidated
   c. To help them have quiet to think about who to vote for

8. When you vote, you mark the ballot paper with
   a. A cross
   b. A tick
   c. A smiley face

9. The system of counting the votes is called
   a. First to 50% wins
   b. First Past the Post
   c. First One Wins

10. Another system of counting the votes which can be used is called
    a. Proportional Representation
    b. Personal Representation
    c. Proportional Rounding
ELECTION QUIZ ANSWERS

How much have you learned about elections?
Try this quiz to find out...

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   c. It’s our chance to have a say in who represents us

6. People can’t vote twice because
   a. They are not allowed back in the polling place
   b. Their name is scored off the list of voters
   c. A special pen recognises their fingerprints and sets off an alarm

7. People vote in secret
   a. To make it more exciting
   b. To stop voters being bribed or intimidated
   c. To help them have quiet to think about who to vote for

8. When you vote, you mark the ballot paper with
   a. A cross
   b. A tick
   c. A smiley face

9. The system of counting the votes is called
   a. First to 50% wins
   b. First Past the Post
   c. First One Wins

10. Another system of counting the votes which can be used is called
    a. Proportional Representation
    b. Personal Representation
    c. Proportional Rounding
OUR CLASS ELECTION

The Candidates and Parties involved were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate 1</th>
<th>Candidate 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The main issues and policies were:

- Policy 1
- Policy 2

The campaigning methods were:

- Method 1
- Method 2

The Voting Process (describe what happened)

When I went to vote ...
OUR CLASS ELECTION (CONTINUED)

The Results

The votes were counted using
...........................................................................................system

Two good points of this system are:

1. 
2. 

Two bad points of this system are:

1. 
2. 

Another way of counting the votes is to use a system called:

P R

Two good points about this system are:

1. 
2. 

Two bad points about this system are:

1. 
2. 

If this system had been used to count the votes, the result of our class election would have been:

The winner of our class election was:

from the:

This person won because:

1. 
2. 
ELECTION WORD BANK

**Additional Member System**
A system of Proportional Representation

**Ballot Box**
The container where voting papers are placed after they have been marked. It is usually black

**Candidate**
A person who stands for election

**Canvassing**
Persuading someone to vote for you

**Constituency**
An area that is represented by an elected person

**Debate**
A discussion that takes place between people to hear views of other people

**Democracy**
This means “rule by the people” – everyone in the country should have a say in what happens and what is decided. In a democratic country there are elections where the people have a free choice of who to elect

**Elections**
Used to pick the people in charge of the country. Everyone over 18 can vote, with a few exceptions

**Electorate**
The collective name given to all the people who have the right to vote

**First Past the Post**
A system of voting where the winner is the person with the most votes

**Ideology**
A set of ideas about how the country should be run

**Manifesto**
The issues and policies that a political party produces to tell voters what they would do if they were elected

**Media**
Collective name for newspapers, television, radio, internet

**Member of Scottish Parliament (MSP)**
A person who has been elected to the Scottish Parliament
ELECTION WORD BANK (CONTINUED)

Participation
The idea of “taking part”. This might be through voting in an election, standing for election, joining a political party or taking part in a campaign.

Policies
Ideas and proposals that political parties have for changing things they don’t like or improving things they are in favour of.

Political Party
An organisation of people who have the same views on most issues.

Polling Place
The place where people go to vote.

Press Release
A short statement written to give information to journalists. It tells the basic facts.

Proportional Representation
A system of voting where the results are more similar to the votes cast.

Selection process
The route people take if they want to stand for election with a political party.

Slogan
A catchy heading used in posters and campaigns to get the message over to people in a way that they might remember.

Voter turnout
The percentage of the electorate who actually vote on the day of the election e.g. 58% of the electorate voted in the 1999 Scottish Parliament elections.