



LESSON PLAN

Topic: Selecting a political system
Unit of work: Moral Issues Day – Brave New World
Year: Lower Fifth


Learning Outcomes / Assessment Objectives:

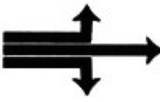


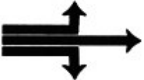

1. Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of democracy, dictatorship, 'philosopher kings' and anarchy.
2. Decide which political system is best to promote human flourishing and to maximise people's interests.

Resources:

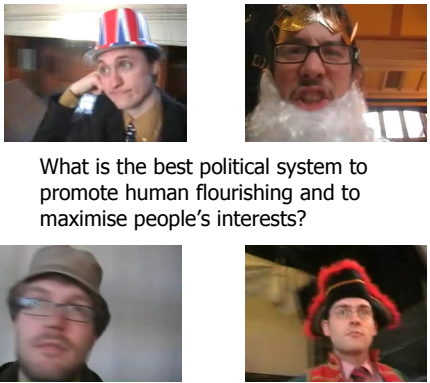
Boxing video clip 1; laptop, projector cable and sound lead; large sheets of paper (min A3); task

Lesson Sequence

	<i>Sequence</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Activities</i>
1	Intro film	6 mins	Aim: to choose the best political system to enable human beings to flourish and to maximise their interests. Watch introductory film on data projector to introduce the four potential political systems.
2	Group work	10 mins	Boys to work in groups of 3 or 4. Each group to have large sheet of paper. Give strict time limits for each section – monitor and patrol to ensure on task. Ensure boys are clear about their objective. Write key question in centre of the large sheet.  Consider All Factors – List all the factors and aspects that need to be considered in order to answer this question e.g. how human beings are in the state of nature; what we mean by 'flourishing'; whether we want a system that promotes all people to flourish to an extent, or a few great individuals; practicalities for implementing the system; ensuring people did not abuse the system – what to do with miscreants; how it will affect all members of the

			society
		40 mins	<p>10 minutes evaluating each political system. Monitor and ensure on task – don't need to feed back ideas to whole class. Quick changes are vital to keep up pace.</p> <p>For each of the 4 systems, [give time limits and use structure below to scaffold ideas]</p> <p> Initial PMI (Plus, Minus, Interesting) – positive and negative (and interesting – points which do not fit comfortably in either column) aspects of each system; benefits and problems; advantages and disadvantages (5 mins)</p> <p> Consequences – what are the possible consequences of implementing this system? (1 min)</p> <p> Alternatives – consider and explore variations on the type of government e.g. different types of democracy – what are the possible consequences of these alternative systems? (2 mins)</p> <p> Finish PMI – further positive and negative (and interesting) points (2 mins)</p>
		4 mins	<p> Priorities – which of these things are most important? Boys select most important elements from their sheet of ideas to enable them to make a decision.</p>
		3 mins	Decision – which political system is best to achieve our objective? Each group decides which political system is best for human flourishing.
3	Feedback	6 mins	Each group to feed back to whole class to explain the political system they have chosen and why.
4	End film		Final consolidating film.


Slide 1



What is the best political system to promote human flourishing and to maximise people's interests?

Slide 4

Democracy – Mill
people elect the government



What is the best political system to promote human flourishing and to maximise people's interests?

Slide 2

What is the best political system to promote human flourishing and to maximise people's interests?

Consider All Factors
– list all the possible factors and aspects that need to be considered in order to answer this question

Slide 5

Democracy – Mill
people elect the government

Positives +	Negatives -

Interesting:

PMI table – list positive and negative points of this system (and interesting points which do not fit comfortably in either column); benefits and problems; advantages and disadvantages (5 mins)

Consequences – what are the possible consequences of implementing this political system? (1 min)

Alternatives – consider and explore variations on this type of political system – what are the possible consequences of these alternative systems? (2 mins)

Finish PMI – add further positive and negative (and interesting) points (2 mins)

Slide 3


Consider All Factors

- how human beings are in the state of nature if left to their own devices - co-operating and helping one another, or cheating and undermining one another
- what we mean by 'flourishing'
- whether we want a system that promotes all people to flourish to an extent, or a few great individuals
- practicalities for implementing the system
- ensuring people do not abuse the system – what to do with miscreants or people who are unhappy with the way the society operates
- how it will affect *all* members of the society
- whether religious freedoms are protected
- the moral values which the political system advocates
- the types of laws which might feature

Slide 6

Democracy – Mill
people elect the government

Philosopher kings – Plato
rule by a small number of wise 'experts'




What is the best political system to promote human flourishing and to maximise people's interests?

Slide 7


Philosopher kings – Plato rule by a small number of wise 'experts'		PMI table – list positive and negative points of this system (and interesting points which do not fit comfortably in either column); benefits and problems; advantages and disadvantages (5 mins) Consequences – what are the possible consequences of implementing this political system? (1 min) Alternatives – consider and explore variations on this type of political system – what are the possible consequences of these alternative systems? (2 mins) Finish PMI – add further positive and negative (and interesting) points (2 mins)
Positives +	Negatives -	
Interesting:		

Slide 10

Democracy – Mill people elect the government	Philosopher kings – Plato rule by a small number of wise 'experts'
What is the best political system to promote human flourishing and to maximise people's interests?	
Anarchy – Kropotkin no government	Dictatorship – Hobbes strong leader with absolute authority



Slide 8

Democracy – Mill people elect the government	Philosopher kings – Plato rule by a small number of wise 'experts'
What is the best political system to promote human flourishing and to maximise people's interests?	
	Anarchy – Kropotkin no government

Slide 11

Dictatorship – Hobbes strong leader with absolute authority	PMI table – list positive and negative points of this system (and interesting points which do not fit comfortably in either column); benefits and problems; advantages and disadvantages (5 mins) Consequences – what are the possible consequences of implementing this political system? (1 min) Alternatives – consider and explore variations on this type of political system – what are the possible consequences of these alternative systems? (2 mins) Finish PMI – add further positive and negative (and interesting) points (2 mins)
Positives +	
Interesting:	

Slide 9

Anarchy – Kropotkin no government	PMI table – list positive and negative points of this system (and interesting points which do not fit comfortably in either column); benefits and problems; advantages and disadvantages (5 mins) Consequences – what are the possible consequences of implementing this political system? (1 min) Alternatives – consider and explore variations on this type of political system – what are the possible consequences of these alternative systems? (2 mins) Finish PMI – add further positive and negative (and interesting) points (2 mins)
Positives +	
Interesting:	

Slide 12

Priorities
Look over all your collated information for all four political systems. Decide which are the most important ideas: the key points in evaluating whether the system will help us achieve our objective.

Decision
Taking into account all your information, and which elements you believe to be most important, decide which political system is best to promote human flourishing.

'Cheat Sheet'

This information is for teachers only and is not exhaustive – the boys' tasks are of a different format and are such that they should develop new interesting ideas about the different systems – all intelligent contributions should be welcomed!

<i>Political System</i>	<i>Advantages</i>	<i>Disadvantages</i>	<i>Further Ideas</i>
<p>Democracy People elect the government</p>	<p>Government by the people</p> <p>Everyone expresses their input</p> <p>Leaders are accountable to voters</p> <p>Consensus and compromise mean that radical changes are slow</p>	<p>Tyranny of the majority; rights of minorities not protected</p> <p>Many people don't vote</p> <p>The types of people who want to become representatives (MPs) are often not representative of their constituents</p> <p>People are stupid – don't always know what is best for them</p>	<p>Consequences of different voting systems – first past the post vs. single transferable vote vs. proportional representation</p> <p>'direct democracy' where there are referendums on everything</p> <p>compulsory voting</p>
<p>Philosopher kings Rule by a small number of wise 'experts'</p>	<p>'Experts' are 'those who know' – well-trained and educated and know what is best for the people</p> <p>We have experts in all other important areas e.g. medicine, flying planes</p> <p>Meritocratic – if you were clever enough, and keen enough, you could become a philosopher king</p>	<p>Arrogance that an 'expert' knows what is better for me than I do!</p> <p>Danger of not acting in best interests of people – only checks are themselves!</p>	<p>different ways of producing the kings</p> <p>how to deal with differences between philosopher kings</p>

<p>Anarchy No government</p>	<p>No corrupt government to restrict people's freedoms</p> <p>Individual freedom</p> <p>Trusts people to know what is best for them</p> <p>All services and property operate by agreements freely entered into between individuals</p> <p>All people have to contribute to society, as only get benefits if do contribute</p>	<p>Too many bullies – people will screw each other over</p> <p>Humans need authorities to keep them in line— they don't just get along</p> <p>No protection for anyone – a warring state of nature</p> <p>Perhaps not desperately efficient</p> <p>People don't like having uncertainty – other systems provide comfort</p> <p>Some people physically are unable to contribute – e.g. disabled people</p>	<p>Police service can exist</p> <p>Would this work for all sizes of community?</p> <p>Is liberty/ freedom the most important value/ principle?</p>
<p>Dictatorship strong leader with absolute authority</p>	<p>Absolute authority (including military) enforces, so ensures, peace</p> <p>If dictator or king is well trained, they are the best person to lead</p> <p>People look up to and admire a leader – national pride and solidarity</p> <p>People like security</p>	<p>Power corrupts</p> <p>Danger that dictator will not be benevolent and act in best interests of the people</p> <p>Dictator rarely protects the rights of citizens</p> <p>Rule of terror, with use of force – people living in fear</p>	<p>a dictator serving a set-term</p> <p>what if we could construct some way of ensuring benevolent dictator?</p>