

Politics: Key Stage 4 lesson plans

Lesson 1 & 2: Research and plan a campaign about a current issue.

Politics and Citizenship objectives	1	2
1a: The legal and human rights and responsibilities underpinning society and how they relate to citizens	●	●
1f: the opportunities for individuals and voluntary groups to bring about social change nationally	●	●
1g: The importance of a free press, and the media's role in society, in providing information and affecting opinion	●	●
2a: Research a topical political, spiritual, moral, problem or event by analysing information from different sources	●	●
2b: Express, justify and defend orally and in writing a personal opinion about such issues, problems or events	●	●
2c: Contribute to group and exploratory class discussions	●	●
3a: Use their imagination to consider other people's experiences and be able to think about, express, explain and critically evaluate views that are not their own	●	●
3b: Negotiate, decide and take part responsibly in school activities	●	●
3c: Reflect on the process of participating	●	●

Moving image media objectives

See a range of FVT that both consolidates and extends existing viewing experience	●	●
Investigate a topic using FVT text and online sources	●	●

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Resources

General

ICT room and editing facilities

Paper for planning

Coloured pens/pencils

Digital stills camera

DV cameras

<http://www.channel4.com/schooldinners>

<http://www.news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/4274558.stm>

This is based on Jamie Oliver's *Jamie's School Dinners* Channel 4 series and the subsequent national debate. The following lessons can be easily adapted for another national issue.

Starter

- Go to the Channel 4 website and click on 'The School Dinner Debate'.
- Click on the section 'South Africa' to present the multimedia excerpt.
- Ask pupils what they think, share initial ideas.
- You could contextualise this by explaining the four part series on Channel 4 about school dinners and the following national debate. See BBC News website (see 'general resources' above) to see how the programme hit the news.
- Explain that sometimes things that happen on television can have an effect on politics (link to *Cathy Come Home*, Live Aid etc).

Modelling

- Put pupils in groups of three.
- Using *Feed Me Better* website (<http://feedmebetter.com>) and the Channel 4 website (www.channel4.com), pupils create a mind map of the ways that Jamie Oliver tried to bring about change.
- Look at the websites as a group to discuss pupil findings and also to allow pupils to add any further information from their mind maps.

Development

- In groups, pupils think of an issue about which they feel strongly eg renewable energy, Third World debt, Fair Trade, Fathers for Justice etc – something that needs to change. Pupils may have a personal issue, or may want to try to change their school dinners!
- Discuss how different campaigns gain publicity eg Fathers for Justice dressing as super-heroes and protesting in public places, Make Poverty History and the wearing of white bands and e-mailing Tony Blair etc.
- In groups, pupils plan a campaign aimed at reaching the government and changing the law:
 - They need to think about how they will gain publicity, raise government awareness, (eg by identifying a minister would might support their campaign), challenge people's perceptions, get in the media etc.
 - They could come up with ideas for a logo, slogan, a march, a cartoon, and media coverage, such as an advert, posters/billboards, etc.
- Discuss pupils' ideas; introduce the issue of legality and the boundaries of the law, eg Fathers for Justice trespassing onto the balcony of Buckingham Palace.
- This could go on for one lesson or several.
- Pupils put their campaigns up as displays across the room and present their ideas to the rest of the class.
- Discuss the successes of each campaign.

Plenary

Discuss how individuals such as Jamie Oliver and groups such as Shelter can challenge the status quo. You could suggest that the campaigns that the pupils have produced, taken into the real world, could make a difference.

Follow on /alternative

Pupils could look at some campaign websites such as *Oxfam*, *Greenpeace*, etc and create a website to support their campaign.