

Activity brief - Voter registration and photo Voter ID

This activity lesson takes 30 minutes and acts as a way for students to register to vote on site and apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate, if they do not have any accepted form of photo Voter ID. In this activity students learn about who can vote, how to register to vote themselves, and the processes of how they can vote (in-person, by post or by proxy).

Activity objectives

At the end of the activity, students will:

- Understand who can register to vote
- Understand the different ways of voting
- Register to vote themselves
- Understand the accepted forms of photo ID to vote in person

Resources

- Slideshow – Activity: Register to vote
- Technology with search engine/ browser access and functioning internet connection e.g. Ipad, laptop, desktop.
For example, this could be set up in a computer room, where the teacher presents on a main screen while the students sit and listen before the final activity of registering to vote.

Suggested Lesson Plan: 30 minutes



Learning / Presentation - Objective outline and who can vote

Slide 1-2

The learning objectives are the following:

- Understand who can register to vote
- Understand the different ways of voting
- Register to vote
- Understand the accepted forms of photo ID to vote in person

Learning / Presentation - Why we register to vote and who can

Slide 3-5

Outline the benefits of registering to vote, which are to allow the students to vote in upcoming elections, both on a national and local level, as well as having a voice in decisions impacting them, their communities and our great city. Then outline to the students the criteria for being able to register to vote in London, namely:

- Being aged 16 or over
- Being a London resident
- Being a British or Irish citizen
- Being a qualifying EU citizen or a citizen with retained rights
- Being a Commonwealth citizen who has permission to enter or stay in the UK, or who does not need permission

Activity - Registering to vote

In this activity it is suggested that you explain the benefits of voter registration and that all students have access to an appropriate device so that they can do the process together at once. For example, in a computer room with many computers set up.

Slide 6

Support students to access the government website - Register to vote: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Slide 7

Support students to click the Register button and start the registration process. It would be handy if they know their National Insurance numbers or can easily find this info.

Slide 8

Explain to the students that now registered they will be able to vote in upcoming elections, remind them that if they move address, they will have to go back onto the same website and re-register.

Slide 9

Explain the different types of registers.

Activity- Accepted forms of Photo ID

Slide 10-13

The [Elections Act \(2022\)](#) brought changes to the way we vote. You are now required to show an accepted form of photo ID when you are voting in person at a polling station.

Outline to the students the changes, and accepted forms of photo voter identification. Allow the students 5 minutes to determine what ID they have, and what they think will be an accepted form of ID. Then showcase the list on slide 13.

Extra notes: EU citizens

If you are an EU citizen residing in London, in order to be eligible to vote you must be a qualifying EU citizen or an EU citizen with retained rights. If you are eligible to vote, you are able to vote in local elections, such as London borough council elections and the Mayor of London/ London Assembly elections.

For further information on eligibility for EU citizens:

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/who-can-vote/voting-if-youre-eu-citizen-living-uk>.

Slide 14

Explain that the Voter Authority Certificate (VAC) is free to apply for and that all students need is:

- A recent, digital passport style photograph of themselves
- Their date of birth
- Their National Insurance Number

If they do not have their NI number they can still apply, their local council will contact them for alternative proof of identity.

Slide 15

Explain that there is a deadline for free VAC applications, 6 working days before the polling day. So encourage them to apply as soon as possible, if they do not have any other accepted photo Voter ID.

Slide 16

Explain to students that the VAC only allows them to vote. They cannot use it as an ID or proof of age for any other reason.

Slide 17

Support students to register for their free VAC.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>.

Slide 18

Outline to the students that there are different ways of voting (1) in person, (2) by post and (3) by proxy. This ensures that voting is made accessible in a variety of different ways. It is particularly relevant when people have circumstances which make them unable to vote in person on the election day, if they are abroad or if they are unable to due to health issues. Highlight the relation between proxy voting and postal voting and accepted forms of photo Voter ID.

Slide 19

Links for further information about voting.

Slide 20

Links for further information about photo Voter ID.