
Pre-release topics

EITHER

Topic 1: Amnesty International

- Obtain information on the organisation: its aims, how it operates, its resources (funding, membership, etc).
- Research some of Amnesty's campaigns in detail. What were the aims of the campaigns? How did Amnesty approach the campaigns? What activities did Amnesty undertake? How successful were the campaigns? How did the campaigns differ from each other?
- What are the implications of Amnesty's campaigns? For example, the benefits to those suffering from human rights abuse or the implications to governments who see individuals as a threat to their nation.
- How does Amnesty use the media to promote its aims and its campaigns? How is Amnesty represented in the media?
- Consider the effectiveness of Amnesty's campaigning. Are there any criticisms? Suggest ways in which a campaign could be approached differently.
- Relate Amnesty's campaigns to citizenship in your local community. What can be learnt from Amnesty's approach, how do events in your local community link to Amnesty's work?

OR

Topic 2: Votes at 16

- Obtain information from groups which support and oppose the lowering of the voting age. How do they differ in terms of funding, organisation, etc?
- Analyse the arguments for and against the change in voting age to 16.
- What are the voting ages in other countries, such as other EU countries? Do any allow voting at 16?
- Review and compare the campaigning methods used by groups supporting and opposing the lowering of the voting age to 16 to promote their views. What were their aims? How did they approach these activities? How successful were these activities?
- How do these groups use the media and how does the media represent the differing views of the public?
- Relate these activities to your local community. What is the likely impact to your local community of a lowering of the voting age? Have you or others employed any similar campaigning methods in your local community (on this or any other issue)?