

Teachers – perfect or pants at politics?

Are your teachers in the know politically? Or when it comes to Westminster, have they got no *Commons* sense? Are they up to date on Europe, or do they think an MEP is something to do with computers?

Task

Design and construct a questionnaire that will assess how much teachers know about the election areas the school is in and the people who represent them. For example questions might be:

- What is the name of the Parliamentary constituency the school is in?
- Who is the MP for this constituency?

Aim for a minimum of six questions that test your teachers' knowledge of the election areas at all levels; from Euro area to parish.

Please note that some teachers live a long way from their work, in different areas. The information here is based on the school area.

www.election-maps.co.uk will help you with the names of election areas. Typing in the name of your LEA and then the school's postcode will get you to the right map. Names of people who represent you, such as MPs, can be found at:

- www.locata.co.uk/commons www.europarl.org.uk;
- www.tagish.co.uk/links/
- www.scottish.parliament.uk; and
- www.wales.gov.uk/index.htm

You can also search for information using a search engine such as www.google.com

Carry out your fieldwork. Remember, the bigger the sample, the more accurate the results. As a guide twenty people would be an acceptable sample.

Present your results. You can do this using ICT (such as Excel), by hand or a combination of both. Try to show a range of presentation techniques (no death by bar chart!).

Describe your findings. Are your teachers in the know politically? Or are they pants at politics? Do they know more about national-scale politics (for example MPs) than local-scale politics? Or are they Muppets on Ministers?

Explain your findings. Are your teachers politically aware (or not)? Why do you think that is? Do they know more about Parliamentary politics than local politics? If so, why do they know more about Parliamentary politics?

Perhaps you could award a prize to the teacher who is the most politically aware, and a prize to the teacher who is least aware – the dinosaur on democracy!



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D02659f Aug 2004