

Student Instructions

1. Read the 'intro' pages on the Voting Systems PowerPoint
2. Make sure you have read, understood and are familiar with the Topic Summary on the PPT. You may wish to make a short note on this.
3. As outlined in the Topic Summary, you should be able to name the four types of voting system used in Scotland and which system is used to elect which representatives.
4. You must know how FPTP works but it is so simple you don't need anything other than a short paragraph on this. The PPT has a brief section on this.
5. You need to have a good understanding of the arguments for & against FPTP. You can use the notes on P95-99 of the textbook or alternatively use the CELTS v GERSS keywords from the PPT. (or use both!) Remember, you should learn a few statistics and/or examples which you can use to back up arguments as this will help you get a higher grade. (PEEA!!!)
6. When you have completed the above, switch your focus to the 2010 General Election. This was unusual in many ways but it does not undermine all of the arguments you have looked at for FPTP. 2010 could be viewed as 'the exception that proves the rule'. On the other hand, 2010 may have marked a fundamental change in UK politics as old attitudes towards parties and politicians seem to have been changing over the past 10 years. Either way, a good student needs to know what happened in 2010 and be able to give some examples / statistics from the most recent election. With this in mind, go to the 2010 Election Sheet and answer the questions. Also make notes of a few statistics you think you may be able to use in the exam. (The questions will give you some pointers.) You can find the sheet at: www.schoolsproject.co.uk/msc/materials/ms/H/Voting/General%20Election%202010.pdf
7. Optional: Go to Modernity and find the article in UK Political Issues called *General Election 2010*. Read this but be prepared to skim through it as there is a lot of information. If you find a four or five facts that you find interesting, make a note of them.
8. You are now going to look at various systems of Proportional Representation. Remember, PR is not a type of voting system in itself. It is a term for a variety of systems which try to more fairly reflect the share of the votes in the number of elected representatives parties gain.
9. Optional: You may find it useful to start by learning some general advantages & disadvantages of PR systems. Keywords for these are shown on the PPT = MAD v LUPPI. You do not have to learn these but you may find them a useful reminder.
10. Read the Interview with Willie Rennie on P100 of your book. Jot down 4 facts as you do.
11. AMS – You need to know this thoroughly. Compile a note on **How AMS Works** either by using the information on P101 of your book or the info on this topic in the PPT'

12. Now read the section on the PPT about **Counting the Votes**, and try to follow the way the list seats are allocated in the table (it is not as complicated as it first looks). You won't need to take notes on this but you should know how it works as a Higher pupil.
13. Use the info on the PPT to describe the position in East Lothian following the 2007 election.
14. Find the names and parties of all the Regional List MSPs for South of Scotland.
15. Now you need some notes on the Advantages & Disadvantages of AMS, again with examples and arguments for analysis. (PEEA!!) For this, go to "Success in Higher Modern Studies" P.18 and take some notes.
16. Optional – Compare your arguments with the arguments shown on the PPT for AMS. Do you want to add anything to your notes?
17. ESSAY: Your work to date should have provided you with sufficient information to prepare for a timed essay in class. You will have 22.5 mins. The title will be:

To what extent is the AMS more democratic than FPTP?
18. Optional: Go to Modernity and find the article in UK Political Issues called *General Election 2010*. Read the article, and if you wish, jot down 4 facts you may be able to use in an essay or exam question.
19. Make a short note on how the STV system works, either from the Voting Systems PowerPoint on the Modern Studies Club (MSC) website or from P104 in the Modern UK Politics book.
20. View the 'How STV Works' PDF on the MSC website
21. From P104-105 in Modern UK Politics, explain why STV was introduced for Scottish Council elections in 2007 and then write a paragraph on how it transformed the political complexion of Scotland's 32 local authorities.
22. Make a note on the Advantages of STV using both the PowerPoint (if available) and Success in Higher Modern Studies P.19.
23. Make a note on the Disadvantages of STV using both the Powerpoint (if available) and Success In Modern Studies P.19
24. The Party List System (European Parliament) - you will receive a short dictated note on this.
25. Alternative Vote System – The coalition govt plans referendum on the AV system in 2011 so this is really up to date. Work from the handout on this which you should complete and keep in your folder for revision.
26. Make sure all your notes on this section are tidied up and also ensure you have a bank of various statistics you can use when you make various points in an answer.