



UK set for a hung Parliament

INSTRUCTIONS

Write down the numbers 1-12. Then match the words below with the blanks in the article.

- added
- Liberal
- leave
- thousands
- swing
- closed
- unable
- voting
- Election
- increase
- Cameron
- BBC's

The 2010 General 1)_____ will be remembered as one of the most interesting and unpredictable the United Kingdom has ever seen. As polling stations 2)_____ at 10 p.m. it was unclear which leader would be living in No. 10 Downing Street in the months and years ahead.



The first indication of how parties have fared comes from exit polls. These are produced by asking a sample of people as they 3)_____ polling stations which way they have voted. The 4)_____ exit poll predicted a 'hung parliament' with the Conservative Party gaining the most MPs but not enough to form a government with an overall majority i.e. more MPs than all the other parties 5)_____ together.

When the first actual results were announced, some showed a big 6)_____ towards the Conservatives so giving David 7)_____ hope he might lead his party to overall control. However, many experts felt this was unlikely and pointed instead to a possible deal between Labour and the 8)_____ Democrats to form a coalition government. Such a deal would depend upon Labour agreeing to reform of the 9)_____ system.


Another major story from the 2010 election was a large 10)_____ in voter turnout. In fact, this seemed to cause serious problems in some areas and a major row quickly broke out over why 11)_____ of people who had queued to vote were 12)_____ to do so before polling stations closed.




QUESTIONS

- 1) Explain what an exit poll is.
- 2) The UK is set to have a 'hung parliament'. What is a hung parliament?
- 3) What would a deal between Labour and the Liberal Democrats depend upon?
- 4) What other major story arose from the 2010 election and why did a row break out?


NEWS CHALLENGE

1. Which political party ended up with the most MPs after the 2010 General Election? *(The chart on the right is not final but may help.)*
2. Which party ended up with the second-most MPs?
3. Which party does Nick Clegg lead and why was the 2010 election very disappointing for him? 
4. Is a seat where the likely winner is unclear called a majority seat or a marginal seat?

5. David Cameron said Labour had lost its ma__ate to govern Britain. Complete. 

6. Caroline Lucas became the UK's first _____ Party MP. Complete.

7. Which party did Nigel Farage stand for and in what way did he gain unexpected headlines?

8. Which senior politician spent much of election day following events in Greece, and why? 

BBC Exit Poll
at 10 pm on
6 May 2010

