TIME FOR DEMOCRACY

CHOOSING THE NEW PRESIDENT

STUDENT:_____GROUP:_____

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INTRODUCTION: PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES

1. **Read the following text and answer the questions:**

There are several ways of political regimes that have existed since ancient times. None the less, modern democracy emerged in the 18th century basing on three major principles:

➢ **Political power belongs to the people (national sovereignty)** and not to one or some specific people. It is impossible that all the citizens may rule; hence there are elections where people vote on their representatives (deputies, senators...) to hold that task. That is why they are called representative democracies.
➢ **All citizens are equal and must submit to the fundamental law**, the Constitution, where their duties and rights are described. Moreover, this law regulates the political organisation of the state. Due to the fact that everybody must submit to the law this system is called **State of Law**.
➢ **There is political pluralism** that allows the existence of political parties with different ideologies. They are the basis for the representative democracy.

a) When did the modern democracy emerge?

b) What are the principles of the democratic system?

c) What does national sovereignty mean?

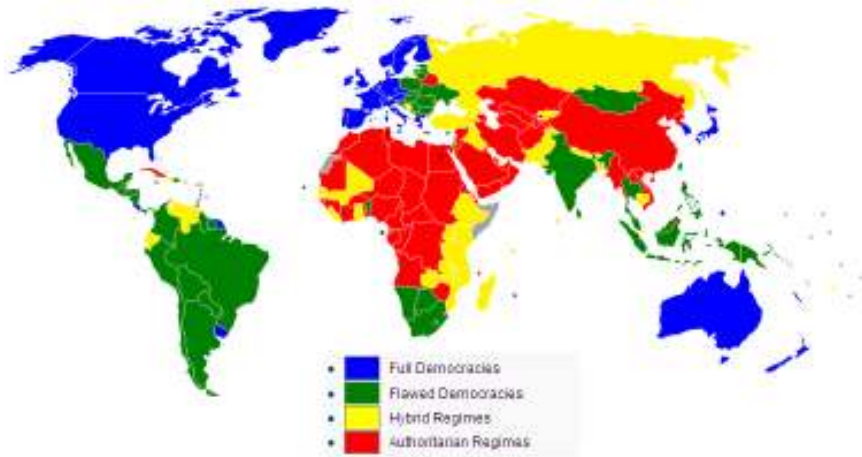d) Match the keywords in the left column to the answers on your right:

Political parties

Fundamental law

Deputies

2. **Democracy around the world. Look at the map and answer the questions:**

- **Full Democracies**
- **Flawed Democracies**
- **Hybrid Regimes**
- **Authoritarian Regimes**

a) What does the red colour mean?

b) Complete the chart:

Democratic government	Authoritarian regimes

The political parties normally have different views on how to govern. They have their electoral manifesto and their candidates. The citizens, through their vote, choose a political party or abstain from voting. The results decide the number of members that will represent each party in the parliament.

3. **Look at the graphic:**
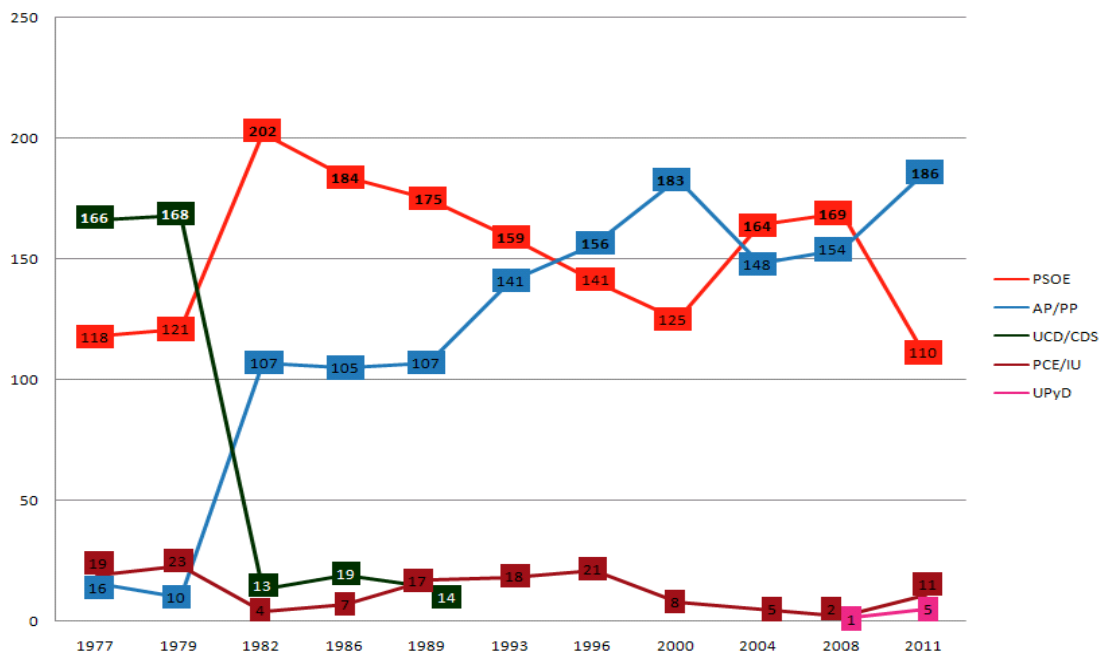
a) Which political party won the first democratic general election in Spain in 1977?

b) Which political parties are the most important (number of votes) in Spain?

c) Make a timeline with all the general elections that have been celebrated in Spain since the beginning of democracy, writing down the name of the president elected (with a picture, if possible).

1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010

2015
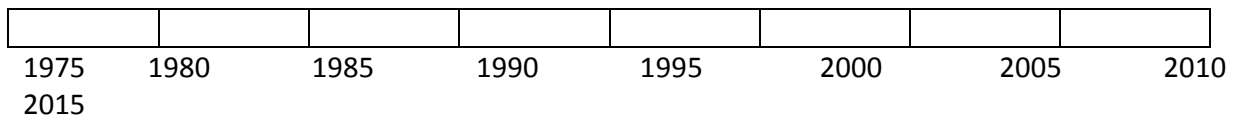
d) Look for some information about your town's council.
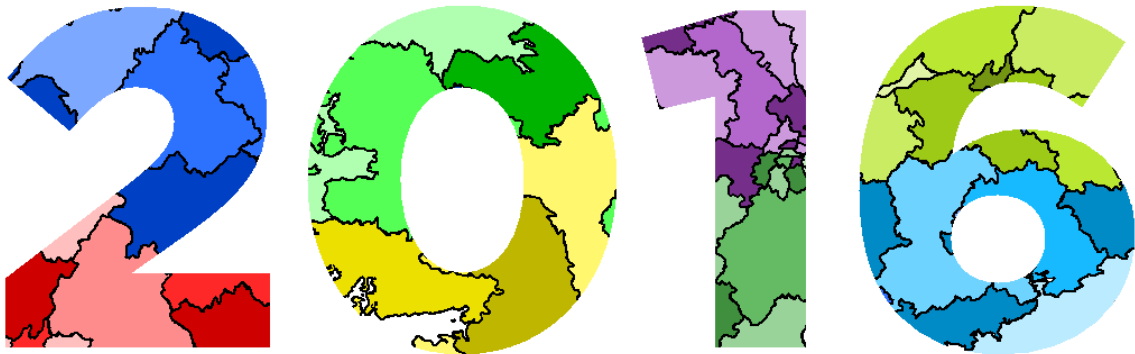

Who is governing there?

Which party does he/she belong to?

What other political groups are represented?

Y

Choosing THE NEXT PRESIDENT!

E L E C T I O N

YOUR TASK:

You will be working in groups in order **to simulate the general elections**. Each group will represent a party and you will go through the process of the electoral campaign.

MEMBERS OF YOUR GROUP:

TEAM ROLES. Read carefully and decide who's going to be who.

- **Candidate**: he/she will be the official candidate for the elections, the one that represents the party in official acts and speaks in the name of the team

- **Campaign leader**: he/she will design all the campaign acts, will decide the strategy and will have the last word in the electoral programme

- **Press expert**: he/she will be responsible of the communication strategy. He/she needs to take notes and keep the campaign diary, check the Press notes and all the written messages (be careful with English!)

- **Audio-visual expert**: he/she will be responsible of the image shown during the campaign.

He/she will give advice to the candidate about his/her non-verbal language, his/her image, etc. Also he will be responsible for all the posters, images, videos, etc. that will be used.

NOTE: These roles can be shared by more than one person or we can create new roles for bigger groups. Depending on the group the roles are assigned by the teacher or freely chosen by the team members.

CANDIDATE:_____

CAMPAIGN LEADER:_____

PRESS EXPERT:_____

Task one: Parties foundation

It's time to create your political party! To do so, follow these steps:

> a) Choose a name for your party: try brainstorming and reach a consensus (You can use a *Round robin* structure)

> b) Choose your ideology: will you be conservative/progressive/environmentalist/ nationalist/ focused on a specific cause...? You can look at some examples in here. (You can use *Agreement circles* to reach consensus)

> c) Design a logo, choose a corporative colour and a slogan. Draw it all together in a DIN A3 poster

At the end of the lesson(s) a member of the group (randomly chosen) stands up and presents his/her party to the rest of the students. The poster will be hanged in the wall. Every material production created by the students during the project will be hanged under this poster, so that we can easily organize the elections' wall.

NAME OF YOUR PARTY:

IDEOLOGY:

LOGO:

Task two. Programme writing

It's time to design your electoral programme!. You will be have to decide your positions and proposals in **4 different areas**.

Divide into pairs and assign the topics to each pair (if necessary, a pair can be responsible for more than one topic or a topic can be shared by different pairs). Read the questions for each topic for inspiration, look for information if needed and write at least five proposals.

Once you are ready, you will join your group again and have time to share your proposals for the different topics (using *Round Robin* structure). Take your time to talk about them carefully, examining the consequences of your actions, how you would put it into practice, etc. After every pair has explained their ideas, reach consensus and choose only 2 proposals for each area.

Write down all your proposals in a final document: that's your electoral programme.

A. EXTERNAL ISSUES

- What would your relations with Europe be like?
- What are your ideas about military action and taking part into international conflicts?
- What do you think about migrations?
- What would you do to fight terrorism?

B. ENVIRONMENT

- What would you do to improve people's quality of life from an environmental perspective?
- What about water scarcity in Spain?
- What would you do to reduce the risk of fires?
- Any ideas about rubbish and waste management?
- What about transport policies?
- What do you think of bio- food, ecological agriculture, etc.?
- What about natural landscapes in danger?

C. SOCIAL POLICIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES

- What would you change about education?
- How do you think the health system should be like?
- Any ideas about social initiatives for excluded groups?
- What do you think about gender equality and what are your proposals on this topic?

D. YOUTH POLICIES

- In which ways would you try to promote the participation of young people? Any ideas about leisure policies?
- What do you think about the minimum age for working and for voting?
- In which ways do you think technology can be used for promoting young people?
- What specific health programmes do you think would be needed for the youth?

Task three. Campaign design

You need to design your campaign in order to communicate your proposals in the most effective way and convince your voters.

1. Design a **campaign poster**. You should include your logo, the picture of your candidate, your slogan... Try to use your corporative colours! You can do a collage or use some digital design program.

2. Design a **campaign video**. You can record it using your cell phone and edit it with Movie Maker. If you need a camera, ask the teacher!

3. Think of some **public acts** you could attend. Make a list, create some photo-collages and write some press notes/diary news.

Once your materials are ready your campaign leader will show them to the rest of your classmates during a lesson.

Task four. Electoral debate

Your candidate will have to take part into the electoral debate. Get ready to answer the questions of the presenter and interact with the other candidates to defend your party. The rest of the team should be supporting their candidates by sending notes, preparing texts, etc.

Debate's structure

- 1st round- presentation for each candidate: 4 minutes to talk about their proposals.

- 2nd round- interaction: each candidate will listen to the other candidates' questions or refusals (short questions) and will have 5 minutes to answer them all.

- 3rd round- conclusion: each candidate will have 2 minutes for a final speech.

Task five. Voting act and final investiture

We will be celebrating our voting act and then, when we know the results, all the candidates will do a speech for the press showing their opinion. Prepare your investiture speech in case you win the elections!

1. Electoral table's responsibles will be assigned

2. They will check the list of voters and deliver the ballots

3. The voters will decide their vote and write it in the ballot

4. The voters are called one by one to enter their vote in the urn

5. The responsibles of the electoral table count votes and announce the results

6. The candidates make their final speech

NOTE: If there is enough time, we can vote using different systems (one citizen= one vote/ territorial systems + d'Hont Law, etc,)