

EU law-making



Lesson objective

Key question: How does government in the EU differ from government in the UK?

Starter

(10 minutes)

You know how government works and laws are made in the UK.

By the end of the lesson you will be able to explain what happens in the EU.

Whole class discussion

Quick reminder of how things work in the UK

First, who runs the government?

- ◆ Political parties: majority party/coalition
- ◆ Prime Minister in cabinet
- ◆ Civil Service

How do laws get made?

- ◆ Parliament: four stages in Commons, review in Lords
- ◆ Queen

What do you think of it as a decision making process?

In the EU it is very different.

Main section

We will look briefly at the main institutions of the EU and investigate:

- ◆ who works in them;
- ◆ what part the institutions play in law making

Group activity: work in pairs (15 minutes)

On whiteboard

- ◆ The Commission
- ◆ The Parliament
- ◆ Council of Ministers

- ◆ The decision making process

Allocate the three institutions to pairs.

Be ready one or both of you in your pairs to report your findings in a few words.

Either get students to do the WebQuest if they have access to a screen. Or ask them to work from the Worksheets for each of the main institutions.

For differentiation ask the G&T group to study the decision-making process, either using the internet or the worksheet that deals with decision-making.

Plenary
(15
minutes)

Feedback from the pairs taking them in the order of topic on the whiteboard. After one pair has reported ask the others who have been working on the topic if they have anything to add.

Ask the G&T group to report on the decision making process.

What do you think of the decision making process? Complicated (and we haven't talked about the voting system), slow?

Individual work
(5 to 10
minutes)

From what you have learnt about the three institutions how democratic do you think the EU is compared to the UK?

Consider how close voters are to the decision making process. And how citizens of Europe have their say in Brussels.

Plenary feedback on individual work (three to five minutes). Choose someone who didn't speak in the pairs exercise.

Conclusion: we have discovered the two types of government are very different.

Plenary
(close)

Write down five things you have learned from this lesson about the differences between the UK and Europe in the way they are governed. When you have finished compare notes with the person next to you.

We have covered some but not all of the ground. Are there questions we might want to ask our local Member of the European Parliament?

Hand in your answers before you leave. Thank you. Watch out for news of some new law made in Westminster or Brussels. You will know the background.

Worksheets The European Commission www.citizensofeurope.org/filepool/KS5_UK-EU1.pdf
The European Parliament www.citizensofeurope.org/filepool/KS5_UK-EU2.pdf
The Council of Ministers www.citizensofeurope.org/filepool/KS5_UK-EU3.pdf
EU law-making process www.citizensofeurope.org/filepool/KS5_UK-EU6.pdf

WebQuest EU law-making www.citizensofeurope.org/filepool/KS5_UK-EU7.pdf

Subject content AQA GCE
Unit 2 CIST2 Democracy, Active Citizenship and Participation

Key Question: Who can make a difference?