

Your Task

In Component 1, you will be learning about democracy, electoral systems, political parties and voting behaviour. This introductory task will give you a flavour of each of these core topics.

You should **design 5 posters** – one each for the Conservatives, Labour, Liberal Democrats, the SNP and another political party of your choice. You can work individually, in pairs or in small groups.

Each poster should contain some **basic key information**:

- The **leader** of the party and other important party figures
- The outcome of the **2017 general election**
 - The number of seats (MPs) in Westminster and the change in the number of seats compared to the 2015 and 2010 general elections
 - The proportion of the vote share
 - Key **manifesto promises**
 - Evidence of campaign ads / slogans / **social media activities**
 - Any other factors that you think might be relevant in explaining the party's performance in the election
- The number of seats in any devolved assembly / parliament (e.g. Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, London Assembly)
- Which **campaigns** the party have supported in recent referendums (e.g. the EU referendum 2016, the Scottish independence referendum 2014, the AV referendum 2011)
- Any important historical facts about the party
- Party **membership**
- Key examples of Prime Ministers from that party (if any)
- Anything else you think is interesting!

Be creative in how you present your poster! Try using images, charts such as pie charts or bar charts, or attempting to construct your own infographics, rather than using lots of words. Your poster can be hand-made, designed electronically, or in any other medium that you like.

Extension Task

Come up with a suggestion for a new party. What would it be called? What would your key manifesto promises have been, if you had been running in the 2017 general election, and why? What sort of campaign would you run? Which referendum campaigns would you have supported?

Completed a great poster, or have a great idea for your own party? Email tutor2u (ruth@tutor2u.net) with evidence of your project and we can feature your project on our blog and website, and maybe even send you some political goodies!

Possible information sources:

- Official party websites
 - <https://www.conservatives.com/>
 - <http://www.labour.org.uk/>
 - <https://www.libdems.org.uk/>
 - <https://www.snp.org/>
 - <https://www.greenparty.org.uk/>
 - <http://www.ukip.org/>
 - <http://www2.plaid.cymru/>
 - <http://www.mydup.com/>
 - <http://www.womensequality.org.uk/>
- Manifesto guides
 - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2017-39955886>
 - <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/ng-interactive/2017/may/19/who-should-i-vote-for-the-uk-election-manifestos-compared>
- 2015 election outcomes
 - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2015-32624405>
- 2017 election outcomes
 - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2017-40176349>
 - <http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-7979>
- Referendum campaigns
 - EU Referendum: Vote Leave and Remain
 - Scottish referendum: Yes Scotland and Better Together
- Devolved legislatures / executives
 - <http://www.parliament.scot/msps/12450.aspx>
 - <http://www.assembly.wales/en/memhome/Pages/mem-seating-plan.aspx>
 - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election/ni2017/results>
- Prime Ministers
 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/history/past-prime-ministers>