Mayoral and GLA elections 2016 materials pack

Who are we?

Action for ESOL is a campaign group of ESOL teachers, students, trade unionists and researchers. We formed in 2010 to resist cuts and fight for better ESOL provision. See the ESOL manifesto for more details http://actionforesol.org/action-for-esol-manifesto

What is this pack?

In the build up to the Mayoral Elections ESOL has been put back on the agenda by Cameron's comments about the need for Muslim women to learn English. We thought it was important to bring this discussion into the classroom and give ESOL students a voice in making demands on their GLA representatives. We also want to make sure that students know if they are eligible to vote and how to do it. We will use the ESOL students' demands to lobby the Mayor and the GLA members over the coming months.

How to use this pack

This pack consists of 6 linked individual lessons. We envisage that they will be used in order but you can use them flexibly to meet your needs. All lesson plans can be adapted easily and there are ideas for use at different levels in each plan.

Timings

These lessons are flexible enough to be used over the next period till the election on 5th May. However, please be aware that the deadline for registering to vote is on 18th April. The Candidate Information booklets will be posted to registered voters after the candidates are officially announced on 1st April.

A participatory approach

The materials in the pack use various different pedagogical methods. The method in Lesson 1 may be new to some teachers as it uses a participatory approach that has been promoted by Reflect ESOL (http://www.reflect-action.org/reflectesol). Teachers in Action for ESOL are committed to using the students' ideas and problems to teach language and encourage collective action inside and outside the classroom.

Next steps

Feel free to use this pack in any way you like. We want more students and teachers to be involved in Action for ESOL. In May we will organise an event to discuss the demands that have come out of the lessons and produce some lobbying materials and activities to try and hold the candidates to account. Our aim is to raise the profile of ESOL. We hope that these materials can be adapted for use in other local elections

After Lesson 4 we would like teachers to complete a Google form which can be found at http://actionforesol.org/ so we can gather the demand and use them to hold the GLA to account.

A list of useful dates is included in this section. Keep your eye on our website http://actionforesol.org/ for upcoming events. We will also be using the hashtags #ESOLmayor and #saveESOL on social media.

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Contents of pack

Lesson 1 – London good and bad

1. Lesson plan
2. Shapes to cut out

Lesson 2 – What does the GLA do?

1. Lesson plan
2. Large picture sheet
3. London government information sheet
4. GLA main headings
5. GLA cut ups
6. What the GLA says about ESOL higher lever (1 A4 sheet)
7. What the GLA says about ESOL lower lever (3 A4 sheets)

Lesson 3 – Registering to vote (no ITC)

1. Lesson plan
2. Activities worksheet (2 A4 sheets)
3. Timeline of women's right to vote
4. PDF Voter registration form

Lesson 3 – Webquest Registering to vote (ITC)

1. Lesson plan
2. Webquest worksheet (1 A4 Sheets)

Lesson 4 – ESOL demands

1. Lesson plan
2. Clouds to cut out

Lesson 5 – Candidates information booklet and letter writing

1. Lesson plan
2. Large party logos
3. Parities and candidates worksheet
4. Lower level letter writing template
5. Cutups for lower level template
6. Higher level letter writing worksheet

Lesson 6 – How to vote

1. Lesson plan
2. Pictures to order of what happens in an election
3. How to vote worksheet (2 A4 sheets)
4. Ballot paper information (1 A4 sheet)
5. Blank ballot papers (3 A4 sheets)

Code: T= Teacher, Ss= Students

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Important Dates

3rd March – People's Question Time, Croydon

7th March – NUT Hustings, WC1H 9BD

Week beginning 14th March - This week is 8 weeks before the election. If you intend to use one lesson a week, start using the materials now.

16th March – Mayoral Question time at City Hall (open to public)

21st March - Pride in London Mayoral Hustings, The Law Society, WC2A 1PL

25th March – 11th April Easter Holiday

1st April – Candidates are officially announced (Information booklets will be posted out after this date to registered voters)

18th April – Voter Registration closes for this election. Lesson 3 must be used by this date.

21st April – Evening standard Hustings, EC2V 7HH

5th May – Mayoral and GLA elections. Polling Stations open from 7am-10pm.

After the election – Action for ESOL will hold an event where students and teachers can get together to look at the ESOL mayoral demands and talk about campaigning for ESOL in London.

We have included some dates for hustings that have been announced but it is worth looking out for local events that you and your students may want to attend. We will announce any other dates on the website http://actionforesol.org/

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