

European Political Groups

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Context

Language: Upper-intermediate language learners

Content: Degree in International Studies

Type of course: ESP

Approach: Theme-based instruction (CBI)

Timing and grouping

Timing: Two sessions of two hours

Grouping: Individual, pair work and group work

Warm-up S1

Description for the professor: ask questions about the date of the next European elections, the political groups in Europe, the impact of European decisions on national policies

Timing: 8-10 minutes

Whole group and turn-taking



Questions:

- ✓ When will the next European elections take place?
- ✓ How many political groups are there?
- ✓ Have you ever taken part in the European elections?
- ✓ What will your vote decide?

Main task S1

Description for the professor: The students listen first and then watch a video of the political parties in Europe and answer some questions. The answers are shared first in pairs and then with the whole group.

Timing: 20 minutes

Individual and pair group

Link to the video (until 4 min):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TKx__4Sachw

Questions to answer (After watching the video):

1. Name 3 advantages of the European Union

2. How many decision-makers are there in the European Parliament? ___

3. Number of seats:

Germany: __

France: __

Italy: __

Smaller countries: ___ (name at least one)

4. At least one idea to define these political parties:

EPP:

P Alliance of S&D:

Renew Europe:

Green:

European C & R:

Identity and Democracy Group:

The left:

Follow-up S1

Description for the professor: The professor presents some useful language in order to describe ideas, views, etc. of the political groups. Then, she explains the activity (see the following slide), asking the students to find information about the views of the political groups in some specific areas. Finally, the students present in groups about the different themes and political groups.

Timing: 35 minutes to work in groups. 20 minutes to share answers.

Group work and whole class

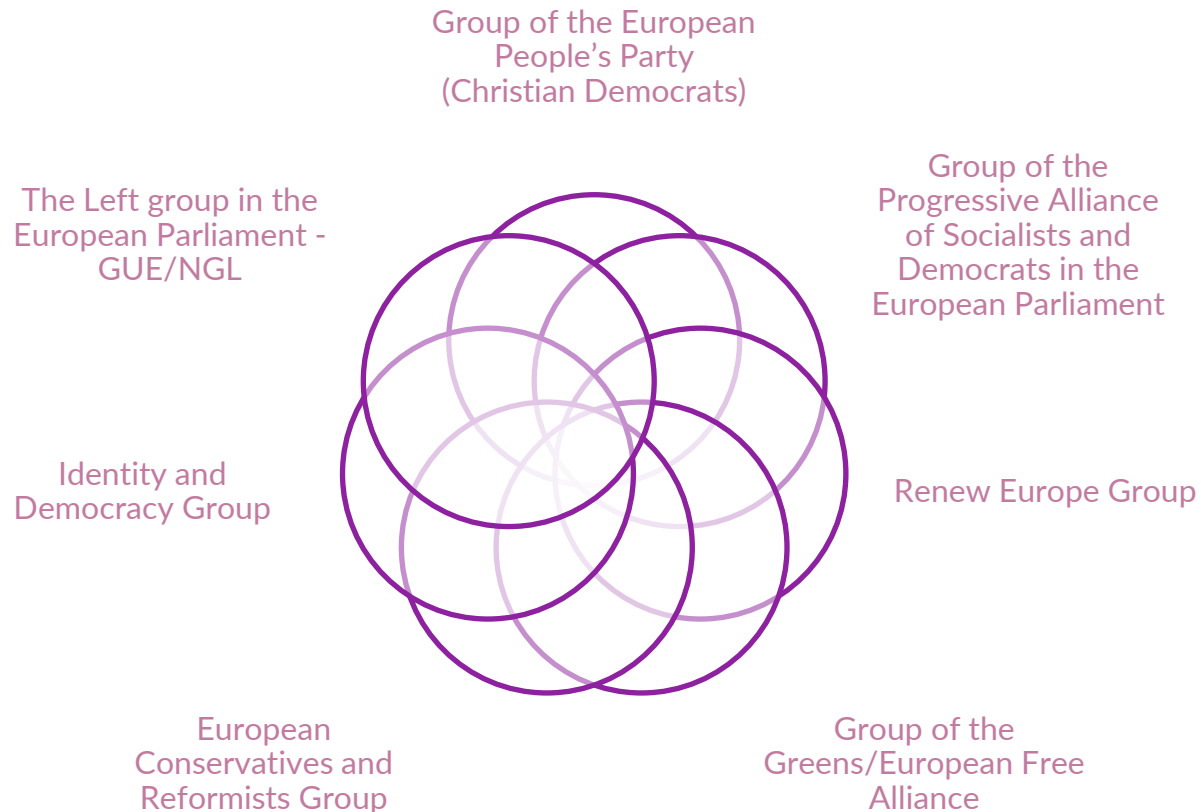
Stating the position

- The X party stands for....(workers, women, etc.)...
- The X party has a vision of the European Union that...
- The X party defends
- The X party voted in favour of...
- The X party played an important role in...

Adding (Furthermore, moreover, additionally, besides, also...)

Contrasting (in contrast, on the contrary, although, in spite of, even if..)

Political parties in Europe



Work in groups and find the positions of these political groups in these four areas:

- Economy
- Security
- Women and Gender Rights
- Green policies
- Agriculture

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/about-parliament/en/organisation-and-rules/organisation/political-groups>

Warm-up S.2

Description for the professor: The professor opens the session with the political groups and their viewpoints as explained in the previous session. Then, it explains the main task of session: Writing a proposal report about the best media strategy for the campaign of a specific political group

Timing: 10 minutes

Individual and whole class

In this report, the reader should find information about:

- what platforms will be utilized (such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) for the different target/age groups.
- The best plan for content creation, engagement with followers, and responding to inquiries or comments.

Share ideas (whole class):

Instagram, Twitter, etc.

Give reasons: Young people

Main task

Description for the professor: The professor explains how to organise the proposal report in paragraphs and provides the students with some useful language.

Timing: 20 minutes

Individual work

How is a proposal report organised?

- **INTRODUCTION (PARAGRAPH 1):** state the purpose and content of your report
- **MAIN BODY (PARAGRAPHS 2, 3, etc.):** background and suggestions
- **CONCLUSION:** summary of the previous points (your opinion, if it is necessary)

Useful language

To begin a report:

- The purpose/aim/intention of this report is...to present/discuss the intended course of action/the future plans....
- This report contains details of/intentions concerning...

To make recommendations:

- We believe that the best solution to this problem would be to...
- Perhaps we should also consider...

To end a report:

- To conclude/To sum up/In conclusion, our intention is to...
- The advantage (s) of the approach proposed would be that...
- I feel certain/believe that the actions above will with success/answer the needs of the company/institution...
- I hope that the plan presented in this report will be considered...

Follow-up

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Description for the professor: The professor repeats the goal of the report, and the students have to write an individual report

Timing: 30 minutes

Individual work

The Renew Europe group (this can be different, giving the students the option to choose the political group) is planning a big media campaign. You work in a media company called SociMedia. Write a proposal report to the political group and give it some information about the best social media strategy (150-170 words). Use the language we have studied.

In this report, the reader should find information about:

- what platforms will be utilized (such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) for different target/age groups.
- The best plan for content creation, engagement with followers, and responding to inquiries or comments

Follow-up

Description for the professor: The professor tells the students that they are going to revise their classmates' reports. Some questions to answer are given to them. After that, they share the ideas with the whole group. Then, the professor takes the reports and revises them. Feedback is provided to the students in the following sessions.

Timing: 15 minutes for revision; 15 minutes to share answers

Individual work



- Is the number of words appropriate?
- Is it organised in 3-4 paragraphs?
- Are the two main prompts included (best platform & strategy)?
- Any spelling mistakes?

References

European Parliament (2024, March). The political groups of the European Parliament

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/about-parliament/en/organisation-and-rules/organisation/political-groups>

EU Made Simple (2024, March). Who will you vote for in 3 months? EU Elections. [Video]. YouTube.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TKx__4Sachw

Victoria Guadamillas ideas and classroom resources.

This is the end

