

POLITICAL SCIENCE WITH DR EVA HEIMS

TALKING POINTS

KNOWLEDGE

1. What is meant by industry influence?
2. The regulatory agencies mentioned in the second paragraph of Eva's article are UK-based. Can you list others that are not based in the UK?

COMPREHENSION

3. How is a politician different to a political scientist?
4. Why do we need regulatory agencies?
5. Why is it useful to evaluate public policies by comparing them with other policies, rather than considering them in isolation?

ANALYSIS

6. Why might the 'revolving door' concept lead to regulatory capture and industry influence?
7. Can you think of other examples (either theoretical or real examples from the news) of how captured regulatory agencies may help industries to the detriment of the public?

EVALUATION

8. Would you prefer to work in a government regulatory agency that monitors private companies, or in a private company being monitored by a regulatory agency? Why?
9. We elect the politicians who make our laws, but we have no say in who works in the regulatory agencies that control our policies. Do you think that members of regulatory agencies should be elected by the public? Why, or why not?
10. If you were a political scientist, which aspect(s) of politics would you most like to study?
11. After reading this article, do you trust government regulatory agencies to act in your best interests? Why/why not?

ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO AT HOME OR IN THE CLASSROOM

Visit the politics page of a news website (e.g. www.bbc.co.uk/news/politics).

- What are the main headlines about?
- Are there any about public policy?
- Policies affect us every day, so why do you think they are rarely discussed by the media?

Design and conduct a comparative study to investigate the public policies used by different countries to curb the spread of the COVID virus. Think about:

- What information do you need to collect?
- Do you trust your information sources? (Beware of biased media reporting)
- How will you analyse the effectiveness of different policies?
- Which countries do you think managed the pandemic well? What policies enabled them to do this?
- Which countries do you think struggled to manage the pandemic? What policies (or lack of) caused this?
- Do you think that there are other factors, besides public policies, that have had an effect on how well countries were able to cope with COVID?
- If you were the leader of a country (and with the benefit of hindsight), what policies would you have introduced to protect your citizens from COVID?

MORE RESOURCES

YouthPolitics UK (www.youthpolitics.org.uk) has an Educate page, which aims to, "educate young people regardless of prior knowledge of politics on everything politics-related, be it for teaching purposes or sheer pleasure of knowledge".

youthpolitics.org.uk/ypuk-educate/

The Political Studies Association brings together all political scientists in the UK and provides resources for anyone interested in politics: www.psa.ac.uk

The University of York works closely with teachers, advisers and other partners to offer a range of interactive outreach and recruitment activities:

www.york.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges/