



POLITICAL SCIENCE

WITH DR MONA MORGAN-COLLINS

Talking points

Knowledge

1. When and where did the first women gain the right to vote?
2. What data is Mona using to investigate the voting behaviour of early women voters?

Comprehension

3. What barriers did women face to voting, even after suffrage?
4. When suffragists were campaigning for 'women's interests', why did these interests not represent all women?
5. What did Mona discover about the influence of electoral systems and electoral competition on voter turnout?
6. According to Mona, what is required for achieving women's representation in politics?

Analysis

7. Why was gaining the right to vote not sufficient for women's participation and representation in politics?
8. What problems occur in society when certain groups are not represented in politics and policies?
9. How do you think studying the history of politics can improve the situation for all groups who are under-represented in politics today?

Evaluation

10. Women continue to be less likely to be prime ministers or presidents, and less likely to rule in ministerial cabinets. Why do you think this is? What barriers do you think still prevent women from becoming politicians and rising to the top of governments?

Activity

The power of electoral systems

Research proportional representation and single member plurality electoral systems online and make notes on the advantages and disadvantages of each system.

Mona points out that sometimes different people can get elected under different systems, even if the preferences of voters don't change. Investigate whether this has ever been the case in your country. What electoral system does your country use? Would any past election outcomes have been different if a different electoral system was used?

After evaluating the advantages and disadvantages of proportional representation and single member plurality, which system do you think is the fairest way to elect a government? Write a one-page report summarising why you think this is the best electoral system and arguing why it should be used in your country (regardless of whether or not it is the system in use). Remember to include evidence and examples to highlight your case.

More resources

- Read these blogs Mona has written about her research:

The importance of politicians for women's representation

www.broadstreet.blog/2022/04/15/bringing-in-the-new-votes-turnout-of-women-after-enfranchisement/

The importance of suffragists for women's representation

blogs.lse.ac.uk/usappblog/2021/03/08/for-american-suffragists-winning-the-right-to-vote-was-just-the-start-in-securing-greater-representation-for-women/