

POLITICS AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS WITH SARAH OVERTON AND JOËL RELAND

TALKING POINTS

KNOWLEDGE & COMPREHENSION

1. When did the Brexit referendum take place?
2. What was the result of the referendum?
3. What challenges and opportunities has Brexit provided for UK farmers?
4. Why has Brexit been particularly challenging for Northern Ireland?
5. Why is it important to understand how Brexit has impacted different aspects of the UK?
6. Why is it so important that political scientists conduct impartial research? How do Sarah and Joël ensure their work is objective and not biased by their personal opinions?

APPLICATION:

7. What sort of questions do you think the public are asked in polling questions to determine public opinions of the impacts of Brexit?
8. How do you think Sarah and Joël identify which post-Brexit policy developments are 'significant'?
9. What would you most like to study as a political and foreign affairs researcher?

EVALUATION:

10. Think of a topic you feel strongly about (either positively or negatively). Do you think you could conduct impartial research into this topic? How would you ensure your research was unbiased and not influenced by your personal opinions? What challenges do you think you would face when presenting objective results about this topic?

ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO AT HOME OR IN THE CLASSROOM

- Research online to find news articles from the run-up to the Brexit referendum. How do the Leave and Remain campaigns present their views and encourage voters to their cause? How are the same issues portrayed differently by the two campaigns? How does this highlight the media's ability to present opinions to the public as facts? Now look for news articles that have been written since the Brexit referendum. How do these articles portray the different impacts of Brexit on the UK?
- Organise a class debate about a current affair. This could be related to a global issue, (e.g., climate change), a national issue (e.g., a current political event), or a local issue (e.g., something impacting your school or neighbourhood). Randomly split the class in half, so some people are campaigning in support of the issue and some people are campaigning against it, regardless of their personal opinions. Give everyone time to research facts to support their assigned campaign, and then have a debate where each side presents their cause. How easy is it to persuade your classmates to your cause? How do previous personal opinions on the subject influence people's passion for their assigned campaign?

MORE RESOURCES

Head to Sarah and Joël's Futurum webpage for an animation about their research:

www.futurumcareers.com/analysing-the-impacts-of-brexit

UK in a Changing Europe – where Sarah and Joël are based – is the authoritative source for independent research on UK-EU relations. Their website (www.ukandeu.ac.uk) is packed with facts, articles, podcasts and reports about Brexit.