

Lesson plan – The UK’s role in the European Union

Introduction (five minutes)

At the end of the lesson you will be able to describe in general terms how the EU works and the UK’s part in it.

Whole class discussion

Some general questions to get us started.

- ◆ Where is it based
- ◆ What does it do?
- ◆ Who runs it?
- ◆ When did it start etc?
- ◆ What do we get out of it?

Main part of lesson

How the EU works (10 minutes)

The European Union is important to the UK primarily because it’s our largest market for exports.

The best way to describe it is to compare it with our own government. Note, if class has already studied this topic, what follows can be covered very briefly.

Our government, any democratic form of government, has three branches. What are they?

Legislature: what is that and what does it do?

Executive: what is that and what does it do?

Judiciary: what is that and what does it do?

The EU has a similar set of bodies

The legislature is the ... European Parliament/Council of Ministers

The executive is the..... European Commission

The judiciary is the.....European Court of Justice

Group work (10 minutes)

Work in pairs using the worksheets and be ready to explain to the class what each of these bodies is and what it does.

After say five minutes:

Now join another pair working on another institution and share your findings.

If a PC available ask more able students to find out about UK representation on each of these bodies using the WebQuest worksheet (see Worksheets, p.3).

Plenary review

So now we have learned what the EU is made up of and how the UK fits into it. Any questions so far?

What the EU means to the UK (*10 minutes*)

Now let's look more closely at what it means to us in our ordinary lives.

Construct a day in the life of a European citizen

This could be done as a WebQuest (*see Worksheets p.3*) or in class as a whole group discussion

List on whiteboard some of the things we all do ...

Wash:	EU directive on drinking water
Eat:	EU policies on farm products and fish
Shopping:	EU directive on sell by date
Work:	EU free movement of people / limits on working hours / minimum holidays
Travel:	EU directive on compensation for lateness
Holiday:	EU directive on bathing water / clean beaches
Waste:	EU directives on recycling
Safety:	EU's Europol

So you can see it has quite an impact.

Now think of the disadvantages of the EU from our point of view. Are there any?

Other people make the laws:
But we help make them too.

In many areas, the big areas of government, the EU has no say: education, health, defence, foreign affairs

Plenary close (5 minutes)

Worksheet with 10 questions based on the lesson

If time:

Class vote on "Is the EU a good thing or a bad thing for the UK?"

Worksheets European Commission www.citizensofeurope.org/filepool/KS4_UK-EU1.pdf
European Parliament www.citizensofeurope.org/filepool/KS4_UK-EU2.pdf
Council of Ministers www.citizensofeurope.org/filepool/KS4_UK-EU3.pdf
EU10 Questions www.citizensofeurope.org/filepool/KS4_UK-EU4.pdf
WebQuest www.citizensofeurope.org/filepool/KS4_UK-EU5.pdf

References What is the EU? – Main institutions
www.citizensofeurope.org/content.php?content_id=28&code=&cat_id=6
The UK in the EU
www.citizensofeurope.org/content.php?content_id=321&code=&cat_id=6
Everyday EU – Europe around the clock
www.citizensofeurope.org/clock_page.php?cat_id=5
EU guide – What is the EU?
www.citizensofeurope.org/category_page.php?cat_id=6
Migration myths – *True or False* quiz
www.citizensofeurope.org/quiz.php?quiz_id=8&cat_id=3
EU border controls – Schengen
www.citizensofeurope.org/full_article.php?article_id=100

Programme of Study Key concept 1.3c
Key process 2.1d
Range and content 3m

Attainment Target levels 6-8