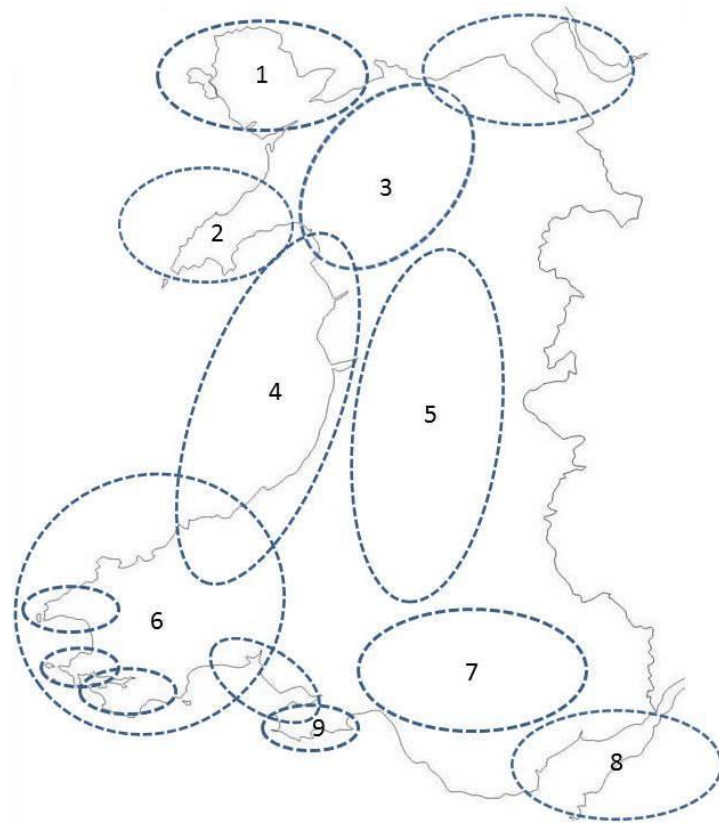# Understanding Election Issues in Wales - Activity Sheet



1. Using the online resources and an Atlas to help you name locations 1-9 in a table or on a blank map.

2. Try to name the additional 4 peninsulas and 1 inlet.

3. Draw and complete a table such as the one below to show the height of the highest mountain in each of the home nation countries.

| Location | Name | Height (metres) |
|---|---|---|
| Scotland | Ben Nevis | Find This Out |
| Wales | Snowdon | Find This Out |
| England | Scafell Pike | Find This Out |
| Northern Ireland | Slieve Donard | Find This Out |

4. Draw and complete a table such as the one below to show the length of the longest rivers in each of the home nation countries.

| Location | Name | Length (km) |
|---|---|---|
| U.K. (through England & Wales) | River Severn | Find This Out |
| England | River Thames | Find This Out |
| Wales | River Tywi | Find This Out |
| Scotland | River Tay | Find This Out |
| Northern Ireland | River Bann | Find This Out |

5. **Scan** the information below and reorganise it into either a mind map or a bullet point list.

*The physical geography affects your life or more importantly the quality of life. Most people have the 'Chocolate Box' idea about life, meaning that beautiful picture of mountains or sea that we might see on a box of chocolates or other sweets, especially the ones on sale to tourists. But life is not like this; mountains, rivers, coastal inlets, islands and the ends of remote peninsulas like the LLŷn Peninsula, Gower Peninsula or most of Pembrokeshire all make it much*

*further and more expensive to travel or provide services like health care, social care, refuse (rubbish) collection/disposal and education. Wales is just about made up of all of these; even the main road into South Wales where most of the people live crosses the Bristol Channel/Severn Estuary by two bridges and every car, van or lorry bringing people, goods or taking things in and out of Wales for every factory, farm or dairy in the southern third of our country has to pay a heavy toll (price) just to cross that bridge.*

**On average it is much more expensive to live in Wales than to live in England!**

6. Complete the population table below using **addition**.

| Location | Population |
|---|---|
| England | 53,012,456 |
| Scotland | 5,295,000 |
| Wales | 3,063,456 |
| Northern Ireland | 1,810,863 |
| Total Population | Find This Out |

7. Describe the differences between the population of Wales and England and England using:
   a. Absolute difference (**subtraction**)
   b. Relative difference (**division**)

**Round** numbers up or down before you start; rounding numbers makes them easier to work with. Normally if a fraction of a number is smaller than 0.5 then we round down (9.45 would be rounded down to 9) if a number is 0.5 or larger then we round up (so 9.5 would be rounded up to 10). The same is true with big numbers like these in the millions but we use 500,000 as the point where we round up or down.

- England would round down to 53,000,000 (53 million).
- Northern Ireland would round up to 2,000,000 (2 million).

**Example**

   a. Absolute Difference

England = 53 million
Scotland = 5 million

Absolute difference = 53 – 5 = 48

England has 48 million more people than Scotland

   b. Relative difference

England = 53 million
Scotland = 5 million

Relative difference + 53 ÷ 5 = 10.6
Rounded up = 11

So we could say that England is roughly 11 times bigger than Scotland.

Now do the same for Wales and answer question 7 (a. and b.).

8. Another way that we can transform numbers is to draw a graph such as a bar graph. Use the information below to draw a bar graph.
   **Round** the numbers up or down to the nearest 100,000.
      **Colour code** urban areas:
      - Red for England
      - Blue for Scotland
      - Green for Wales
      - Yellow for Northern Ireland

| Rank | Name | Population |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Greater London[*] Built-up area | 9,787,426 |
| 2 | Greater Manchester Built-up area | 2,553,379 |
| 3 | West Midlands (around Birmingham) Built-up area | 2,440,986 |
| 4 | West Yorkshire Built-up area | 1,777,934 |
| 5 | Glasgow | 1,209,143 |
| 6 | Liverpool Built-up area | 864,122 |
| 7 | South Hampshire Built-up area | 855,569 |
| 8 | Tyneside Built-up area | 774,891 |
| 9 | Nottingham Built-up area | 729,977 |
| 10 | Sheffield Built-up area | 685,368 |
| 11 | Bristol Built-up area | 617,280 |
| 12 | Belfast[*] | 579,127 |
| 14 | Edinburgh[*] | 482,005 |
| 17 | Cardiff[*] Built-up area | 447,287 |
| 26 | Newport Built-up area | 306,844 |
| 27 | Swansea Built-up area | 300,352 |
| - | Wrexham (not ranked) | 134,844 |

[*] indicates a capital city of a home nation

9. **Scan** the information below and reorganise it into either a mind map or a bullet point list.

*Work and employment is a very big part of human geography. In Wales we face a number of challenges which increase the needs of the people living here. Until approximately 30 years ago many jobs in Wales involved mining, steel production and heavy engineering. These jobs could affect the health of workers in terrible ways; partly due to them many people over the age of 55 have increased health*

problems and in some areas levels of disability are far higher than U.K. averages.

Many of these jobs such as coal mining and steel making were found in locations controlled by the presence of certain raw materials such as coal and iron ore. Many of our towns grew up around these industries; as these industries closed down our towns were just in the wrong places for modern business activities to locate. Many people in our old towns are tied there due to factors such as looking after family or being unable to sell their homes for a reasonable price and then buy another house in another place. The result of this is that people may either have to travel long distances each day to work or worse be trapped in a place where there are very few well-paying jobs or in some places almost any jobs at all.

**10.** Use the information to write a **summary** paragraph of the most important three points.

**11. Scan** the information below write a **summary** paragraph of the four most important pieces of information.

### The General Election
In May everyone eligible to vote and who has registered to vote will have the opportunity to vote for a M.P. (Member of Parliament). There a 650 M.P.'s representing 650 constituencies which are areas of different sizes and different populations. There are 40 M.P.'s from Welsh Constituencies which gives Wales a decent amount of influence in Parliament. However some people think that each constituency should have roughly the same number of people living in each one; if this happened Wales would only have 18 constituencies so would have a lot less influence in the United Kingdom overall. It is not happening at the moment but it is something that some people in Parliament want.

Whichever political party has the most M.P.'s is the first to be given the chance to form a government; the government makes day to day choices for the country. If one party has a majority (more than half) of all M.P.'s then this is easy. If no party has a majority then two or more parties need to do a deal and will form a joint government called a coalition government. The leader of the government is called the Prime Minister.

**12. Scan** the information below and then complete the flow diagram to show what happened on the road to devolution in Wales.

### Devolution in Wales
Wales voted for devolution in 1997; devolution in the United Kingdom means the statutory (a statute is a written law, sometimes a statute is called legislation until devolution such statutes or laws were passed by the Parliament of the United Kingdom) granting of powers to the devolved assemblies (Parliament in Scotland).

The National Assembly for Wales was established in 1998, it had 60 elected members it could make decisions on the subjects (different things) that were devolved but could not pass primary legislation (more simply laws). This changed a bit in 2006 when the rules changed creating the Welsh Government which takes all the day to decisions but must get a majority vote in the National Assembly to change any existing legislation. Such decisions still had to be passed by the Parliament of the United Kingdom in London. Following a referendum in 2011 this changed again and the National Assembly gained direct law making powers on the devolved subjects.

**Flow Diagram**

Wales voted for devolution in 1997

⬇

The National Assembly for Wales was established in 1998

⬇

**13. Analyse** the quotation by Joel Barnett below; why is this important in Wales?

*"It is unfair and should be stopped, it is a mistake. This way is terrible and can never be sustainable; it is a national embarrassment and personally embarrassing to me as well."*

**14.** Why is membership of the European Union (E.U.) a good thing for Wales?

**Decision Making Exercise**
First try to read the rest of the linked resources and attempt to complete the student resource sheet.

The Welsh Government has decided to produce a guide for voters in Wales to understand the big battles in this year's general election.

**A. Fair Funding**
As a geographer decide (give detailed reasons why you chose your option and did not choose the others) and advise the Welsh Government whether the United Kingdom government in London should allocate money for Wales as one of the following:

1. **More** money to Wales so that it comes into line with Scotland and the people of Wales receive the same amount of money per person as if Wales were a region of England based on their needs.
2. **Less** money to Wales so that it is the same per person as in England where needs are much lower.
3. Things should stay the **same.**

**B. EU Referendum**
As a geographer decide (give detailed reasons why you chose your option and did not choose the others) and:

a. Advise on the likely impacts in Wales if the United Kingdom should **leave** the European Union.
b. Advise on the likely impacts in Wales if the United Kingdom should **stay** in the European Union.

**C. Parliamentary Reform**
As a geographer decide (give detailed reasons why you chose your option and did not choose the others) and:

a. Advise on the likely impacts in Wales if the United Kingdom Parliament should have just **English Votes for English Matters**.
b. Advise on the likely impacts in Wales if the number United Kingdom Parliament MP's should **drop** from 40 out of 650 to just 18 out of 650.