In this investigation we will use the following section headings:

* **Introduction**
* **Results**
* **Analysis**
* **Conclusions**
* **Methods**
* **Evaluation**

1. Use the Section heading **Introduction** before answering the following questions; try to answer them in the form of a paragraph (not separately):
   1. What is a General election?
   2. What is a parliamentary constituency/seat?
   3. Who will form a government if they have an absolute majority?
   4. What might happen if no party has an absolute majority of seats?
2. Try to carry out research before answering this question: What are the main political parties and what are their main policies?

Try to answer them in the form of two paragraphs (not separately):

**Paragraph 1**

* 1. What is socialism?
  2. What is capitalism?
  3. What do we mean by left or right when describing the political parties?
  4. What is unionism?
  5. What is republicanism?
  6. What is nationalism?

**Paragraph 2**

* 1. What are the main ideas and policies of each of the main parties?

1. Use a subheading of ‘**Questions for Enquiry**’ before completing these activities:
   1. Try to write 1 or 2 of your own questions for enquiry based on **secondary** (collected by someone else) data or use some of these examples:
      1. What are the biggest parties in Parliament?
      2. Should voting be made compulsory by law?
      3. Is there a pattern between party elected and the area of constituency (large area constituencies are usually rural and small area constituencies are usually urban).
      4. Is there a pattern between population density and political party?
      5. Is there a pattern between G.D.P. per Capita and political party?
      6. Is the first ‘past the post’ election system a fair system for a modern democracy?
   2. Try to write 1 question of your own for enquiry based on **primary** (collected by you) data such as these examples:
      1. Question iv above.
      2. Which would be the most popular party in my local area/s?
      3. Which party would be the most popular in my age group?
      4. Should voting be made compulsory by law?
2. Use the Section heading **Results** before answering the following activities:
   1. Draw a graph of the information below to help you to answer your Questions for Enquiry:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Party** | **After**[**2010 General Election**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom_general_election,_2010) |
| Conservative | 306 |
| Labour | 258 |
| Liberal Democrat | 57 |
| D.U.P. | 8 |
| S.N.P | 6 |
| Sinn Féin | 5 |
| Independent | 1 |
| Plaid Cymru | 3 |
| S.D.L.P. | 3 |
| U.K.I.P. | 0 |
| Alliance | 1 |
| Green | 1 |
| Respect | 0 |
| Speaker\* | 1 |
| Total number of seats | 650 |
| Actual government majority | 83 |

* 1. Draw a graph of the information below to help you to answer your Questions for Enquiry:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Party | Vote Share % | Seats |
| Conservative | 36.1 | 47.1 |
| Labour | 29 | 39.7 |
| Liberal Democrat | 23 | 8.8 |
| Others | 11.9 | 4.4 |

1. Tabulate and then graph primary data that you collect either in a mock election or by interviewing people in an opinion poll.
2. Use the Section heading **Analysis** before answering the following activities.
3. For each of the graphs you have drawn or for each map that you have used write a paragraph that helps you explain what they show you, include:
   1. Which map or graph are you writing about? What is its title? Can you give a page number?
   2. Actual numbers; what is the highest? What is the lowest? What is the range (difference between highest and lowest)?
   3. What does this show you?
   4. Why is it important?
4. Use the Section heading **Conclusions** before answering the following activities:
   1. For each of your enquiry questions write a paragraph (do not answer these question individually but use them to help build up a paragraph) to show what have you found out?
      1. What is the answer?
      2. Where is your evidence (which maps or graphs)?
      3. Do you have any actual numbers to back up your conclusion?
5. Use the Section heading **Methods** before answering the following activities:
   1. Describe how you gathered your primary data.
      1. How did you collect information?
      2. What was good about this?
      3. What was bad about this?
   2. Describe the sources of secondary data that you chose.
      1. What was good about the source?
      2. What was bad or weak about the source?
      3. Do you think the source was biased or was it reliable and fair?
   3. Describe the graphs types that you chose to show your data.
      1. What was good about your choice?
      2. What was bad or weak about your choice?
      3. Is there a better way for you to do this next time?
6. Use the Section heading **Evaluation** before answering the following questions in the form of paragraphs (not separately):
   1. Evaluate your **methods**:
      1. What was successful?
      2. What went wrong?
      3. What could you do differently next time?
   2. Evaluate your **sources** – (your information and data):
      1. Which are reliable and why?
      2. Which might be biased and why?
   3. Evaluate your **outcomes** – (your conclusions):
      1. What is reliable and why?
      2. Which may be wrong or inaccurate and why?