



## PEOPLE AND JOBS: POLITICS AND CULTURE

### (PEER-TEACHING, LISTENING AND PROJECT-WORK USING AUDIO-VISUAL INPUT)

#### Aims:

This class focuses on politics and voting rights while exploiting British history and culture of the Regency Period. The class concentrates on an episode called Dish and Dishonesty of Blackadder the Third. In this class you practice new vocabulary, and use a wide range of exercises listening comprehension exercises using original material in a wider, cultural context.



#### Task 1

Try to find out:

- Who is a PM?
- Who was Napoleon?
- Who was Nelson?
- Who is a regent?

Read the historical background information.

#### Historical Background

Blackadder the Third is set in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, a period known as the Regency. For much of this time, King George III was incapacitated due to poor mental health, and his son George, the Prince of Wales, acted as regent. During this period, he was known as "the Prince Regent".

In the series, E. Blackadder Esquire (Rowan Atkinson) is the head butler to the Prince of Wales, a spoiled, foppish idiot. Despite Edmund's respected intelligence and abilities, he has no personal fortune to speak of.

The newly appointed Prime Minister, Pitt the Younger, wants to declare war on Napoleon Bonaparte, "the evil dictator".

Can you give us dates and facts of the period using keywords?





## Task 2

Read through the word-list and try to give the Hungarian equivalents.

### Word List

Hustings	a raised platform used until 1872 for the nomination of candidates for the British Parliament
Bunting	a lightweight loosely woven fabric
Sultana	a woman who is a member of a sultan's family
Cavort	to leap or dance about in a lively manner
Toff	a man who gives exaggerated attention to personal appearance
Utter	absolute, total
Slob	an ordinary, boorish person
Ponder	to weigh in the mind, appraise
Waistcoat	an ornamental garment worn under a doublet
Ace	a person who excels at something
Flog	to beat with or as if with a rod or whip
Incentive	something that incites or has a tendency to incite to determination or action
Bigoted	a person obstinately or intolerantly devoted to his or her own opinions and prejudices
Returning officer	one responsible for overseeing elections
Mangy	having many worn or bare spots
Hen	female chicken
Sod off	scram
Turnip	either of two biennial herbs of the mustard family with thick edible roots
Acquisition	procurement
Crumpet	a small round unsweetened bread
Sloth	disinclination to action or labour
Glint	gleam



## Task 3

Watch the first part of the episode of Dish and Dishonesty of Blackadder.





#### Task 4

Do the short-answer task. Explain the following words:

- Constituency:
- Bill:
- Rotten borough:
- Dung:
- MP:

Check the answers. Copy the new vocabulary items in your books or on the handouts.



#### Task 5

Decide whether the following statements are true or false:

- William Pitt the Younger put upon the leader of the opposition to test him on his Greek vocabulary.
- Edmund Blackadder promised the Prince Regent that they would adhere to the rules during the election.
- The Prince Regent is bright, educated and can splendidly pronounce the word: antidisestablishmentarianism.

Check the answers. Copy the new vocabulary items in your books or on the handouts.



#### Task 6

Watch the second part of the episode.



#### Task 7

Fill in the following gap-fill test:

Since the House of Commons is ..... on the issue, ..... suggests to the Prince that they tip the scales in his favour by bribing a Member of Parliament named ..... with the position of High Court judge. The Prince calls for Buxomley, who, after assuring the Prince that he will stand by him, promptly sits down in a chair and dies. Moving quickly, Blackadder realises that Buxomley represented the ..... of Dunny-on-the-Wold, a ..... consisting of a tiny plot of land with several farm animals and only one voter. Blackadder chooses to instate ..... as the constituency's new MP to ensure that he votes in favour of the Prince.

Check the answers. Copy the new vocabulary items in your books or on the handouts.





### Task 8

What do you think would have happened if...

- ... Buxomley had not died?
- ... Blackadder had become lord?
- ... Baldrick had been a wise man?



### Task 9

How would you continue the story? (What do you think will happen to Baldrick? What do you think will happen to Blackadder? What do you think will happen to the Prince Regent?)



### Task 10

In your opinion, which is the funniest scene? Which is the most unreal scene? Which is your favourite scene?

## Optional follow-ups:



### Task 11

Write down your ideas of the politics on a sheet to produce your project, which is a compilation of fact-files and your concept.



### Task 12

Show the project to the class and give a short presentation on it.



### Task 13

Produce some slides concerning politics at home or in the computer lab. And then show the project to the class and give a short presentation on it.



### Task 14

Produce some hand-outs so that the other students could memorise what they have learnt.

