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Scuola: Liceo Vasco Beccaria Govone Mondovì

Titolo del modulo: British political system

Classi coinvolte: IV Liceo Linguistico

Numero di allievi coinvolti: 21

Numero di ore dedicate al modulo : 8 in classe + 1 ora di dibattito con insegnante madrelingua

Metodologia utilizzata: le lezioni si sono svolte sia in aula con il supporto di materiale multimediale (presentazioni ppt, video tratti dal sito della bbc), sia in laboratorio di informatica. Le lezioni si sono sempre svolte in modo interattivo, coinvolgendo l'intera classe in attività di *brainstorming*, domande stimolo, tecnica dello skimming, lavori a coppie e in gruppo.

Esempi di attività svolte/task/verifiche finali:

Esempio di attività lezione 1:

The Political System Before 1832

The Parliamentary system in Britain was one of the oldest in the world. However, the system had developed over time and was often inconsistent. Reflecting the rest of society at the time the system was also unfair and based upon power from inheritance or money.

In the years at the end of the eighteenth century and at the start of the nineteenth century a number of key events and ideas affected some people's attitudes to the parliamentary system and how the country was governed. The American Revolution and the French Revolution both brought to people's attention the concepts of a wider democracy and early ideas around personal rights (often known as human rights today).

The discussions between those who wanted changes in British society and those who wanted it to remain the same could sometimes turn violent and this influenced wider attitudes to both sides. In Britain one of the most famous incidences of this was in Manchester in 1819 when a peaceful protest was disrupted and people were killed and injured, this became known as the 'Peterloo Massacre'. That event fuelled some of the groups that became influential in pushing for change.

One of the factors that was key to all these events was the growth in print (for example, newspapers) and greater literacy among the lower classes. Ideas and news were communicated much quicker and easier because of these things.

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

The basic principles of French Revolution didn't have effects in Britain	T	F
Peterloo Massacre is the name of an event of American Revolution	T	F
In Britain the political discussion was enhanced by the diffusion of newspaper	T	F

among the lower classes		
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Esempio di attività lezione 3:

Chartism

Chartism was a working class movement from 1839 to 1848. Chartism wanted sweeping changes to the political system of Britain and above all it wanted its Six Points (**The Charter**) introduced:

- Every man over 21 to have the right to vote**
- A secret ballot to be introduced**
- A MP did not have to own property of a certain value or above to become a MP**
- All MP's to be paid to allow working men to serve in Parliament**
- All constituencies to be equal in terms of population size**
- Elections to Parliament to be held every year so that MP's would have to answer to their voters if they had not performed well.**

The leaders of the Chartists were an odd group. There were the head strong like Feargus O'Connor and John Frost who wanted to use force to get Parliament to accept the Charter. Others like William Lovett wanted to use more peaceful methods to persuade Parliament to accept change.

This mixture of persuasion and the use of force did not make for strong leadership in the Chartists. No one knew for sure which direction to take.

One of the methods used by the Chartists to persuade Parliament was the collection of petitions. The theory was that Parliament would be impressed with the number of people who supported the Chartists and would push through popular change.

Petitions were collected in 1839, 1842 and 1848. The last petition had 5 million signatures on it but it was a farce. Many of the signatures were faked.....Queen Victoria's signature was on the last petition !! The Chartists movement collapsed.

Ironically, five of the Chartists demands were eventually passed by Parliament. Only the demand for an annual Parliament has never become law as it is believed that a government needs more than a year to show how it has improved society - the same being true for MP's - they need more than a year to prove that they are doing well for the people they represent.

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING: with your partner, choose the most appropriate groups of words to fill each gap in the text

Although the 1832 seemed radical to some for many it had not gone far enough. Too many people were still deniedto the political process. Those that did become MPs still did not do enough for ordinary people. The Birmingham Political Union was restarted in the late 1830s and soon became involved in, the working class movement that argued for votes for all men and working-class involvement in politics. It was led by the aim of the Six Points, these were: the right to vote for all men, you no longer had to own property to be an MP,to Parliament, equal numbers of voters in each constituency, pay for MPs, and vote by

Esempio di attività: Final assessment

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Which key events affected some people attitudes at the start of the 19th century?
2. What exactly did the Reform Act (1832) involve? What were its consequences?
3. What introduced the Conservative Government?
4. What role did Benjamin Disraeli play in the political reform?

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING: match the following words to their corresponding synonyms or definitions

Rotten boroughs	A group who were very protective of the Church of England, interested in the rights of large landowners, and did not generally support reform. They were in power for much of the early part of the 19th century.
Poor Law	a public institution in which the destitute of a parish received board and lodging in return for work.
Working class	any of several acts extending the franchise or redistributing parliamentary seats
Workhouses	a law providing for the relief or support of the poor from public, parish, funds
Reform Bill	Any of certain English parliamentary constituencies with only a very few electors
Tories	a social group that consists of people who earn little money, often being paid only for the hours or days that they work, and who usually do physical work

La valutazione complessiva tiene conto del lavoro svolto in classe e della partecipazione di ogni singolo alunno all'attività. Sono somministrate diverse tipologie di esercizi (matching, fill in the blank, true or false) finalizzati ad aiutare la comprensione dei testi, altri per verificare la comprensione di strutture linguistiche o verbi utilizzati nei testi.

Autovalutazione per mezzo di un questionario