

# 4 POLITICS

## STUDENT'S BOOK PAGES 32–33

**charisma** /kə'rizmə/ Noun uncount

*charisma* is the quality some people have which makes other people notice them and admire them

Collocates: natural/personal charisma | lack charisma

*he's a good actor, but lacks charisma | Kennedy was known for his charisma and charm*

Adjective: *charismatic* | Adverb: *charismatically*

*a natural and charismatic leader*

• *carisma*

**compassion** /kəm'pæʃ(ə)n/ Noun uncount

*compassion* is a feeling of sympathy and understanding for someone who is suffering

Collocates: feel/have/show compassion (for someone)

*he views any display of kindness or compassion as weakness | she felt great compassion for her grandchildren*

Adjective: *compassionate* | Adverb: *compassionately*

*a caring and compassionate teacher*

• *compassió*

**ruthlessness** /'ru:θləsnəs/ Noun uncount

*ruthlessness* is the quality of not caring if other people are hurt as you make sure you achieve what you want

*he was known for his ruthlessness and cruelty | he achieved his aims thanks to a combination of ruthlessness and skill*

Adjective: *ruthless* | Adverb: *ruthlessly*

*the newspaper described him as a ruthless killer | we were ruthlessly punished for the smallest offences*

• *crueltat*

## PAGES 34–35

**bid** /bɪd/ Verb

a *bid* is an attempt to do something. If an organisation *bids* for something such as a contract, they say why they think they should be allowed to have that thing

Collocates: bid for something | bid to do/have something

*Paris bid unsuccessfully for the 2012 Olympics | we spent months preparing to bid for the new bridge building contract*

Noun: *bid* | Noun: *bidder*

Collocates: make a bid (for something/to do something)

*they'll only waste money on the bid*

• *temptativa*

**compound** /kəm'paʊnd/ Verb

if something *compounds* a bad situation, it makes it worse

*the financial crisis has compounded the misery of many struggling companies | don't compound your mistake by pretending it wasn't you | losing his wallet simply compounded his problems that day*

• *agreujar*

**devil's advocate** /,dev(ə)lz 'ædvəkət/ Noun

if someone plays *devil's advocate*, they pretend to support an idea which they don't actually believe in, in order to make a discussion about the subject more thorough

Collocates: play devil's advocate

*let me play devil's advocate here and say that nuclear power might be the answer to our energy crisis | I'm only asking the question as a devil's advocate*

• *advocat del diable*

**distort** /dɪ'stɔ:(r)t/ Verb

to *distort* something means to change it from what it is or what it is meant to be into something that is not as natural or good

*the human ear starts to distort sounds at very high levels | the profit figures were distorted by the purchase of a new factory site | some journalists distort reality by making scientific errors*

• *distorsionar*

**division** /dɪ'vɪʒ(ə)n/ Noun

if there is *division* between people, they do not agree and they fight or argue with each other

*it will create division and lead to tension | there was often division within the leadership group*

• *divisió*

**outweigh** /,aʊt'weɪ/ Verb

if one consideration *outweighs* another, it is considered to be more important or useful than the other thing

Collocates: far outweigh something | outweigh the benefits/advantages/disadvantages

*I think the negatives far outweigh the positives | it seems these fears are outweighed by real concern about rising food costs | the needs of the group outweigh the needs of the individual*

• *tenir més pes*

**privatise** /'praɪvətəɪz/ Verb

if a government *privatises* a company or industry that it controls, it sells it or gives it to a private company

*I read somewhere that they're going to start privatising more of the health service | there are proposals to privatise the prison service | the railways were privatised in the 1990s*

Adjective: *privatised* | Noun: *privatisation*

*the newly privatised company has plans to develop new markets in Asia | the government planned further privatisation after the election*

• privatitzar

**reservation** /,rezə(r)'veɪʃ(ə)n/ Noun

if you have *reservations* about something, you have doubts about it and are not sure that it is a good thing

Collocates: *reservations about something | serious reservations | minor reservations*

*I am in favour, but I just have a few reservations about it | my only reservation is that the colour is too bright*

• reserva

**strengthen** /'streŋθ(ə)n/ Verb

to *strengthen* something means to make it stronger

Collocates: *strengthen someone's resolve*

*we hope to strengthen relations between our two countries | this exercise will strengthen your leg muscles | security measures at the stadium have been considerably strengthened*

• reforçar

**trigger** /'trɪgə(r)/ Verb

if something *triggers* an event, it causes it to start happening

*it might trigger an election earlier than they wanted | the announcement triggered protests outside the presidential palace | the change in interest rates could trigger an increase in house-buying*

Noun: *trigger*

*common triggers for this illness include tobacco and coffee*

• desencadenar

**STUDENT'S BOOK PAGES 36-37**

**chatter** /'tʃætə(r)/ Verb

if people *chatter*, they talk quickly and in a friendly and excited way to each other

*they were sitting by the pool chattering to each other | the girls chattered happily to each other while they waited for the bus to arrive | we were too excited to sleep and chattered away until it was nearly light*

Noun: *chatter* | Noun: *chatterbox* | Noun: *chattering classes*

Collocates: *constant chatter | lively chatter*

*he could hear the nervous chatter of the guests | John was very quiet, but his brother was a real chatterbox (someone who is always talking, especially about unimportant things)*

• xerrar

**clutch** /klʌtʃ/ Verb

if you *clutch* someone or something, you hold them with a very firm grip

*he arrived at the door clutching a bunch of flowers | he twisted his knee and clutched his leg in pain | she clutched tightly to the handle of the suitcase*

Noun: *clutch*

*he kept me close with a tight clutch on my wrist*

• agafar fort

**creep** /kri:p/ Verb

if you *creep* somewhere, you move slowly and quietly there so that people cannot hear you or see you

*he crept slowly out of the kitchen | I thought I saw someone creeping into the garden | someone crept up behind me*

• reptar / sortir silenciosament

**emergence** /'ɪmɜ:(r)dʒ(ə)ns/ Noun uncount

the *emergence* of something is when it first comes into existence

Collocates: *the emergence of something*

*the 1960s saw the emergence of new political organisations | the emergence of digital learning has transformed higher education*

Verb: *emerge* | Adjective: *emerging*

*more details about the bombing have emerged | the gallery shows work by young and emerging artists (artists who are just beginning to be recognised)*

• aparició

**engagement** /ɪn'geɪdʒmənt/ Noun uncount

if you *engage* in something, you take part in it in a serious way. *Engagement* is the act of *engaging* in something  
*as a result, political engagement is discouraged | teachers try to encourage student engagement in social clubs and societies*

Verb: *engage* | Adjective: *engaged*

Collocates: *engage* (someone) in something

*we need to engage people in politics before it's too late | it will keep your employees actively engaged*

- **compromís**

---

**gasp** /gɑːsp/ Verb

if you *gasp*, you take air into your mouth quickly and loudly, for example because you are surprised, excited, or in pain. You also say that someone *gasps* when they say something in a surprised or excited way

*the politician gasps "But what are you doing?" | "it sounds incredible," gasped Tom | what she saw made her gasp in surprise*

Noun: *gasp*

Collocates: an audible *gasp* | give a *gasp*

*she gave a gasp of delight*

- **esbufegar**

---

**giggle** /'gɪg(ə)l/ Verb

if you *giggle*, you laugh in a quiet way because something is funny or because you are nervous or embarrassed

*they waited outside the stage door, giggling nervously | we giggled and whispered secrets to each other long into the night | Jo's latest tweet made me giggle*

Noun: *giggle*

Collocates: a nervous *giggle* | get the *giggles* | a fit of the *giggles*

*I had a giggle when I read his email*

- **tenir un riure ximplet**

---

**glare** /gleə(r)/ Verb

if you *glare* at someone, you look at them in a very angry and unfriendly way

Collocates: *glare* at someone

*the stranger turned and glared at him | why are you glaring at me like that? | he glared angrily into my face*

Noun: *glare*

*I looked away to avoid his glare*

- **mirar amb fúria**

---

**grow out of** /grəʊ 'aʊt əv/ Phrasal verb

if something *grows out of* an earlier thing, it develops because of that thing

*the Black Power movement grew out of the civil rights struggle in America | French opera grew out of the ballet*

- **sorgir de**

---

**identity** /aɪ'dentɪti/ Noun

someone's *identity* is all the qualities and beliefs that they have, which makes them different from everyone else

Collocates: a sense of *identity* | an *identity crisis*

*everyone in society contributes equally to a nation's identity | an identity crisis (a time when you start to have doubts about things that you have always believed about yourself)*

- **identitat**

---

**mere** /mɪə(r)/ Adjective

you use *mere* to emphasise how unimportant something or someone is

*at the time, he was a mere van driver for the company; now he's the managing director | these were mere words, but what was needed was action | they were soldiers, but looked like mere boys*

Adverb: *merely*

*I'm merely saying that we can't afford another holiday this year*

- **mer / simple**

---

**mumble** /'mʌmb(ə)l/ Verb

if you *mumble*, you say something in a way that is difficult for people to hear clearly

*she mumbled something without raising her head | stop mumbling! | he doesn't say much to other people, but he's often mumbling to himself*

Noun: *mumble*

*there was a low mumble of voices*

- **parlar entre dents**

---

**murmur** /'mɜː(r)mə(r)/ Noun

a *murmur* is a low, quiet sound, usually made by the voices of people speaking quietly or a long way away

*there was a confused murmur of voices | there was a little murmur of approval*

Verb: *murmur*

*Arthur murmured something softly in her ear*

- **murmur**

---

**mutter** /'mʌtə(r)/ Verb

if you *mutter*, you say something very quietly in a way that is difficult for people to hear clearly

*he walked out of the room muttering to himself | she muttered an apology*

Noun: *mutter* | Noun: *muttering*

*there were angry mutterings from the boys, but they calmed down when they saw the food arriving*

- **murmurar**

---

**opposition** /ˌɒpəˈzɪʃ(ə)n/ Noun uncount

if there is *opposition* to something, people do not agree with it and want to stop it or change it. In British politics, *the opposition* is the political parties that are not part of the government. The *leader of the opposition* is the leader of the largest of these parties

*the leader of the opposition hopes to become prime minister after the election | when the economy is in trouble, the opposition gain more supporters*

• *oposició*

**representation** /ˌreprɪzənˈteɪʃ(ə)n/ Noun uncount

if a group has *representation* on a committee, in a parliament, or in other positions of responsibility, there are people there who represent them or who are the same as them

*there's still insufficient representation of women in parliament (there are not enough women in parliament) | political parties must work together to promote women's involvement and representation in all levels of government*

Verb: *represent* | Noun: *representative*

*a total of 38 countries were represented at the conference | there are two student representatives on the campus catering committee*

• *representació*

**satirical** /səˈtɪrɪk(ə)l/ Adjective

*satirical* writing, films, opinions, etc. use humour to make fun of people in authority, especially politicians

*the satirical magazine Private Eye has had only two editors in its 54 years of existence | Catch-22 is a satirical novel about US soldiers during the war in Korea | the film was a satirical version of Shakespeare's Macbeth*

Adverb: *satirically* | Noun: *satire* | Noun: *satirist*

*I'm still not sure if the article was intended satirically | she uses wit and gentle satire in her poems | Peter Cook, the satirist and comedian, died in 1995 | a political satirist*

• *satíric*

**settle** /ˈset(ə)l/ Verb

if you *settle* or *settle down* somewhere, you make yourself as comfortable as you can because you are likely to be there for a few hours

*he settled into bed and fell asleep | settle yourselves down by the fire and I'll bring you a nice cup of tea*

• *acomodar-se*

**skip** /skɪp/ Verb

if you *skip*, you move forward in little jumps, first on one foot then on the other. If you say that someone *skips* somewhere, you mean that they go there quickly and cheerfully

*she skipped downstairs to say hello to her aunt | school had finished, and the children were running and skipping in the street*

Noun: *skip*

*it does not walk like other animals but takes funny little skips*

• *saltar (amb salts curts)*

**spot** /spɒt/ Verb

if you *spot* someone or something, you notice them

*I spotted an empty table at the far end of the restaurant | Madonna was spotted going into a theatre in Hammersmith*

• *veure / albirar*

**stagger** /ˈstæɡə(r)/ Verb

if you *stagger*, you walk in a slightly uncontrolled way, almost falling over, because you are hurt or unwell

*he staggered home and rang the police | she got up and staggered into the bathroom | he stumbled, staggered forward a few feet, then fell over*

• *trontollar / tentinejar*

**stroll** /strɒl/ Verb

if you *stroll* somewhere, you walk there slowly and in a relaxed way for pleasure

*he strolled happily along the beach | you could stroll round the lake before dinner | there was my father, strolling casually towards us*

Noun: *stroll*

Collocates: *take a stroll | a leisurely stroll | a(n) morning/ afternoon/evening stroll*

*the beach is only a short stroll from the hotel*

• *fer una passejada*

**struggle** /ˈstrʌɡ(ə)l/ Noun

a *struggle* is a long period of time when people are trying hard to achieve something which is very difficult to achieve

Collocates: *an armed struggle | an uphill struggle*

*the Black Power movement grew out of the civil rights struggle in America | she faced an uphill struggle (an especially difficult struggle) to get staff to agree to a pay freeze*

• *lluita*

**trudge** /trʌdʒ/ Verb

if you *trudge* somewhere, you walk there slowly and sadly because you are tired or unhappy

Collocates: trudge along/off/back, etc.

*he saw his friends trudging along in front of him | he left the house and trudged off towards the bus stop | we trudged back to the house through the rain*

Noun: *trudge*

*it was a long trudge back to the campsite round the lake*

- ***caminar fatigosament***
- 

**yell** /jel/ Verb

if you *yell*, you shout in a very loud and angry or excited voice

Collocates: yell (something) at someone

*the crowd started yelling at the referee | what are they yelling about? | they yelled insults at us as they drove away*

Noun: *yell*

*I heard yells of warning from outside*

- ***cridar / escridassar***
- 

**STUDENT'S BOOK PAGES 38–39****abolish** /ə'bɒlɪʃ/ Verb

to *abolish* a law, system, or tradition means to officially end it

*thanks to the student council we were able to abolish school uniform | slavery was abolished in Britain in 1833 | the death penalty was abolished in the 1960s*

Noun: *abolition*

*the abolition of slavery*

- ***abolir***
- 

**allege** /ə'ledʒ/ Verb

if you *allege* something bad, or *allege* that someone has done something wrong, you say that you think it is true but you do not have proof yet

*he is alleged to have faked the experiments | the paper alleged that he had deliberately avoided paying tax on the income*

Noun: *allegation* | Adjective: *alleged* | Adverb: *allegedly*

*he defended himself against allegations of dishonesty | the alleged incident took place in the early hours of the morning | he allegedly came up with the idea after he nearly crashed into a wall*

- ***al·legar***
- 

**allocate** /'æləkert/ Verb

to *allocate* things means to decide which person or organisation should receive them and what they should use them for

*the government has allocated another £3m to flood prevention in the region | we need to allocate more resources to primary education | supermarkets allocate large budgets to advertising*

Noun: *allocation*

Collocates: an allocation of something

*fair allocation of resources is a difficult thing to achieve*

- ***destinar / assignar***
- 

**ballot** /'bælət/ Noun

a *ballot* is a vote in which people choose a representative, or vote for or against a particular proposal

Collocates: cast a ballot | a secret ballot

*votes were cast by secret ballot and counted in public view | counting of ballot papers (the pieces of paper where voters marked their choice) went on all night*

Verb: *ballot*

*they now have to ballot their members before calling an official strike*

- ***vot***
- 

**bribery** /'braɪb(ə)ri/ Noun uncount

*bribery* is illegally paying money to someone in authority so that they will do something useful for you

*the bribery scandal made headlines in the newspapers the next day | political corruption and police bribery were common*

Noun: *bribe* | Verb: *bribe*

Collocates: accept/take a bribe | offer a bribe

*a minister was sent to jail for taking bribes | city officials and police officers were bribed*

- ***suborn***
- 

**broad** /brɔ:d/ Adjective

if there is *broad* agreement about something, most people agree about it

*a broad consensus | the proposal won broad support from all political parties*

Adverb: *broadly*

*his arrival as manager was broadly welcomed by the fans*

- ***ampli***
- 

**call** /kɔ:l/ Verb

to *call* an election, a meeting, etc. means to officially announce that it must happen and say when it will be

Collocates: call a meeting | call an election

*the government called an election for the 10th of May | the chairman called an emergency meeting to discuss the crisis*

- ***convocar***
-

**cast** /kɑːst/ Verb

if you *cast* a vote, you officially vote

*you can cast your votes by phone or online | they received over 60% of all the votes cast | only 30% of voters actually cast a ballot*

- **donar un paper / llançar (un vot)**
- 

**consensus** /kən'sensəs/ Noun

if there is *consensus*, everybody agrees about something

Collocates: achieve/reach consensus | build a consensus | a consensus emerges | general/broad consensus

*a tradition of consensus has been established in Switzerland | no consensus has emerged among scientists on the topic*

- **consens**
- 

**cover up** /ˌkʌvə(r) 'ʌp/ Phrasal verb

to *cover something up* means to stop people from knowing about it, especially when it is something that is illegal or embarrassing

*some believe the police covered up the facts, but we'll never know | he was lying to cover up his mistakes | he was covering up for his son's activities*

Noun: *cover-up*

*the papers were convinced there had been a police cover-up*

- **ocultar**
- 

**federal** /'fed(ə)rəl/ Adjective

a *federal* system of government involves states which have a lot of control over their own affairs, but which all belong to the same country with a central government that makes decisions for everyone on important matters such as foreign policy

*total US federal debt now exceeds \$16 trillion | there are state taxes collected locally, and there are federal taxes | the school system became dependent on federal funding*

Noun: *federation*

*the Russian Federation came into being in 1991*

- **federal**
- 

**hollow** /'hɒləʊ/ Adjective

a statement, event, or person that is *hollow* does not have any real value, effectiveness, or sincerity

*a hollow victory | he finally discovered the solution, but it was a hollow success as his rival had got there before him | she answered in a hollow voice*

- **buit**
- 

**inclusivity** /ˌɪnkluː'sɪvəti/ Noun uncount

*inclusivity* is a policy of accepting the widest possible range of people within a culture or organisation

*we are committed to increasing inclusivity | the colours of the Olympic rings carry a message of inclusivity*

Adjective: *inclusive*

*the main aim is to make our society more inclusive*

- **inclusió**
- 

**landslide** /'lænd(s)laɪd/ Noun

a *landslide* or a *landslide victory* is when someone wins an election with a very big majority

Collocates: a landslide victory | by a landslide

*they won the election by a landslide | Labour won a landslide victory in the 1997 election*

- **victòria aclaparadora**
- 

**leak** /li:k/ Verb

if secret or private information *leaks*, or if someone *leaks* it, it is made public

*the story leaked out before they could stop it | the letter was leaked to the press by someone inside the department | he leaked secrets to at least two other newspapers*

Noun: *leak* | Adjective: *leaked*

*the leaked documents were published by several national newspapers | the leak obviously came from inside the ministry*

- **filtrar-se**
- 

**line** /laɪn/ Noun

a party *line*, government *line*, etc., is a set of beliefs and attitudes that a political party or a government holds, and that its members are expected to follow

Collocates: the official/party/government line | toe the line  
*MPs are expected to follow the party line | the official line was that no serious error had been made*

- **línia**
- 

**lobby** /'lɒbi/ Verb

to *lobby* politicians or governments means to talk to them in an organised way to try and get them to change a law or introduce a new law

Collocates: lobby hard | lobby the government/MPs/ Congress/parliament | lobby for/against something  
*they're lobbying the government to build more houses | environmentalists unsuccessfully lobbied parliament for a ban on the practice*

Noun: *lobby* | Noun: *lobbying* | Noun: *lobbyist*

*after pressure from an industry lobby group, the government scrapped the idea | tobacco lobbyists fought the ban on advertising*

- **fer pressió**
-

**loose end** /lu:z 'end/ Phrase

if you are *at a loose end*, you do not have anything you need to do and can't decide what to do

Collocates: be at a loose end

*for the first time in weeks I was at a loose end | take a book in case you find yourself at a loose end*

- **cap per a lligar**

---

**outspoken** /,aʊt'spəʊkən/ Adjective

someone who is *outspoken* is not afraid to say what they think, even when they know people will not agree with them

*an outspoken MP | an outspoken critic of the president | my father was always outspoken about his political views*

Phrasal verb: *speak out*

*they spoke out against the war*

- **obert / franc**

---

**persist** /pə(r)'sɪst/ Verb

if you *persist* in doing something, you continue to do it, even if it is difficult or unpopular

Collocates: persist in doing something | persist with something

*the management is persisting with a ridiculous offer that will see wages fall | he persisted in calling me Mrs Savage | she persisted in her belief that her husband was innocent*

Adjective: *persistent* | Adverb: *persistently*

Noun: *persistence*

*she was very persistent in her attempts to get into university*

- **persistir a fer alguna cosa**

---

**petition** /pə'tɪʃ(ə)n/ Noun

a *petition* is a document signed by a lot of people demanding that a government or other authority take action about something

Collocates: sign a petition | hand in/submit a petition  
*individuals can challenge the decision by collecting 50,000 signatures on a petition | will you sign our petition to stop them closing the hospital?*

Verb: *petition*

*campaigners petitioned the local authority to keep the hospital open*

- **petició**

---

**prominent** /'prɒmɪnənt/ Adjective

someone who is *prominent* is one of the most important people in their field of work, and is well-known and successful

*a prominent figure in the anti-war movement | the group was composed of prominent local business people | a group of nationally prominent researchers*

Noun: *prominence*

Collocates: rise to prominence

*she came to international prominence after she won the Nobel Prize*

- **prominent / destacat**

---

**ratings** /'reɪtɪŋz/ Noun plural

the TV or radio *ratings* is a list which shows how many people watch or listen to each individual programme

Collocates: a ratings war

*the programme's ratings were falling | ratings for the show have never been higher*

- **valoració**

---

**referendum** /,refə'rendəm/ Noun

a *referendum* is an occasion when every adult is asked to vote about one particular issue, and the government has to accept what the majority of voters say

Collocates: hold/conduct a referendum

*the UK will hold another referendum on membership of the EU | in the referendum, voters rejected the proposal to expand the airport*

- **referèndum**

---

**rep** /rep/ Noun

a *rep* is a representative - someone who represents a company or a group of people

*I was elected student rep on the university council last year | he was a sales rep for a furniture company*

- **representant**

---

**rig** /rɪg/ Verb

to *rig* an election or competition means to cheat in order to get a result that would not be the case if everything was run fairly

*FIFA were accused of rigging the election | the opposition claimed the vote was rigged | ballot-rigging was common in the 19th century*

Adjective: *rigged*

*the country has a history of rigged elections*

- **falsejar / manipular**

---

**stand** /stænd/ Verb

to *stand* in an election means to be a candidate in the election

Collocates: stand for something

*she stood for parliament three times before she was finally elected | she decided to stand for President | a total of seven candidates are standing in this local election*

- **presenter-se**
- 

**take aback** /,teɪk ə'bæk/ Phrasal verb

if something *takes* you *aback*, it surprises you

*when the results were published, I was a bit taken aback | it just took me aback when I first saw you | she was clearly taken aback by my question*

- **sorprendre**
- 

**turnout** /'tɜː(r)nəʊt/ Noun

at an election, the *turnout* is the number of people who actually go and vote

*this may explain why voter turnout was down this time | turnout at elections has been steadily falling*

Phrasal verb: *turn out*

*supporters turned out in force in Thursday's election*

- **assistència**
- 

**unanimous** /juː'nænɪməs/ Adjective

a *unanimous* decision is one that is agreed to by everyone who is involved in making it

Collocates: a unanimous decision

*the committee reached a unanimous decision | this was not a unanimous view among party members*

Adverb: *unanimously* | Noun: *unanimity*

*the request was approved unanimously | there was almost complete unanimity when it came to the vote*

- **unànime**
- 

---

**STUDENT'S BOOK PAGES 40-41**

---

**civilise** /'sɪvəlaɪz/

to *civilise* people means to teach them how to live well and sensibly and have a good life. Be careful if you use this word. It was often used by people in the West to suggest that people in Africa or Asia are not as well developed culturally or politically

*European attempts to 'civilise' the Aborigines had tragic consequences | the British mistakenly thought they were civilising the people in their Empire*

Adjective: *civilised* | Adjective: *civilising*

*let's talk about this in a civilised way*

- **civilitzar**
-