



## Young People's Rights

### Task: Voting Rights of Young People

#### Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the GESE 11.

You are going to hear a talk about **the voting rights of young people**. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me generally what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

#### Audio Script

**Controversial** and **absolutely** significant, the topic of voting rights for young people has been a subject of intense debate and scrutiny. The notion that individuals of a certain age are granted the power to shape their societies through voting is nothing short of **jaw-dropping**. It is **awe-inspiring** to think of the potential impact that young citizens can have on the political landscape. However, the recognition and implementation of these rights have not always been straightforward. In many cases, it has required a **written document**, such as a constitution or legislation, to ensure that young people are included in the democratic process. **Sadly enough**, throughout history, the struggle for young people's voting rights has often been marred by obstacles and resistance. Nevertheless, the importance of this issue cannot be understated, as it shapes the future and allows the voices of the next generation to be heard.

Youth participation in democratic processes is of utmost importance, as it **not only gives young people a voice but also** promotes inclusivity and diversity in politics. By actively engaging in the democratic process, young individuals can shape policies that address their specific needs, ensuring their concerns are heard and considered. This participation **not only encourages civic engagement but also** fosters responsible citizenship among the youth. When young people are empowered to take part in decision-making, they develop a sense of ownership and responsibility for their communities and nations. Their involvement **not only benefits the present generation but also** sets the stage for the future. By actively participating, the next generation gains the necessary skills, knowledge, and experience to contribute at the **highest possible level**. It is essential to recognize that the potential of **a young individual** should not be underestimated. Though they may initially appear confused or inexperienced, their ability to adapt and learn **relatively quickly** is **extremely** remarkable. By empowering youth participation in democratic processes, we can unlock their full potential and pave the way for a vibrant and inclusive society.

Age restrictions play a crucial role in determining voting eligibility, as they set the parameters for who can participate in the democratic process. These restrictions aim to strike a balance between maturity and informed decision-making. Voting eligibility requires a certain level of understanding of political issues and the ability to make informed choices. However, there is ongoing debate and discussion regarding the appropriate voting age. Different perspectives and opinions emerge, each vying for **the best possible solution**. **Only if we carefully consider**

the various factors at play, such as societal norms and expectations, can we determine the most wanted outcome. Surprisingly enough, the debate over the appropriate voting age is not limited to young individuals. Well-to-do and seasoned citizens also engage in this discourse, recognizing that age does not always equate to wisdom or capability. It is totally essential to evaluate individuals' knowledge and understanding, rather than making assumptions based solely on age. By ensuring a well-informed electorate, we can foster a more inclusive and democratic society that functions extremely well.

Having said that, it is interesting to consider the potential benefits that could arise from lowering the voting age. If society had realized this possibility earlier, it would be a different situation today. Lowering the voting age can provide young people with an opportunity to be empowered and take ownership of their communities and countries. By participating in democratic processes, they can actively shape the future, contributing their unique perspectives and ideas. It is remarkable how perfectly well young individuals can grasp complex issues and make informed decisions. Their enthusiasm and passion can be incredibly inspiring, bringing new energy and fresh ideas to the table. Luckily enough, there is growing recognition of the importance of youth engagement in politics. By embracing the potential of young voices, we can create a society where every individual, regardless of age, plays an active role in shaping a better future.

Can you tell me in one or two sentences what the speaker was talking about?

Now listen to the talk again. This time make some notes as you listen, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me about the point of view of the speaker, the importance of youth participation in the democratic processes, along with age restrictions and voting eligibility.

Now tell me about the point of view of the speaker, the importance of youth participation in the democratic processes, along with age restrictions and voting eligibility. You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

**Answers:**

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| Point of View of the speaker                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lowering the voting age can empower young people and give them a sense of ownership and responsibility in shaping the future of their communities and countries.</li> </ul>  |
| The Importance of Youth Participation in Democratic Processes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth participation in democracy gives young people a voice.</li> <li>It promotes inclusivity and diversity in politics.</li> <li>Young people can shape policies that address their needs.</li> <li>It encourages civic engagement and responsible citizenship.</li> <li>Youth participation empowers the next generation.</li> </ul> |

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|---|---|
| Age Restrictions and Voting Eligibility | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Age restrictions determine who can vote.</li><li>● They balance maturity and informed decision-making.</li><li>● Voting eligibility requires understanding political issues.</li><li>● Debate exists over the appropriate voting age.</li></ul> |
|---|---|

Marks: +\_ / +10

**Grammar Used in the listening task:**

- **inversions: not only....but**
- **compound adjectives: jaw-dropping / well-to-do**
- **modifiers: absolutely / extremely / incredibly / totally**
- **Past participle as adjective: the most wanted player / a written document / a confused girl**
- **superlative + postmodifier + noun: best possible location / highest possible level**
- **adverb + enough: surprisingly enough / sadly enough / luckily enough**
- **adverb + adverb: perfectly well / extremely well / relatively quickly**
- **Mix Conditional: If society had realized this mistake earlier, it would be a different world today.**
- **Perfect Infinitive: Having said that,...**