**Actuele lesbrief Engels – Getting Out the Vote**

**Voor de docent**

In veel landen ligt de leeftijd om te mogen stemmen op achttien jaar en ouder. En in veel landen wordt gesproken over het verlagen van de stemgerechtigde leeftijd. Neem bijvoorbeeld Ierland.

**ERK-niveau**

Lezen B2 – Lezen om informatie op te doen: Kan artikelen en verslagen over hedendaagse problemen begrijpen, waarin de schrijvers bepaalde stellingen of standpunten innemen. (LEB2-3a)

Leesstrategieën – *Kan gebruikmaken van uiteenlopende strategieën om tot tekstbegrip te komen, waaronder het letten op hoofdpunten.* – *Kan van minder frequente woorden en uitdrukkingen de betekenis controleren door gebruik te maken van websites, (online) fora en eentalige woordenboeken.*

**Intro**

Should 16- and 17-year-olds be allowed to vote in national elections?

Assignment 1

You may use English-language Internet sources to help you.

a Name 5 or more words related to elections.

**Getting Out the Vote**

Dutch elections are coming up. Voters will go to the polls on 22 November.

All Dutch nationals over 18 years of age can vote.

Some argue that the voting age should change.

[Take a look at Ireland](https://www.newstalk.com/news/they-cant-get-married-or-get-a-legal-contract-should-the-voting-age-be-lowered-1475461), where changing the voting age is a hot topic.

Note: In Ireland, the senate is called *Seanad* and parliament is called the *Dáil*.

Assignment 2

Read the text. Find (and mark) the following words in the text:

*outlook – ongoing – proposals – postal voting – to strengthen (strengthens) – demographic – turnout – engaged – the cost of living – mortgage – restrictions – bills and motions – (to) exploit – adolescence – delayed*

a an agreement that allows you to borrow money from a bank in order to buy a house

b the amount of money that a person needs to live

c a group of people who are similar in age, social class, etc.

d happening at a later time than expected or intended

e involved and interested

f to make stronger

g the number of people who show up for something

h official rules that control what you can and cannot do

i the period of life when a child develops into an adult

j planned new laws and suggestions for new rules that are discussed in the senate and parliament

k plans or suggestions

l presently or currently happening

m sending in your vote by post

n to take advantage

o view of the world

Assignment 3

a True or false?

1 Caillum Hedderman is against lowering the voting age.

2 Noel Howard is against lowering the voting age.

3 Caillum Hedderman is for lowering the voting age.

4 Noel Howard is for lowering the voting age.

b What is a ‘black and white view of the world’?

1 When you are very traditional and want to go back to at time when all films and photos were in black and white.

2 When you cannot see the difference between different colours.

3 When you look at life in a simple way, like that things are just good or bad, right or wrong, etc.

4 When you only believe things are true after you have seen them written in black and white.

c For each statement, indicate whether the argument is for or against lowering the voting age.

1 Giving the vote to younger people is a contradiction.

2 It strengthens democracy.

3 Politicians will take advantage of the young vote.

4 Young people are also facing many of today’s crises.

5 Young people are more engaged with what is happening around them.

6 Young people have a black and white view of the world.

Assignment 4 (EXTRA)

a Have your say.

Discuss with your classmate: Should the voting age be lowered in your country?