

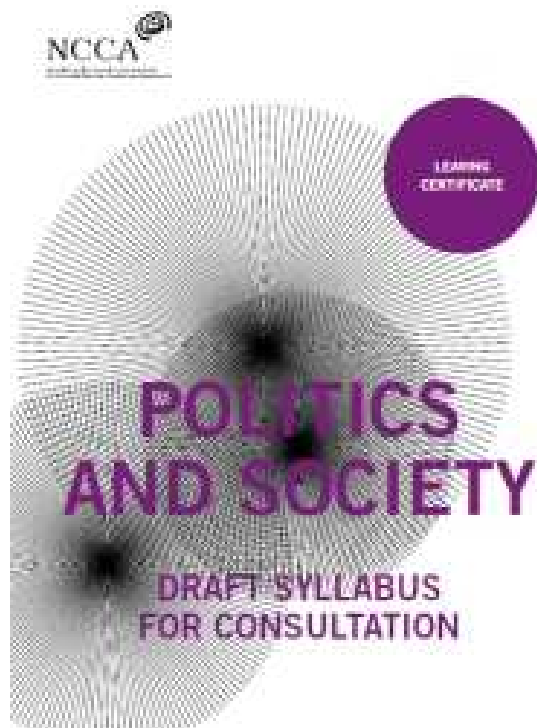
# ACTIVATE

No. 42 May 2009

The Newsletter of the Association of CSPE Teachers (ACT)  
Supporting Citizenship Education in Ireland

[info@cspeteachers.ie](mailto:info@cspeteachers.ie)

[www.cspeteachers.ie](http://www.cspeteachers.ie)



The Syllabus for the proposed new Senior Cycle subject **Politics and Society** is now available for consultation on the NCCA website - click <http://nccaconsultation.com/ncca/>. We would encourage all members to take part in the consultation - there's a facility to submit your views online by way of a questionnaire or email. Also, please submit your views to the Association so that we can better represent the views of our members when we submit the Association's response. At the link above it is possible to download a pdf version of the Syllabus or view a "browseable book" version. Consultation will continue until October 2009, but we would encourage early responses. There's also a section on Sample Learning Activities – this is linked from the main consultation page or can be accessed at <http://www.action.ncca.ie/en/senior-cycle-consultation/sample-learning-activities/politics-and-society>. The focus of the learning activity is Unit 2 Globalisation and Localisation, with emphasis on development issues. There are sample lesson plans, worksheets etc. There is an option to give feedback on these materials.

## Important Dates

The CSPE Exam this year is on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June from 1.30 pm to 3 pm. The Association will have its usual exam review meeting on the same day from 3.30 pm at the Blackrock Education Centre in Dublin. Location details are available at <http://www.blackrockec.ie/>

## Elections

Two by-elections, along with local and European elections take place on Friday June 5<sup>th</sup>. Too great an opportunity for CSPE teachers to be missed! It might form for the basis for an Action Project with 2<sup>nd</sup> Year students – e.g. doing preliminary work now on the candidates, and reviewing how the voting turned out on return to class in September. To make sure activities are remembered there should be copious notes, photos, election literature stored away until September. Students could be encouraged to attend the counts on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Turn to page 3 for guidelines on how a project like this might work.

## Membership Matters

Check mailing label for membership status. If you have received this newsletter you are paid up to date for 2008/2009

## **Knowing Dublin**

The final workshops in the Knowing Dublin series will be held in May 2009. If you are interested in participating please contact: Bernadette Cogan Or Eithne Massey Central Library, Ilac Centre 01 8733025 [centrallibrary@dublincity.ie](mailto:centrallibrary@dublincity.ie)

*Knowing Dublin* is a programme designed to promote active citizenship among the young people of Dublin. It is aimed at 2nd and 3rd Year CPSE and history students and comprises a published and on-line guide and a free programme of workshops for classes. The workshops are held in City Hall. The students will meet either an elected representative or a council official in the Council Chamber, where they will be given the opportunity to see where the Councillors hold their meetings. The speaker will give them an over-view of the roles played by both parts of the Council, including the services provided by the Council, the work of elected representatives, and the role of Lord Mayor.

## **CSPE Survey**

Senator Ronan Mullen is conducting a short **survey on CSPE** in schools - some schools may have received these in the post. You can also take the survey at his website [www.ronanmullen.ie](http://www.ronanmullen.ie) - the link is at the top right hand corner of the page. The survey is about CSPE in general and in particular about the Oireachtas Outreach Programme that some of you may have done in school.

## **Eco-Unesco**

ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards 2009 will take place on Wednesday 20th May at the Round Room in the Mansion House in Dublin. There's also a chance to take part in their online action on climate change on 5<sup>th</sup> June for World Environment Day. For more information or to book your place, contact: Claire Lyons / Ian Davis , Environmental Youth Officers , ECO-UNESCO , 26 Clare Street , Dublin 2 , Phone: 353 1 662 5491 , Fax:+353 1 662 5493 , Email:[youth@ecounesco.ie](mailto:youth@ecounesco.ie)

Eco-Unesco also offers two workshop programmes: **ECO-Discovery** and **ECO-Leaders**. Both programmes are available to schools and youth groups and include fun activities and games appropriately designed for each age group. ECO-UNESCO has produced a CD-ROM entitled "Your Environment; Your Choice," which is full of information, games and activities on a variety on environmental topics including air, biodiversity, water, waste, litter, global warming, energy and sustainable development. It can be used as a learning tool and research tool by young people, teachers, youth workers and educators. Price: €10.00.

## **Powerpoint Downloads Still Available**

Useful for revision purposes, we can still offer updated versions of our Powerpoint downloads that might be of use: *Famous Faces Powerpoint* - presentation including many of the new political leaders of recent times; *Famous Political Buildings* - based on pictures that came up in the exam paper a few years ago; *CSPE Facts* - revision aid with some useful facts and figures for Section 1 of the exam paper; *New Government Ministers* – the current Cabinet (we also have a Word document with colour pictures of the cabinet). We can send these on request – email [info@cspeteachers.ie](mailto:info@cspeteachers.ie)  
Ideas for other revision aids would be welcome.

## **Useful Websites**

### **Slideshare**

([www.slideshare.net](http://www.slideshare.net)) – A sort of YouTube for Powerpoint Presentations – loads of ready made presentations for free – You can watch them for free and while you must register to download them, that's free too. And you can upload your own.

### **TeacherTube**

([www.teachertube.com](http://www.teachertube.com)) – Thousands of educational videos.

# Action Project Ideas .....

## Local Elections, By-Elections, European Parliament Elections!

It's a feast of democratic activity at the moment. While it has been way too late for this year's Action Projects, some CSPE teaches may be using the occasion to lay the foundations for next year's project (or just general class work on democracy). If so we'd like to hear from you and hope you might consider writing up your project for the next *Activate*. In the meantime here are some tips if you are considering revisiting the elections in September.

- Late as it is, local candidates in particular could be invited to pay brief visits to the remaining CSPE classes. Make sure students take pictures and copious notes.
- Contact your local polling station and ask the officials to put aside some of the materials used, especially the large mock ballot papers with all the candidates photos – useful to hang in the classroom at any stage as a sample ballot paper.
- Get students to collect as much election literature as they can and bring it into class and/or store it until September when results can be reviewed.
- Keep all the detailed election results that will be in the national papers on the weekend after the election and in the local papers a few days later. These can be used to track the progress of candidates and illustrate the PR system in action.
- Look out for close counts – these will help to show the importance of every vote.
- Record some party political broadcasts to demonstrate this aspect of a political campaign.
- Check out all the resources on the web. RTE's website usually has excellent material. They will probably leave that material there over the summer, but web pages can be copied whole and entire, or copied and pasted into Word or equivalent.
- Encourage students to attend election counts – give them times, dates, locations.
- In September invite successful candidates into the classroom. Their visit could be worthwhile in itself or form part of a larger project on the elections in particular or democracy in general.
- The ongoing work of successful candidates could be tracked for a period in the media.

**And one last piece of news: it has recently been announced that there will be a directly elected Mayor for Dublin next year – surely an excellent project opportunity for schools in Dublin.**

**Note: We are always interested in printing accounts by teachers of interesting Action Projects – contact [info@cspeteachers.ie](mailto:info@cspeteachers.ie)**

# FREE SOFTWARE RESOURCES for CSPE!!



## Realplayer (<http://europe.real.com/realplayer/>)

A media player that will already be in many computers. It plays video and audio files on the internet and the latest version can also download video and audio from most internet sites. Just right click on the video and go for the “Download this video” option. The video will appear as a link in the Realplayer “My Library” but the video is stored in a folder called “Realplayer Downloads” within the “My Videos” or “Videos” folder. From there it can be transferred to CD or memory stick. Realplayer will also play the Downloaded videos.



## VLC Player

A media player that will play a large variety of files, including “flv” (Flash) videos, the format of most web video.



## Quick Media Converter

A programme that will convert video and audio files to different formats. For example downloaded internet videos will need to be converted to “wmv” format to work in Powerpoint.



## Freecorder Toolbar

A toolbar that adds itself to your browser (e.g. Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome) allowing you to record the sound that playing in your browser – e.g. live radio, podcasts, audio files etc. The latest version can also download videos.



## Windows Movie Maker

This useful and easy-to-use programme should be already installed in every Windows computer (aka DVD Maker in Vista machines) – it can be used to make short videos relevant to CSPE – e.g. student interviews or role plays. Students will probably be well able to use it.



## Quicktime

Media player needed for some internet videos (“mov” files).



## Audacity

Well specified sound recorder and editor. Useful if an Action Project involved recording interviews, vox pops etc.

**Activate is published once per school term by the Association of CSPE Teachers—supporting citizenship education in Ireland. Articles and letters for publication should be sent to the editor, Brendan O’Regan, Arklow CBS, Co. Wicklow, or emailed to [info@cspeteachers.ie](mailto:info@cspeteachers.ie)**