

## Key Stage 3 & 4 Activity 1 – Who Can Vote?

**‘If 16 year olds could vote, they might become more interested in politics. Then, they would be more likely to vote during their lifetime.’**

**‘16 year olds have a right to vote. An important reason behind democracy was “no taxation without representation.” At 16 you can get a job and pay taxes so it is undemocratic that you don’t get a say in how those taxes are set and spent. You should have a say in those policies’**

**‘16 year olds can get married and join the army. If they can do this, they should be allowed to vote.’**

**‘There has to be some limits. Otherwise, why not let 14 year olds vote and so on. I’m sure there are some 16 year olds who are mature enough to vote, but the majority are not.’**

**‘Scientific studies have shown our brains are not fully formed until we are about 21 years of age. With this in mind, it doesn’t make sense to lower the voting age further.’**

**‘There are better ways of getting young people involved in politics without lowering the voting age. Having more citizenship lessons in school would help students get more involved in parliament.’**

**‘Voter turnout is most significant in the 18-21 age bracket. If we offered 16 year olds the chance to sign up to voting in school, maybe voter interest would increase.’**

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Devised by Matthew Hallsworth in association with the People's History Museum. The work of *Election!* artist-in-residence Alex Gardner has been supported through Arts Council England's [Grants for the arts](#) scheme.