Politics and public institutions

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

INTERMEDIATE | B1-B2

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1 Match each word with its definition.

1 republic	____	a an arrangement in which two or more parties govern together
2 monarchy	____	b a geographical voting area
3 democracy	____	c a system in which people choose their representatives
4 parliament	____	d a state whose head is usually a president
5 constituency	____	e a group of elected people who make laws
6 candidate	____	f a person who wants to be elected
7 voter	____	g the paper on which a voter marks a choice
8 ballot paper	____	h a state with a king or queen
9 majority	____	i more than half of the votes or seats
10 coalition	____	j a person who votes in an election

2 Choose the correct word or phrase.

1 Voters *cast* / *hold* their votes on election day.

2 Marta plans to *stand* / *sit* for political office next year.

3 The candidate who receives the most votes may win the *seat* / *place*.

4 The president can *nominate* / *vote* people for senior positions.

5 Parliament debates and *passes* / *elects* new laws.

6 If no party wins a majority, several parties may form a *coalition* / *constituency*.

7 An elected representative speaks for a *constituency* / *chamber*.

8 Voters normally receive their ballot papers at a *polling station* / *legislature*.

3 Match the verbs with the words on the right to form political collocations.

1 cast	____	a a constituency
2 win	____	b a minister
3 stand	____	c a vote
4 hold	____	d a law
5 form	____	e an election
6 represent	____	f a coalition
7 pass	____	g for office
8 appoint	____	h a seat

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4 Complete the election report with the words and phrases in the box.

ballot papers | candidates | coalition | constituencies | government | majority | parliament | political parties | polling stations | election

The Republic of Bellara held a parliamentary **1** _____ on Sunday. Five **2** _____ presented their plans to the public. The country was divided into 80 **3** _____, with several **4** _____ standing in each area. The **5** _____ opened at 7 a.m., and voters marked their choices on **6** _____. When all the votes were counted, no party had an overall **7** _____ in **8** _____. The two largest parties began talks about forming a **9** _____ and creating a new **10** _____.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

A new youth council for Riverton

Riverton Town Council wants young people to take a more active role in local decisions. It is creating a youth council with twelve representatives aged 15 to 18. Students at each secondary school will choose their candidates in an election. The successful representatives will meet at the town hall once a month. The youth council cannot make laws, but it will advise the mayor and the local council. Its first priorities are cheaper buses, safer spaces for sport and longer opening hours at the public library. The mayor hopes the project will help young people understand democracy and show that local institutions listen to them.

1 Why is Riverton creating a youth council? _____

2 How many representatives will it have? _____

3 How will the representatives be chosen? _____

4 Where and how often will they meet? _____

5 Will the youth council be able to make laws? _____

6 Name two of the council's first priorities. _____

6 Complete each sentence with the correct form of the word in capitals.

1 The country is _____ by a coalition of three parties. **GOVERN**

2 Our local _____ spoke at the public meeting. **REPRESENT**

3 The next general _____ will take place in May. **ELECT**

4 The candidates took part in a live _____ debate. **POLITICS**

5 The _____ is the head of state in this republic. **PRESIDE**

6 Regular elections are an important part of a _____ system. **DEMOCRACY**

OVER TO YOU

Stand for the youth council. Prepare a 60-90 second campaign speech. Then write **100-120 words** explaining why students should elect you.

Include three policies, one reason for each policy, how you will represent students and one sentence inviting people to vote.

[ ] Use at least eight target expressions. [ ] Use two political collocations. [ ] Organise your ideas into clear paragraphs.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Match the words and definitions

1 **d** 2 **h** 3 **c** 4 **e** 5 **b** 6 **f** 7 **j** 8 **g** 9 **i** 10 **a**

2 Choose the correct word or phrase

1 **cast** 2 **stand** 3 **seat** 4 **nominate** 5 **passes** 6 **coalition** 7 **constituency** 8 **polling station**

3 Political collocations

1 c	cast a vote	**5 f**	form a coalition
2 h	win a seat	**6 a**	represent a constituency
3 g	stand for office	**7 d**	pass a law
4 e	hold an election	**8 b**	appoint a minister

4 Election report

1 **election** 2 **political parties** 3 **constituencies** 4 **candidates** 5 **polling stations** 6 **ballot papers** 7 **majority** 8 **parliament** 9 **coalition** 10 **government**

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 Riverton is creating it so that young people can take a more active role in local decisions.
2 It will have twelve representatives.
3 Students at each secondary school will choose them in an election.
4 They will meet at the town hall once a month.
5 No, it will advise the mayor and local council but will not make laws.
6 Any two: cheaper buses, safer spaces for sport, longer public-library opening hours.

6 Word families

1 **governed** 2 **representative** 3 **election** 4 **political** 5 **president** 6 **democratic**

Over to you: Answers will vary. Check clear organisation, three realistic policies, reasons for each policy and accurate use of political vocabulary and collocations.