**Topic: Political system of the UK. Date 7/04/2020**

**Group: 72**

**Task 1.** Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–h next to the numbers 1–8.

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| 1…….. an election | a. the group of people who officially control a country |
| 2 …….. the government | b. a member of government or of another political party |
| 3…….. a politician | c. the leader of the government |
| 4…….. the Prime Minister | d. the larger number or part of something |
| 5…….. the turnout | e. behaviour that shows no interest in something |
| 6…….. a political party | f. when people vote to choose people to represent them in political jobs |
| 7…….. the majority | g. the number of people who vote in an election or attend an even t |
| 8…….. apathy | h. an organisation of people with similar political beliefs and ideas |

**Task 2. Read the text.**

**Leaders and parties**

The Prime Minister is the head of government in Britain and the queen (or king) is the head of state. British people vote in elections for Members of Parliament (MPs) to represent them. There are lots of political parties in the UK but the big three are the Labour Party (the main left-wing party), the Liberal Democrats (the main centre party) and the Conservatives (the main right-wing party). There are also parties representing different parts of the UK, such as the Scottish National Party and Plaid Cymru in Wales.

**Voting**

The UK voting system operates on a majority vote system. The political party that wins the most votes wins the election. For a political party in the UK to form a government, they need an overall majority. This means that the ruling party needs to have more Members of Parliament than all the other parties put together. If the winning party does not have an overall majority then there is a hung parliament.

**Coalition government**

What often happens in the case of a hung parliament is that one large party will join up with a smaller party to form a coalition. By doing this, they exclude the main opposition and still have power – although it is now shared between the two coalition parties.

**Young people and politics**

All British citizens over the age of 18 can vote in general elections. Some people think that young people in Britain are apathetic and don't care about politics. About 43% of 18- to 24-year-olds voted in the 2015 general election. The overall turnout is usually around 65% of the population.

This is what some young people said about British politics.

I can’t relate to any of the politicians. They all seem fairly similar and rarely listen to young people. If politicians really listened to the voters, I think more young people would vote.  
**Fiona, 20, from London**

I didn’t vote in the last election but I do care about my country. Thousands of people protested on the streets against the government's plans to cut financial help with university fees earlier this year. Only rich people will be able to go to university if we have to pay thousands of pounds to study! I was at the protest and so were most of my friends at uni. I’ll vote in the next election if things don’t change.  
**Sean, 19, from Leeds**

Politicians need to start listening to us. We would get engaged in mainstream politics if we felt that our opinions were respected  
**William, 24, from Sheffield**

Of course I voted in the last election. Everyone should vote! Young people need to start voting in general elections. If we don't vote, we won't change anything  
**Pippa, 23, from Fleet**

General elections are held approximately every five years. Will more young people decide to vote in the next election? We'll have to wait and see.

**Task 2.** Circle True or False for these sentences.

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| 1. There are only two political parties in the UK. | True False |
| 2. A political party needs an overall majority to form a government. | True False |
| 3. A coalition government is made up of two parties sharing power. | True False |
| 4. You have to be 17 or over to vote in a general election in the UK. | True False |
| 5. Less than half of 18- to 24-year-olds voted in the 2015 election. | True False |
| 6. There is a general election every three years in the UK. | True False |