**The workings of the UK Parliament: a jigsaw listening classroom activity**

***Watch the following five videos produced by the UK Parliament and answer the questions related to the workings of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. First, you will watch the introductory videos (VIDEO 1 and VIDEO 2) as a class and you will be answering some comprehension questions posed by your teacher orally. You will then work in three groups (GROUP 1, GROUP 2 and GROUP 3) to answer the questions in written in detail. After that, the whole class will come together to recapitulate on all the questions. Note: most of the questions in this activity appear in the list of the FACT FILE QUESTIONS the answers to which you need to revise for your British Studies mid-term and final tests.***

**INTRODUCTORY VIDEOS**

**VIDEO 1: UK Parliament Tour: Welcome to the Houses of Parliament TIMING**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qbjEd430EKM> **0:00 – 2:35**

**VIDEO 2: The Queen Formally Opens Parliament TIMING**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HX3vqERkWOA> **0:00 – 1:50**

**GROUP 1**

**VIDEO 3: The House of Commons Chamber: Guide to the Chamber TIMING**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ENIW7i48xHA> **0:00 – 4:17**

***Watch the video and answer the following questions:***

* Why is the Chamber of the House of Commons so small? What

was Churchill’s view on its size?

* Where do the members of the Cabinet (government) and the Shadow Cabinet sit?
* Who are the frontbenchers and backbenchers?
* How do MPs reserve their seats for the day?
* What is the mace?
* Where, or better still, on what do the speakers such as the Prime

Minister make their speeches?

* Where does the Speaker sit? What is his role in the House?
* When does the Speaker declare “division“?
* How do MPs vote?
* What is the Press Gallery?
* What is the Public Gallery?
* Who is a Hansard reporter and what is Hansard?

**GROUP 2**

**VIDEO 4: The House of Commons Chamber: How the Chamber Works** **TIMING**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ENIW7i48xHA> **7:10 – 10:29**

***Watch the video and answer the following questions:***

* What is the role of the Speaker?
* How do the MPs indicate that they want to speak?
* How does the Speaker decide whom he calls to speak?
* How does the Speaker make sure there is a balance between the views

expressed during a debate?

* How exactly do MPs address each other?
* How are votes in the House of Commons announced?
* What is the Division Bell?
* What are Ayes and Noes?
* What are the Division Lobbies?

**GROUP 3**

**VIDEO 5: UK Parliament Tour: House of Lords Chamber TIMING**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-wVllfyvGfU> **0:00 – 3:46**

***Watch the video and answer the following questions:***

* What is the make-up of the House of Lords? (i.e. what types of Peers are there?)
* What sort of professional background do Peers of the

House of Lords come from?

* What is the role of the Lords? What role do they play in the legislative

process?

* Who were the designers of the House of Lords Chamber?
* Who is the Lord Speaker? What is his/her role?
* What is the Woolsack? When and why was it introduced?
* Roughly speaking, how many members of the House of

Lords are there?

* Who are the crossbenchers?
* Where do the bishops of the Church of England sit?
* What is the State Opening of Parliament?
* Who is the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod? What does he do?
* Why does the monarch never come to the House of Commons?
* What is the Queen’s Speech?
* What is the Public Gallery?