GIRL 1: So, like you said about France, if you... You have to vote but if you don't, it doesn't really matter and you don't get fined.

BOY 1: Be forced so you might miss out on something. Um... Yeah. You might miss out on something really important and...

TEACHER: Right, so... We've got our arguments against compulsory voting, so that means that you... that you don't have to vote. So why might it be... Why might it be a good thing that you don't have to vote? Mia, have you got any information?

GIRL 2: Because if Australia has freedom, maybe, like, saying you have to vote is sort of making people feel like they don't have that choice.

TEACHER: OK.

TEACHER: Good job. Charlotte, what is something that you used to think about voting and now that we've got our information, now that we've read through, how have your thoughts changed?

GIRL 3: Well, I used to think that voting should not be compulsory because you have your own choice and, like, if you don't really mind who's gonna be a leader or what parties, then you don't really have to.

TEACHER: Mm-hm.

GIRL 3: But now I think that it should be compulsory because we need to become more responsible and start learning more about democracy and, like, who is our leader of the country and the state. Um... And we have to make sure that the things that we can't be bothered to do, we have to try and just do it even if we don't want to.

TEACHER: Excellent. Because of that... because it's important for democracy. I liked how you linked it to what the whole unit has been about, that voting is a chance to live democracy, isn't it? To have your say. And that's what democracy is. We learned about it at the start of the unit. It's all about people's voice. Yeah? Excellent. Thank you, Char.

Has anyone else's opinion, similar to Charlotte, changed? It doesn't have to have changed the same way. Has anyone's opinion changed? Jonas?

BOY 2: I used to think that having to vote was a good thing because you actually, like, got a say and you made sure, but now I think that it's sort of unfair that in Australia and some other countries you have to vote, because some people, they just do a donkey vote which is wasting so many people's time, like, their own time, and the people who count the votes, their time as well.

So, um... And even if it's not compulsory, like in the Donald Trump vote and like in other votes that America has had, and other countries, but America is the only compulsory one that I can think of... I mean, non-compulsory, they still get results. They still get presidents and stuff like that, and leaders.

TEACHER: Fantastic. Thank you, Jonas. Well done. Neve, has your opinion changed?

GIRL 1: It's sort of like what Jonas said. I used to think, oh, it's good that you have to vote so everyone can have a say and everyone can vote who they want to vote for, but now I think, why does voting have to be compulsory?

I get that everyone gets a say in it but some people don't want a say and some people don't want to choose who is the leader of their country and they don't really care about it.

TEACHER: Mm. That's interesting. Yeah, like Charlotte said, you just sort of get... If you're happy just to get the leader that you get and you're not bothered, then that's fine.

OK. That's really interesting that two people... Does anyone else agree with Charlotte? Or has someone's opinion not changed where they thought, "I used to think that voting was a good thing, that compulsory voting was a good thing, and I still think the same"?

Mia, what are you thinking?

GIRL 2: Well, so, I'm the same as Charlotte. I thought that you should get a choice whether to vote or not. But then now I sort of realised that if you're given a responsibility, you should, like, accept the fact that you're an older person, you're the leader of... like, older people. People who you look up to.

And then if you're sort of, like... not using that responsibility.

TEACHER: OK. That's fantastic.

GIRL 2: what's the point of having that right?

TEACHER: And we spoke about responsibilities and rights a lot at the start of the year, didn't we? And that's linked hugely with our democracy that we've been looking at. That it's a right and it's a responsibility and that not everyone in the world gets to vote. So if we get to, let's make it work and let's make it count, let's make it worth it. Arvin.

BOY 3: Well, I used to think that, like, you got to choose if you voted but now I think that it should be compulsory because you get a say because if you don't do it, you could be... You could get the person that you didn't want because that affected you, so... Like, it affected you and the other person was, like, the right person for you but that person wants to change things.

TEACHER: Yeah. Excellent. Excellent.

GIRL 1: Sorry, Neve, you've got one more comment? Um, this is about what Arvin said how it should be compulsory.

TEACHER: Neve, I like how both times you've spoken today, you've linked it to what the other person said, which is fantastic. It shows you've been listening to their opinions. Well done.

GIRL 1: So, like, what you said, Arvin, how you said that it should be compulsory, so if it's not compulsory then the person that you don't want to be... the leader is the leader. But... if it's not compulsory and you want someone to be the leader, you go and vote for them. If you wanted someone over a different person, you'd go and vote for them. You wouldn't just say, "I want this over that but I'm not gonna be bothered to vote for them "or even do anything about it. I'm just gonna hope that it happens."

TEACHER: Mm. Yeah. And hoping, when you can go and vote yourself, you don't have to hope. You can go and have your say and have your opinion. OK, can I just... Thank you so much for your opinions, and you've really shown how your thinking has changed over time and you've taken on information and maybe it's changed your opinion.

And is there a right or wrong?

There is not a right or a wrong in this one, is there? Because how many countries have compulsory voting?

GIRL 3: 32.

BOY 2: 32.

TEACHER: 32 have compulsory voting. So does anyone know how many countries there are in the world?

- A lot.

TEACHER: A lot is a good answer. There's just a little over 200 countries. So only 32 out of 200 are compulsory. So there's not many countries that make it a priority, and if we look at our table, if we go back to our table that we discussed briefly when we first looked through the reading...

So, we've got our table here, looking at eligible voters in countries and how many of those voters that could vote actually went and did vote. If we have a look, which country maybe surprises you or which countries maybe surprised you with the results? If have a little bit of a look through.

BOY 3: Australia.

TEACHER: Australia. Why does someone stand out for you?

BOY 3: Because we have compulsory voting and we got 82%.

TEACHER: So if we've got compulsory voting, what percentage would you assume would be on that list?

BOY 3: Probably around about 100.

TEACHER: Yeah, if it's compulsory, all the people that can vote, it should really be 100%. So that just shows that, even if it's compulsory, there is still a small bit of the population that maybe just refuse to vote or don't want to vote, things like that. Or really agree that voting shouldn't be compulsory and just say, "No, I'm not going to vote. I don't want to have a say."

Any other countries? Ollie, what country stands out for you?

BOY 1: Well, I reckon USA because it's a first world country with probably a lot of people.

TEACHER: Mm-hm.

BOY 1: And only 44% of people actually voted.

TEACHER: Only 44% of...quite a lot of... Then there's quite a lot of adults in America. That's absolutely right. So what does that mean, Charlotte, if only 44% of voters, because like Jonas said before, it's not compulsory in the USA, he used that as a really good example, if only 44% of US citizens that can vote voted, what does that mean with the results?

GIRL 3: Um...

TEACHER: Or what happens in elections?

GIRL 3: Well, then there wouldn't be many votes, so... Like, most people didn't really care who won.

TEACHER: Yeah. Or do you think they just thought... Maybe they thought other things as well. Do... Mia, does this USA one surprise you?

GIRL 2: Yeah, because, like Oliver, seeing as there's so many people in the USA sort of shows how many people just sort of maybe don't care to vote. So they don't really want to take their opportunity to say. I want to have...

TEACHER: This is who our leader should be. Yeah.

GIRL 2: They probably should because lots of countries as well don't have a say, so I think there probably should have been more people because if you have that opportunity, unlike some other countries, you should be lucky that you have it and just take it.

TEACHER: Yeah, absolutely. That's a great point. Neve, we'll go to you for the last comment. Was there a country that stood out for you?

GIRL 1: I thought Egypt really stood out because I thought that Egypt is a country that they'd really want a certain person to rule or...

TEACHER: OK.

GIRL 1: -whatever.

TEACHER: To be a leader. Yep.

GIRL 1: To be a leader there. And with it being 27.7%, I thought that would be really low compared to what my expectation of it would be.

TEACHER: Yeah, it just doesn't seem like a lot of people that voted, did they? When they had the chance to choose their leader. And we don't necessarily need to know everything about Egypt, but like you said, you assume that for a big country and a known country, maybe the result would have been different. Excellent.