

# Boris Johnson's legacy

by Paul Jenkinson



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Diese Unterrichtseinheit bietet einen kompakten Überblick über Boris Johnsons Amtszeit als Premierminister, seinen Aufstieg und Fall. Welche Folgen hat seine Regierungszeit auf die britische Politik und das Vertrauen der Bevölkerung in Politiker/-innen? Die Schülerinnen und Schüler setzen sich zunächst anhand eines Videos sowie zweier Artikel aus *The Guardian* mit Boris Johnson, seiner Politik und Wahrnehmung in der Öffentlichkeit auseinander. Abschließend erhalten die Lernenden einen kurzen Einblick in die Amtszeit der Nachfolgerin Johnsons, Premierministerin Liz Truss.

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## Competences and skills:

In this unit, students' **viewing** and **listening comprehension** skills are trained when working with two videos. They also improve their **reading** and **analysing competences** by working with two articles from *The Guardian*. Furthermore, students produce written texts (summaries, comments) and, thus, enhance their **writing skills**. By holding short presentations and engaging in discussions, students also improve their **speaking skills**.

## Overview:

List of abbreviations:

<b>C</b> Comment	<b>D</b> Discussion/debate	<b>GF</b> Gap filling
<b>MC</b> Multiple choice	<b>PR</b> Presentation	<b>R</b> Research
<b>S</b> Summary	<b>T</b> Working with the text	<b>VI</b> Working with the video

Topic	Material	Methods/Skills
1: The rise and fall of Boris Johnson	M1	GF, MC, S, VI
2: Johnson's baleful legacy	M2–M3	C, PR, R, T
3: The lessons from Johnson's tenure	M4–M5	C, D, PR, R, T
4: Johnson's successor – Liz Truss	M6	D, MC, VI

VORSCHAU

## Topic 1: The rise and fall of Boris Johnson

### Worksheet – The rise and fall of Boris Johnson

M1

**Video:** *Boris Johnson Resigns: A Look Back at His Political Career*  
<https://raabe.click/Johnson-rise-fall> [last access: 08/11/2022]



#### Part 1: Boris Johnson's rise (00:00–03:50)

1. Watch the video from 0:00 to 03:50. While watching, tick (✓) whether the statements are true or false.



Statements	True	False
Johnson's downfall was linked to his behaviour.		
His career began in the media.		
He was not well liked within his own party.		
He was already evading questions in interviews early in his career.		
Johnson came to people's attention by being on television.		
His main attribute was being charismatic and amusing.		
In 2001, he became Mayor of London.		
His success as Mayor was in fighting racism.		
One major publicity stunt ended embarrassingly for him.		
Johnson did not support his Prime Minister regarding Brexit		
He left the leadership of the Brexit campaign to others.		
The general election was won with only a small majority.		
He wanted a new approach to politics.		

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2. Provide an analytical summary of Johnson's rise to Prime Minister doing the following steps:
- Make notes from your answers to the previous exercise.
  - Watch the video section (0:00–3:50) again and make additional relevant notes.
  - Write your summary using about 250 words.



without which there is no avenue to sustained prosperity. Russia must know that unequivocal support for Ukraine is not down to Johnson alone, but accepted by  
 70 all parties, as is our commitment to Nato. This agenda can be shared across all the opposition parties, liberating the tactical voting that is such a necessity in a first-past-the-post system. The Johnson curse has at last been lifted. Britain must strike out anew. (914 words)

*Observer editorial: The Observer view on Boris Johnson's baleful legacy. In: The Guardian.*

10.07.2022. Found at: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/jul/10/observer-view-on-boris-johnson-baleful-legacy> [last access: 08/11/2022]

#### Annotations

1 **baleful**: here: harmful – 2 **overweening**: egoistical – 3 **buffoonish**: acting the fool – 4 **hubris**: arrogance – 5 **excoriating**: here: damaging – 6 **(to) ameliorate**: (to) rectify – 7 **in thrall to**: influenced by

## M3 Worksheet – *The Observer view on Boris Johnson's baleful legacy*

### Pre-reading activities



- Briefly, express your views in class concerning the following:
  - Should politicians be answerable in some way for lying to the public or misleading them?
  - Once found to have conducted themselves dishonestly, should politicians be automatically expelled from their party and banned from having a political future?



- Divide into small groups. Research one of the following issues and present your findings to the class.



- Partygate
- Johnson's promises regarding the leave referendum
- The Sue Gray report
- The Northern Ireland protocol
- Levelling up

### Reading comprehension



- Identify the author's criticism of Johnson's approach to Brexit, the Conservative stance, and the fallout of it.

### Working with the text

- Read the first three paragraphs and comment upon Boris Johnson's character as put forward by the author.
- State what the author advocates and comment upon it.