



## CSPE concepts

### An Easy-to-Understand Summary

A **concept** is an idea or a topic.

There are 7 topics in CSPE.

## 1. Human Dignity

We should respect all people.

We should treat all people the same.

We should make sure all people have their **basic needs**.

The basic needs are:

- food and water
- medicine
- to feel safe
- to have shelter
- school



## 2. Rights and Responsibilities

All people have **rights**.

A **right** is something that the law allows you to do.

A **responsibility** is something that you should do.



## 3. Stewardship

All people have a responsibility to care for the environment.



## 4. Law

A **law** is a **rule**.

The law is a set of rules.

All people must obey rules.

These rules look after people's rights



## 5. Interdependence

People **depend** on each other.

The environment needs all people to take care of it.



## 6. Development

**Change** is going on all around us.

Development means **change** that makes people's lives better.



## 7. Democracy

Democracy is a **system** of **government**.

In Ireland we have a democracy.

Our government is called the **Oireachtas**.

The way our democracy in Ireland works is written into the **Irish Constitution**.



## Taking Action

### An Easy-to-Understand Summary

An **action** is something you **do**.

In CSPE, an **action** is something you do to deal with a **problem** or an **issue**.

In CSPE, you will learn how to do an **Action Project**.

The **whole class** will work on the **action project together**.

There is a **problem** when people's rights are not taken care of.

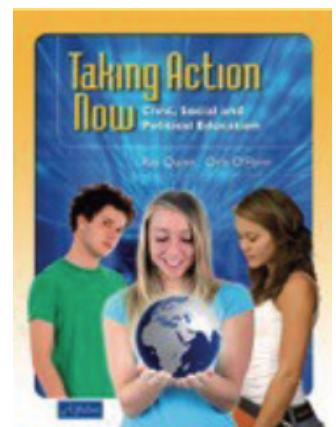
There is a **problem** when people are not treated the same.

There is a **problem** when people do not care for their environment.

There is a **problem** when people break the law.

If there is a **problem**, you need to **take action**.

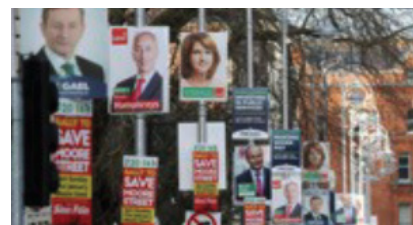
If there is an **issue**, you need to **take action**.



## Here are some actions that you could take:

### 1. Poster campaign

Posters are put up in places where people will see them. The posters tell people about the issue.



### 2. Public meeting

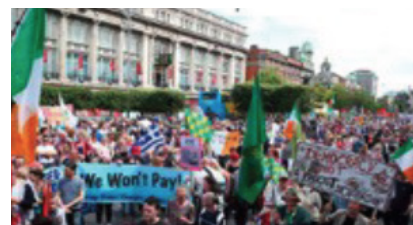
People are invited to a meeting. People talk about the issue.



### 3. Protest march

People walk together from one place to another place.

People walk together because they are unhappy. People walk because there is an issue.



### 4. Sign a petition

A petition is a list of names and basic details of people that support an issue.

You can sign a petition in person or online.

The petition is given to the local councillor or TD.



## 5. Write to a newspaper

Write a letter to a newspaper.

Write about the issue.

Tell people about the issue.



## 6. Invite in a guest speaker

Ask an important person to speak to your class or your community.

This person will speak about the issue.



## 7. Make an information booklet

Make an information booklet.

Tell people about the issue.



## 8. Lobby your local councillor or TD

Speak and write to an important person.

Ask this person to help with the issue.



## Democracy in Ireland

An Easy-to-Understand Summary



**Democracy** is a system of **government**.

Our **government** is called the **Oireachtas**.

The **Oireachtas** is the National **Parliament** of Ireland.

The **Parliament** is made up of **3 houses**:



Dáil Éireann



Seanad Éireann



**The President**



In a democracy, **citizens** elect people to represent them.

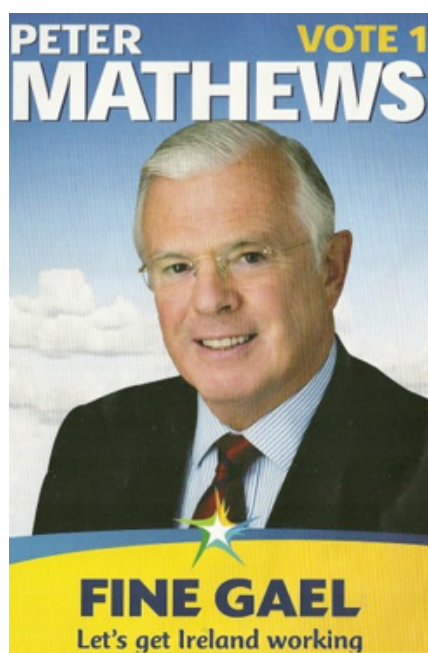
A **citizen** is a person who is a member of a country.

An **Irish citizen** is a member of Ireland.

Citizens vote at **elections**.

At an election, citizens vote to choose who they would like to **represent** them.

In Ireland, you have a **right to vote** when you are **18** years of age.



## Dáil Éireann

The citizens of Ireland elect the members of **Dáil Éireann**.

The elected members are called **TDs** or deputies. There are **158 TDs** in **Dáil Éireann**.

The main job of **TDs** is to **pass laws**.

By law a **general election** to Dáil Éireann must be held at least every **5 years**.

The **government** is made up by the **political party** that wins the largest number of seats in the **general election**.

The **Taoiseach** is the **leader** of the government.

**Leinster House** is the meeting place of **Dáil Éireann**.



## Seanad Éireann

There are **60 members** in **Seanad Éireann**.

A member of **Seanad Éireann** is called a **Senator**. The main job of Senators is to **pass laws**.

**Leinster House** is the meeting place of **Seanad Éireann**.



## The President

The current **President of Ireland** is **Michael D. Higgins**.

The **President of Ireland** is also known as **Uachtarán na hÉireann**.

He will be the **President** for **7 years**.

The President of Ireland lives at **Áras an Uachtaráin** in Dublin.



The **Irish Constitution** is an important document.

The **Irish Constitution** is also called **Bunreacht na hÉireann**.



The way our democracy in Ireland works is written into the **Irish Constitution**.

The **Irish Constitution** is made up of **articles**.

There are **50 articles**.

Each **article** sets out a **rule or law**.





# Down Syndrome Ireland

National Leadership Local Support