



HUMAN & SOCIAL SCIENCE: HSSC4

LESSON 7

UNIT STANDARD: 115480 SO4

INTRODUCTION

We hope you still follow our lessons and are still of great help to you. We have so far, covered all the Unit Standards of HSSC4 for term 1 and 2. We are now getting into the work of term 3. This lesson will focus only on 2 topics (AC 1 & 2)

THEME: BRINGING ABOUT CHANGE AS AN ACTIVE CITIZEN.

TOPIC 1: CITIZENS AS AGENTS OF CHANGE. (115480 SO 4 AC1)

Remember we have completed our study on diversity and change. You also learnt that a society in diversity can exist well where people respect and tolerate one another. It was also important to understand that in any society, change occurs. Characteristics and types of change were explained. You can now understand that diversity is closely connected to change. Anybody can bring change in the society. This lesson will now look at how you or people can bring change in the society.

If you are an **agent**, you are actively involved in causing something. You are also acting in a place of somebody or people. You are therefore a person who is responsible for bringing **change** in people's lives. Anybody can be an agent of change. A **citizen** is a person who stays in a country either because it is where he/she is born or is allowed by law.

It is important that we should all be able to recognise (see / find) the injustices of the past and work hard to heal one another from them. Every person whether rich or poor, educated or not, must be able to take part in changing the society. We appreciate (give praise) the efforts (work) of those people who are always active and never get tired in making things work. We say such people are **dynamic**. You may have seen such people in your community. They always work for community without pay. They initiate (start) things and make them work. To be dynamic is to make things happen.

Such dynamic agents of change make democracy work. They participate actively to make sure that the rights of the people are protected. They know that every citizen in a democracy is **free to make political choices, every citizen has the right to free and fair elections, every citizen has freedom of association, and every citizen has freedom of expression, every citizen has freedom of religion and every citizen is free to protest.**



Being a citizen in democracy, you can still show (express) your rights or the rights of others in art. Paintings (art pictures and drawings) are used for this purpose. Being an active citizen, you will help South Africa to continue as a true democracy. You will check on the government so that it **does not abuse its power**. **You will also keep the government in touch of what people want and need.**

How good can you participate if you are an agent of change? Try to work out this activity before continuing with topic 2.

Activity 1



- 1.1 Do you think the people on the picture are active agents of change in a democratic government? Give a reason for your answer.
- 1.2 What does it mean to "hold the government accountable"
- 1.3 What do you think are some of the things that the young people on the picture would want the government to be accountable for?
- 1.4 Why would you think the young people on the picture are dynamic?
- 1.5 Which right do you think the young people are showing?

TOPIC 2: HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE? (115480 SO 4 AC2)

VOTING

The most important way in which you can participate in a democratic country as an active citizen is by **voting**. By voting, you will bring the party of your choice into power. You therefore, need to have a have a good choice of a party during the elections. To check whether the party is the best one that will bring true democracy in South Africa, You may check : the promises that the party is keeping, the level of corruption by MPs and party leaders, what the party has done for the poor and whether the party has not done anything against the constitution. Once you have made your choice, you can now help the party to work towards helping the people.



BEING INFORMED

You cannot help the society or your party if you are not informed. You need to keep on reading books and newspapers, ask questions, listen to radio and watch TV, get information from government departments and NGOs, discuss issues with other students etc. When a person is informed, he/she is able to make decisions and choices that are **rational** (based on reason).

The law is written to give direction on how people must behave. However, it takes a long time to make **laws** which must also be made by parliament. Laws cannot be made for everything and everywhere. So, instead, a policy is made instead so that it controls the way we do things. A policy can therefore, change to become law. Once it has changed into law, it is not easy even for the government to change it. Citizens are given a chance to debate or make their own arguments on the policies of government.

We often need to have something written to give us direction on how to behave in certain ways. Something that is written to help us know what to do in that case is a **policy**. It is not a law. You are then given an opportunity to send your opinion and debate the issue before the policy becomes law. The policy can still be put together for further inputs. So, from a policy a “**white Paper**” is made.

Being able to separate facts from fiction.

Facts are true statements about what is there in real life. Fictions or Opinions are statements that explain what we feel. They may not represent (stand for) for the truth. To say that all South African citizens voted for the first time in 1994 is a fact. To say that the voting process was full of violence and corruption is an opinion. It is important that you should not mix the two. In this way, you will be able to find out what people feel and what is exactly happening.

It is important that you begin to participate in your community (at local government level). In this way you will be directly involved. You will be taking government closer to the people. You may participate in your municipality by: attending ward meetings and asking questions, finding out more about municipal councillors so that you vote in an informed way, mobilising (organise people) to form small groups of developments, etc.



Activity 2



- 2.1 Name the democratic right that you see on the picture.
- 2.2 Explain why each of the following is an agent of change:
 - 2.2.1 A man in blue.
 - 2.2.2 A woman in a wheelchair
- 2.3 Explain the disadvantage to our democracy of people who refuse to vote.
- 2.4 The woman in the wheelchair is part of the vulnerable group of our society. Explain the word vulnerable.
- 2.5 Name any two characteristics that you think an agent of change must have to do his/her job effectively.

COMPILED BY:

MR MERVIN RAKGATLHA

MS JULIE CHAUKE