

Healthcare policy

Preparation:

Read up on your government's health care policy, preferably on an official website, e.g. for the UK you could go to: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health/about> (text 1).

You should not only look for current topics and government priorities, but also familiarise yourself with the mechanism to implement such policies. Who is responsible for what? Who has to agree to any changes?

Pre-task:

Talk to your partner about health topics currently discussed in your country and select a topic for each country that you are both interested in. Explain the topics with examples of opinions voiced in newspapers and TV.



Image 1

Examples for topics:

- Payment of doctors and other health professionals
- Confidentiality vs. obligation to report abuse
- Obligatory insurance
- Payments by the insured
- Availability of health treatments and medicines
- Ethical questions or medical research and services (e.g. dealing with surplus fertilised eggs)
- Approval of medicines

Task 1:

Prepare a short presentation:

Draw up a chart to explain the background to the chosen topic in your country. Label the chart with the necessary technical terms. Of course you can also use a chart from the web, if available.

Examples for charts:

- Chart about payments into a health fund and outgoing payments to institutions and health professionals
- List of different insurances and their charges and services
- Table of health professionals' incomes organised by region and job titles
- Table about doctor-patient ration in different regions
- Map of clinics or specific health service centres
- Flowchart about the approval process for medicines or medical procedures

Short presentation:

Explain the legal background to your chosen topic and ask your partner to take notes. End with a quiz. If necessary, type technical terms into the chat while giving the presentation.

Listen to a short presentation by your partner about the legal background to his topic and take notes. Write a list of important technical terms.

Task 2:

Select a news article or a magazine broadcast about your topic on the internet and watch or read it both. Discuss afterwards:

Which pro and contra arguments were used in the broadcast/article?

Which side's arguments do you find more convincing? Why?

Compare the situation in your own country with that in your partner's country: could a similar debate erupt there as well? Why (not)?

Which political changes could solve the problem? New laws? Changing the health system? Financial measures? Collaboration with other countries?

Follow-up activity:

If possible: Compare your article or broadcast with an article or broadcast on the same topic from your partner's country.

Follow the same steps as in Task 2 and then consider:

- Is there a different focus in the two articles/broadcasts?
- Are the solutions offered different?
- Are the opinions expressed in the articles or broadcasts similar or in contrast to each other?

Websites of British broadsheet newspapers:

- [The Guardian](#)
- [The Independent](#)

- [The Times](#)
- [The Telegraph](#)

Health magazine programmes (UK):

[BBC iplayer:](#)

- Panorama (politics in general) ; a health topic e.g. Britain's
- The truth about (science and society topics, including health) ; topics e.g. HIV, stress

[Channel 4 Catchup:](#)

- Dispatches (politics and society in general, investigative), medical topics include Bupa Care home undercover, Brexit: Crisis on the Wards
- Or just run a search on the media player page with key words such as „health“, „medicine“ or „hospital“ and select a topic from the upcoming list.

Sources

| | |
|---------|---|
| Image 1 | Sage Ross |
| Text 1 | http://www.bpb.de/politik/innenpolitik/gesundheitspolitik/72547/gesundheitswesen-im-ueberblick?p=all |
| Link 1 | www.guardian.com |
| Link 2 | www.independent.co.uk |
| Link 3 | www.thetimes.co.uk |
| Link 4 | www.telegraph.co.uk |
| Link 5 | http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer |
| Link 6 | http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b08f0htn/panorama-revealed-britains-mental-health-crisis |
| Link 7 | http://www.channel4.com/programmes/catchup |