

TOUGH CHOICE IN FRENCH ELECTION

Apr 18th, 2022

WARM-UP QUESTIONS: *Discuss the following questions with your partner(s).*

1. Are you good at making decisions? Do you make them quickly and easily? Or does it take you a long time to make a choice?
2. Read the headline above. Have you heard this news story? If so, say what you know. If not, can you guess what it's about?

VOCABULARY: *Match the following vocabulary words with a description. Use a dictionary if you need to.*

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| 1. Candidate | a) following religious rules carefully |
| 2. Prominent figure | b) a well-known person |
| 3. Centrist | c) to be treated unfairly perhaps because of one's race, gender, sexual orientation, or religion |
| 4. Outlaw | d) belief in extreme ideas or forms of religion |
| 5. Observant | e) to not do something |
| 6. Slaughter | f) a religious building for Muslims |
| 7. Victimized | g) a person that is trying to get elected |
| 8. Mosque | h) to kill animals for the meat |
| 9. Radicalism | i) a person with political opinions that are not extreme |
| 10. Abstain | j) to make something illegal |
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LISTEN: *Listen to the audio track on eslnewsstories.com or to a reader of the text. Try to fill in the missing words. Then check your answers with the full text.*

Some French voters have a difficult choice in the upcoming presidential election. They have to _____ between the two candidates who received the most votes in the first round of voting. Their options are the incumbent, President Emmanuel Macron, and Marine Le Pen.

Marine Le Pen is a right-wing _____. She has been a prominent figure in French politics for some time, and before her, her father was a party leader and frequent presidential candidate.

She wants to limit immigration, toughen policing, and _____ the official retirement age to sixty.

Macron, who wants to raise the retirement age to sixty-five, is generally seen as a centrist candidate, but in the _____ of many left-wing voters, he is too far to the right. French students protested this week, claiming that Macron is too pro-business, and that neither candidate will do what is good for the environment or French _____.

French Muslims are also worried about their options. Marine Le Pen wants to outlaw the way that _____ are slaughtered in religions like Islam and Judaism, as well as the wearing of Islamic headscarves in public. Observant Muslims see these as the first steps in making it clear that they are not welcome in France. However, Macron has also made some Muslims feel victimized by closing certain Mosques and Islamic groups in an _____ to prevent radicalism.

French voters will either abstain from voting or make their difficult choice on April 24th.

WORD FORMS: *Fill in different forms for the vocabulary from the article. Use a dictionary if you need to. Where there is an x, the word is uncommon, has a different meaning, or doesn't exist. Sometimes there are multiple possible answers, and sometimes the adjective form is a past or present participle.*

VERB	ADJECTIVE	ADVERB	NOUN
outlaw		x	
	observant		
slaughter		x	
	victimized	x	
			radicalism
abstain			

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Sources: apnews.com, nytimes.com

For source links, see the article on ESLNewsStories.com

COMPREHENSION: *Decide if the following are true (T) or false (F), and then discuss your answers with your partner(s).*

1. The French President will be chosen soon. (T / F)
2. There is a second round of voting in the French election. (T / F)
3. French students are pro-business. (T / F)
4. Marine Le Pen is popular among Muslims. (T / F)

COMPLETE: *Re-order the following sentences. Capitalize certain words and add punctuation.*

1. voters / some / don't / options / french / their / like
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2. ban / le pen / headscarves / would / muslim
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DISCUSSION: *Discuss the following questions with your partner(s). Try to speak in sentences and ask follow-up questions.*

1. Have you been to France? What was it like? If not, are you interested in visiting? What would you like to see?
2. How do you choose when you don't like any of your options?
3. Is there an official retirement age in your country? What is it? Is it too low or too high?
4. Does your religion, if you have one, have rules about how or when to eat?
5. Do more people immigrate to your country or emigrate from your country? Why?
6. Have you voted in an election? Were you happy about your options?

