

B2-C1 English Listening Worksheet

Gen Z Protests: What Unites Young People Around the World?

28 October 2026

BBC World Service - Gen Z protests: What unites them? (5:01)

Across several countries, young people have taken to the streets over education, corruption and government decisions. This BBC World Service report explores the different causes of the demonstrations and asks what connects them.

Before your lesson: Watch the video as homework, complete the listening and vocabulary tasks, and prepare ideas for discussion.

[Watch the BBC World Service video on YouTube](#)

Listening Comprehension

Answer using information from the report. Write short answers in your own words.

No.	Listening question and answer space
1	What triggered the first wave of student protests in India, and how did the Cockroach Janta Party begin?
2	Why did Indian protesters demand the Chief Election Commissioner's resignation, and how did the government explain the voter-list removals?
3	Name two problems at French schools that students protested about. Who later joined them?
4	What three improvements did students in Italy demand during the protests?
5	Why did protesters in Albania carry pink flamingos, and which wider grievances developed?
6	What happened to the leadership of Bangladesh and Nepal following the student protests mentioned?
7	Despite their different circumstances, what broad concern does the contributor say many young protesters share?
8	How does social media help young protesters organise and connect with others across countries?
9	According to the report, how do the main demands in France and Italy differ from those in Albania and India?
10	What different government responses are described, and how does the final contributor say leaders should regard Gen Z?

Phrase Match

Match each exact expression heard in the video (1-10) to its meaning (A-J).

Expressions (1-10)	Meanings (A-J)
1. rocked by protests	A. spread from one country into another
2. taking to the streets	B. caused the whole government to lose power
3. party in power	C. demonstrate mutual support for one another
4. turned violent	D. gathering publicly to demonstrate or demand change
5. crossed the border	E. strict action to limit people's freedom to express opinions
6. walked out of classes	F. the political party that currently controls the government
7. brought down the entire government	G. deteriorated into theft and widespread disorder
8. a crackdown on free speech	H. seriously disrupted or shaken by public demonstrations
9. show solidarity with each other	I. left lessons deliberately as a form of protest
10. descended into looting and chaos	J. changed from non-violent action to physical aggression

Synonym Match

Match each word heard in the video (1-10) to its closest contextual synonym (A-J).

Words (1-10)	Synonyms (A-J)
1. resigned	A. dissimilar
2. rally	B. political wrongdoing
3. clashes	C. appeased
4. corruption	D. turmoil
5. unrest	E. demonstration
6. disparate	F. never-before-seen
7. unprecedented	G. confrontations
8. repressed	H. stepped down
9. placated	I. enormous
10. massive	J. suppressed

Use the New Language

Choose five new words or expressions from this lesson and write an original sentence using each one.

No.	Your sentence
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

Discussion Questions

Student A - Personal experience	Student B - Opinions and analysis
1. Have you ever seen a demonstration in person? What was happening?	1. Why might youth-led protests spread between countries with very different problems?
2. What issue would make you consider taking to the streets?	2. Are leaderless movements organised online more effective or less effective than traditional campaigns?
3. What was the biggest frustration at your school or university?	3. When, if ever, is disrupting schools or public life justified as a form of protest?
4. Have you ever helped organise an event or campaign through social media?	4. How should authorities respond when a mostly peaceful demonstration turns violent?
5. Which public service has the greatest impact on your everyday life?	5. Does social media build lasting solidarity, or mostly encourage short-lived outrage?
6. Where do you usually hear about major events in other countries?	6. Why might poor education and limited job opportunities fuel wider political unrest?
7. Have you ever changed your opinion after seeing people speak out online?	7. Should young people have a greater say in how governments spend public money?
8. What differences do you notice between young people today and your own generation?	8. What might persuade a government to negotiate with protesters instead of ignoring them?

60-Second Summary Challenge

Without looking at your notes, summarise the main concerns behind the protests and explain how social media connects young people. Mention at least one important difference between countries and use two expressions from the worksheet.

Access the Video Transcript

Watch the video on YouTube and select "Show transcript" from the video description or available controls. The full BBC transcript is not reproduced here.

[Watch the video and access its captions or transcript](#)

Answer Key

Listening Comprehension

1. [0:21-0:32] Questions leaked from the national medical entrance exam. The Cockroach Janta Party began online as satire, then became a real movement.
2. [0:35-0:54] They wanted the Chief Election Commissioner to resign after 130 million names were removed from voter lists. The government said it was removing duplicate voters or people who had died or moved; protesters alleged it was to help the BJP.
3. [1:01-1:20] Complaints included a lack of teachers, rats and school buildings that were too hot, too cold or falling apart. Teachers and unions later joined. (Any two problems.)
4. [1:36-1:53] More teachers, more funding and better school buildings.
5. [1:54-2:15] Protesters said a proposed luxury resort would endanger flamingos. Anger broadened to corruption, while students protested about fees and university conditions.
6. [2:32-2:50] Students in Bangladesh forced out the prime minister in 2024. In Nepal, protests over corruption and a crackdown on free speech on social media brought down the entire government in 2025.
7. [2:57-3:26] Despite their disparate concerns, many protest against a lack of government investment in services and policies affecting young people, including education and healthcare.
8. [3:26-4:03] They organise online, often with no clear leader, and can follow events elsewhere in real time. Social media lets young people see one another as peers and show solidarity.
9. [4:04-4:24] In France and Italy, demands centre on schools and spending, with unions joining students; in Albania and India, protesters also focus on corruption.
10. [4:30-5:01] Some have been brutally repressed, some placated and others simply ignored. The speaker says governments should treat Gen Z as a viable voting bloc and the politicians of tomorrow, not as children.

Phrase Match

1=H, 2=D, 3=F, 4=J, 5=A, 6=I, 7=B, 8=E, 9=C, 10=G

Synonym Match

1=H, 2=E, 3=G, 4=B, 5=D, 6=A, 7=F, 8=J, 9=C, 10=I

Example Sentences With the Vocabulary

No.	Example sentence
1	The education minister resigned after weeks of public pressure.
2	A large rally took place outside the university.
3	Clashes broke out after the demonstration moved into the city centre.
4	The investigation uncovered allegations of corruption in public office.
5	Long-running unrest affected public transport and local businesses.
6	The two groups had disparate aims but agreed on one important demand.
7	The campaign attracted unprecedented attention online.
8	Critics said that peaceful demonstrations had been repressed.
9	The authorities placated some students by agreeing to discuss fees.
10	Organising a demonstration in such a massive country can be difficult.

Teacher note: Model answers follow the video. Accept accurate paraphrases supported by the report. Timestamps are approximate. Sentence-writing and discussion responses are open-ended.