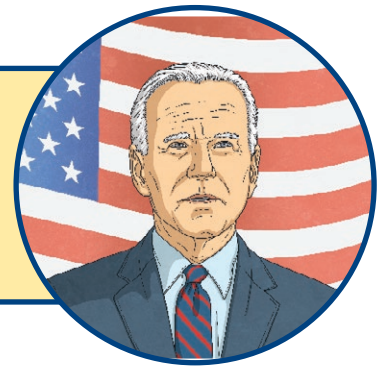


# Joe Biden

Joseph Biden is a politician, lawyer and 46<sup>th</sup> president of the United States of America. He made history in January 2021 by becoming the oldest president in US history at the age of 78.



## Early Life

Joseph Robinette Biden Jr was born on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1942, in Pennsylvania, USA. His parents were Joseph and Catherine. As a child, Biden had a stammer, which made it difficult for him to speak clearly. He has said that to help him manage it, he practised talking in front of a mirror.

## A Political Career

US politicians work in the Senate. Biden worked there from 1973 to 2009 and is one of its longest-serving **senators**. Biden has run for nomination as the Democratic candidate for president twice previously, in 1988 and 2008, but did not win either nomination. He was the **vice-president** of the US for eight years when Barack Obama was the president. In 2020, Joe Biden became the Democratic Party's presidential nominee.

Biden was the **projected** winner of the presidential election race as he was gaining more votes than Donald Trump. Biden became the USA's 46<sup>th</sup> president in January 2021.

In his first speech following the election, Biden promised to be a president that 'seeks not to divide, but unify'.



Biden's vice-president, Kamala Harris, also made history; she is the first woman, the first Black person and the first South Asian American person to be US vice-president.

The presidential term of Donald Trump ended in January 2021.

The president-elect and vice-president-elect were sworn into office on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021. A person serves for four years as president unless re-elected for a second term.

## Personal Life

Biden has known tragedy in his life, losing several people close to him. His first wife, Neilia and daughter, Naomi, died in a car accident in 1972. His two sons were injured and Biden spent the next few years as a single father, ensuring he was around to care for his sons, while also working as a senator.

In 1975, Biden met Jill Jacobs and they were married in 1977.

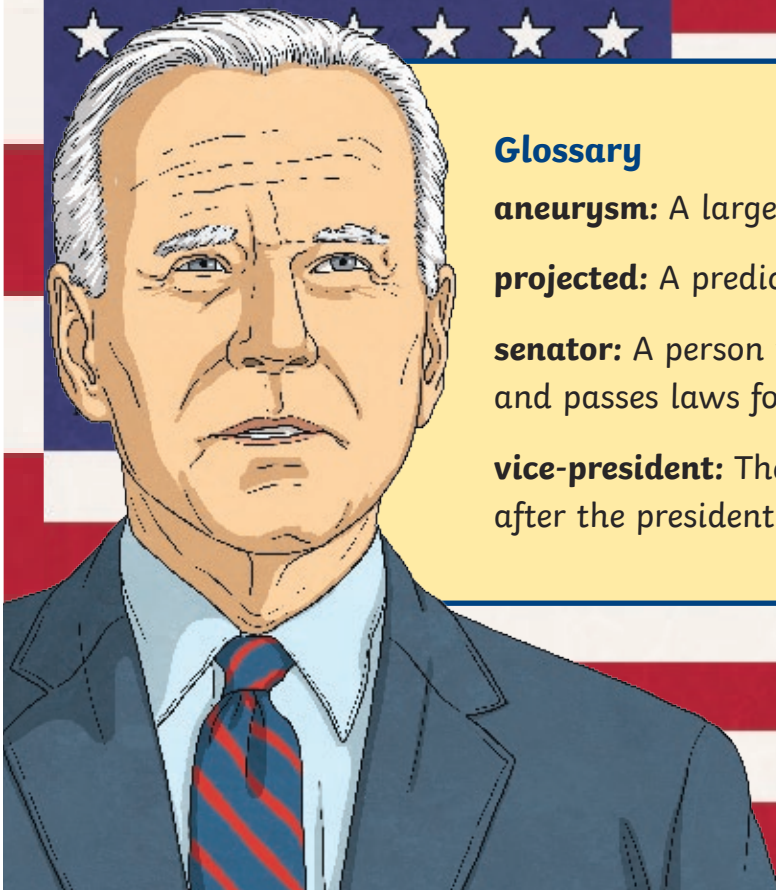
His adult son, Beau, passed away in 2015 from brain cancer. Biden has said that he tries to make his family proud by doing his best every day.

Biden himself fell ill with two brain **aneurysms** in 1988 and was off work for seven months while he recovered.

Many people believe that the fact Biden has been through difficult times in his own life means that he is able to empathise with a great many people and this is partly what makes him popular with his supporters.

## Did You Know...?

The latest US election recorded the highest number of voters in 100 years, with Biden receiving over 80 million votes. This is more than any other candidate in history.



## Glossary

**aneurysm:** A large swelling in an artery wall.

**projected:** A prediction that is made based on evidence.

**senator:** A person who is a member of the US senate and passes laws for their country or state.

**vice-president:** The person who is second in command after the president.

# Questions

1. How old was Joe Biden when he became the oldest president in US history? Tick one.

- 72  
 78  
 21  
 42

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- Biden was named as president-elect.  
 Biden married Jill Jacobs.  
 Biden became a senator.  
 Joe Biden was born.

3. Look at the sentence beginning **Biden worked there from...**

Find and copy the phrase that means to **work somewhere longer than anyone else**.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. How did Biden make history in January 2021?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Fill in the missing words.

In his first speech following the \_\_\_\_\_, Biden promised to be a president that 'seeks not to \_\_\_\_\_, but unify'.

6. Summarise what you have learnt about Biden's character using 25 words or fewer.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Explain why you think Biden was popular with large numbers of voters, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

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8. How do you think Biden felt when he failed in his bid to be nominated as the Democratic candidate for president twice? Explain your answer.

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# Answers

1. How old was Joe Biden when he became the oldest president in US history? Tick one.

- 72  
 **78**  
 21  
 42

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- 4** Biden was named as president-elect.  
**3** Biden married Jill Jacobs.  
**2** Biden became a senator.  
**1** Joe Biden was born.

3. Look at the sentence beginning **Biden worked there from...**

Find and copy the phrase that means to **work somewhere longer than anyone else.**

**longest-serving**

4. How did Biden make history in January 2021?

**He became the oldest US president ever.**

5. Fill in the missing words.

In his first speech following the **election**, Biden promised to be a president that 'seeks not to **divide**, but unify'.

6. Summarise what you have learnt about Biden's character using 25 words or fewer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: He is hardworking - he never stopped even when he lost his wife and daughter and he was a single father to two sons./He is determined - he tried again to run as a Democratic candidate for presidency, even though he had failed twice before./He is a survivor - instead of giving up when he suffered loss and illness, he carried on./His family are very important to him - he made sure he was home to look after his boys when he lost his wife.**

7. Explain why you think Biden was popular with large numbers of voters, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

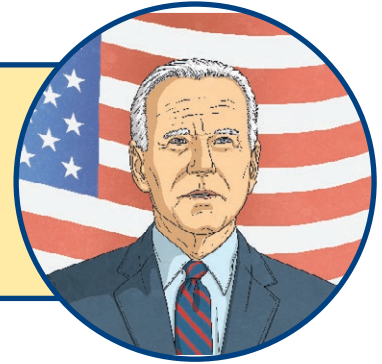
**Pupils' own responses, such as: His supporters might see him as hardworking - he has spoken about how he works hard every day for his family. They might say that he represents family values and family is important to many people. His supporters might say that he is honest - he has been open about tragedies in his life and if they have gone through something similar, they might feel a connection to him that way.**

8. How do you think Biden felt when he failed in his bid to be nominated as the Democratic candidate for president twice? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: He may have felt disappointed that he didn't get the support he was hoping for. It may have made him even more determined to succeed. He probably felt like giving up after the second time but he didn't, he continued to pursue his dream.**

# Joe Biden

Joseph Biden is a politician, lawyer and 46<sup>th</sup> president of the United States of America. He made history in January 2021 by becoming the oldest president in US history at the age of 78.



## Early Life

Joseph Robinette Biden Jr was born on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1942, in Pennsylvania, USA. His parents were Joseph (a car salesman) and Catherine (known as Jean).

As a child, Biden had a stammer, which made it difficult for him to speak clearly. He says that to help him manage it, he practised talking in front of a mirror.

While studying at university in Delaware, Biden worked as a lifeguard at a swimming pool. He also enjoyed playing American football and his team was unbeaten for a season. He later attended Syracuse University Law School in New York.

## A Political Career

US politicians work in the Senate. Biden worked there from 1973 to 2009, was re-elected six times and is one of its longest-serving **senators**. Biden has run for nomination as the Democratic candidate for president twice previously, in 1988 and 2008, but did not win either nomination. However, he was elected as vice-president of the US in 2009, when Barack Obama became president and held this role for eight years. Obama and Biden were said to be friends as well as colleagues.

In 2020, Joe Biden became the Democratic party's presidential nominee.

Biden was the **projected** winner of the presidential election race, with more votes than the Republican candidate, Donald Trump. In a speech made after he became president-elect, Biden promised to be a president that 'seeks not to divide, but unify'. Joe Biden became the USA's 46<sup>th</sup> president in January 2021.

Biden's vice-president - Kamala Harris - also made history; she is the first woman, the first Black person and the first South Asian American person to be US vice-president.



The latest US election recorded the highest number of voters in 100 years, with Biden receiving over 74 million votes - more than any other candidate in history. The president-elect and vice-president-elect were sworn into office on 20<sup>th</sup> January.

### Personal Life

Biden has encountered many tragedies in his life, losing several people close to him. His first wife, Neilia and daughter, Naomi, died in a car accident in 1972. His two sons were injured and Biden spent the next few years as a single father, travelling long distances to work as a senator each day while ensuring he was around to care for his sons.

In 1975, Biden met Jill Jacobs - a teacher; they were married in 1977 and later welcomed a daughter.

His adult son, Beau, passed away in 2015 from brain cancer. Biden has said that he tries to make his family proud by doing his best every day.

Biden himself fell ill with two life-threatening brain **aneurysms** in 1988 and was off work for seven months while he recovered from surgery on them.

Many people believe that the fact Biden has been through difficult times in his own life means that he is able to empathise with a great many people and this is partly what makes him popular with his supporters.

### Did You Know...?

He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Obama in 2017.



In 2017, Biden and his wife set up a charity called The Biden Foundation.

### Glossary

**aneurysm:** A large swelling in an artery wall.

**projected:** A prediction that is made, based on evidence.

**senator:** A person who is a member of the US Senate and passes laws for their country or state.



# Questions

1. In which year was Joe Biden born? Tick one.

- 1973  
 1942  
 1924  
 1975

2. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence.

Joe Biden is a...

Biden worked as a lifeguard at a swimming pool.

Kamala Harris...

'that seeks not to divide, but unify'.

Biden promised to be a president...

politician, lawyer and 46<sup>th</sup> president of the United States of America.

While studying at university, ...

is the vice-president.

3. Look at the sentence beginning **Biden has encountered...**  
Find and copy the phrase that means **very sad events**.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Name **two** places that Biden has lived.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

5. Fill in the missing words.

The latest US election recorded the \_\_\_\_\_ number of  
\_\_\_\_\_ in 100 years...

6. Name **two** key dates in Biden's political career and explain why you think they are important.

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7. ' Biden was named as the **projected** new president of the USA...'. Explain why Biden could only be named as the 'projected' new president in November 2020.

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8. How do you think Biden felt when he became president-elect? Explain your answer.

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9. Do you think that Biden has qualities that a good president would need? Tick one.

yes       no

Fully explain your choice.

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# Answers

1. In which year was Joe Biden born? Tick one.

- 1973  
 **1942**  
 1924  
 1975

2. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence.

Joe Biden is a...	Biden worked as a lifeguard at a swimming pool.
Kamala Harris...	'that seeks not to divide, but unify'.
Biden promised to be a president...	politician, lawyer and 46 <sup>th</sup> president of the United States of America.
While studying at university, ...	is the vice-president.

3. Look at the sentence beginning **Biden has encountered...**  
Find and copy the phrase that means **very sad events**.

**tragedies**

4. Name **two** places that Biden has lived.

**Accept any two of the following: Pennsylvania, Delaware, New York.**

5. Fill in the missing words.

The latest US election recorded the **highest** number of **voters** in 100 years...

6. Name **two** key dates in Biden's political career and explain why you think they are important.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: 2009 was important because he became vice-president of the USA which is a phenomenal achievement for a politician. November 2020 was important because he became president-elect and received more votes than any other presidential candidate in history.**

7. 'Biden was named as the **projected** new president of the USA...'. Explain why Biden could only be named as the 'projected' new president in November 2020.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Donald Trump was still the president until the election results had been confirmed and his term ended in January 2021. Biden couldn't officially be named as the new president until he was sworn into office on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**

8. How do you think Biden felt when he became president-elect? Explain your answer.

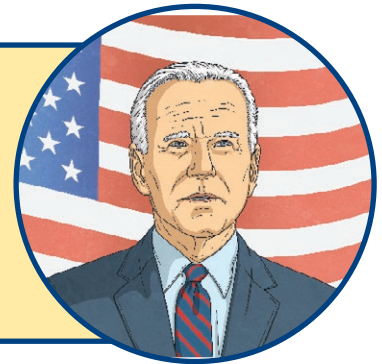
**Pupils' own responses, such as: He had previously run for nomination as the Democratic party's presidential candidate twice but had been unsuccessful, so he might have felt proud of himself for not giving up and for achieving his goal.**

9. Do you think that Biden has qualities that a good president would need?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Yes. He will be a good president because he is a family man, which means he is caring and kind, so hopefully he will be the same towards everyone. He has promised to help unite the USA, which means he does not want arguments and fighting but for people to work together.**

# Joe Biden

Joseph Biden is a politician and lawyer. In November 2020, he was named as the projected new president of the USA. This prediction had been made based on evidence of how different groups of people voted. He made history in January 2021, by becoming the oldest president in the US at the age of 78.



## Early Life

Joseph Robinette Biden Jr was born on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1942, in Pennsylvania, USA. He was the first of four children born to his parents, Joe Biden Sr (a businessman and car salesman) and Catherine (known as Jean).

As a child, Biden had a stammer, which made it difficult for him to speak clearly and was teased by his classmates. He says that to help him manage it, he practised reciting long pieces of poetry in front of a mirror.

While studying at university, Biden worked as a lifeguard at a swimming pool. He also enjoyed participating in sports, including American football and baseball.

## A Political Career

US politicians work in the Senate. Biden first ran for the US Senate in 1972 and at the age of 29, he became the fifth-youngest senator in the nation's history. He was re-elected six times (remaining in the Senate from 1973 to 2009) and is one of its longest-serving senators.

Biden has run for nomination as Democratic candidate for president twice previously, in 1988 and 2008, but did not win either nomination.

He was the vice-president of the US for eight years when Barack Obama was the president and advised him on a number of policies, such as spending and ways to reduce gun crime. They were said to be friends as well as colleagues. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Obama on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017. This is the nation's highest honour for a civilian and Obama referred to him as 'the best vice-president America has ever had.'

In 2020, Joe Biden became the Democratic Party's presidential nominee.

After months of campaigning, the elections took place and Biden was pronounced the president-elect, with more votes than current president and Republican candidate, Donald Trump. He became the USA's 46<sup>th</sup> president in January 2021.

In a speech made after he became president-elect, Biden promised to be a president that 'seeks not to divide, but unify'. He has promised to develop the international roles of the US and is a keen supporter of racial equality.

Biden's vice-president - Kamala Harris - has also made history several times over. She is the first woman, the first Black person and the first South Asian American person to be US vice-president. Biden has said of her, 'She is smart, tough and ready to lead'.

The latest US election recorded the highest number of voters in 100 years, with Biden receiving over 80 million votes - more than any other candidate in history.

The president-elect and vice-president-elect were sworn into office on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021. This historic event is known as inauguration.

### Personal Life

Biden has known tragedy in his life, losing several people close to him. His first wife, Neilia and daughter, Naomi, died in a car accident in 1972. His two sons were injured and Biden spent the next few years as a single father, travelling long distances as a senator to work each day while ensuring he was around to care for his sons.

In 1975, Biden met Jill Jacobs - a teacher; they were married in 1977 and welcomed a daughter, Ashley, in 1981.

His adult son, Beau, passed away in 2015 from brain cancer. Biden has said that he tries to make his family proud by doing his best every day.

Biden himself fell ill with two life-threatening brain aneurysms (a large swelling in an artery wall) in 1988 and was off work for seven months while he recovered from surgery on them.

Many people believe that the fact Biden has been through difficult times in his own life means that he is able to empathise with a great many people and this is partly what makes him popular with his supporters.

In 2017, Biden and his wife set up a charity called The Biden Foundation. The charity supported causes such as affordable higher education and jobs for the families of military services members. The charity was wound down as Biden began running for president.

# Questions

1. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- Joe Biden began working at the US Senate.
- Biden married Jill Jacobs.
- Biden studied at university.
- Biden ran for president.

2. Draw **four** lines to match the events to the year they occurred.

1973

Joe Biden was born.

2020

Biden failed in his first bid to be nominated as a Democratic candidate for presidency.

1988

Biden began working as a senator.

1942

Biden became president-elect.

3. Look at the sentence beginning **This is the nation's...**  
Find and copy the phrase that means the same as **greatest award**.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Name **two** key dates in Biden's political career.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

5. Fill in the missing words.

After months of \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ took place and Biden was pronounced the president-elect.

6. Name two qualities which describe Joe Biden and explain your choices.

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7. Biden has promised to be a president '...that seeks not to divide, but unify'.  
What do you think he means by this?

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8. How do you think that the challenges Biden has faced in his personal life and political career may impact his role as president?

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9. What do you think might be some of the key policies of Biden's term as US president?  
Explain your answer fully.

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10. Explain why you think that Kamala Harris may be a popular vice-president with American citizens.

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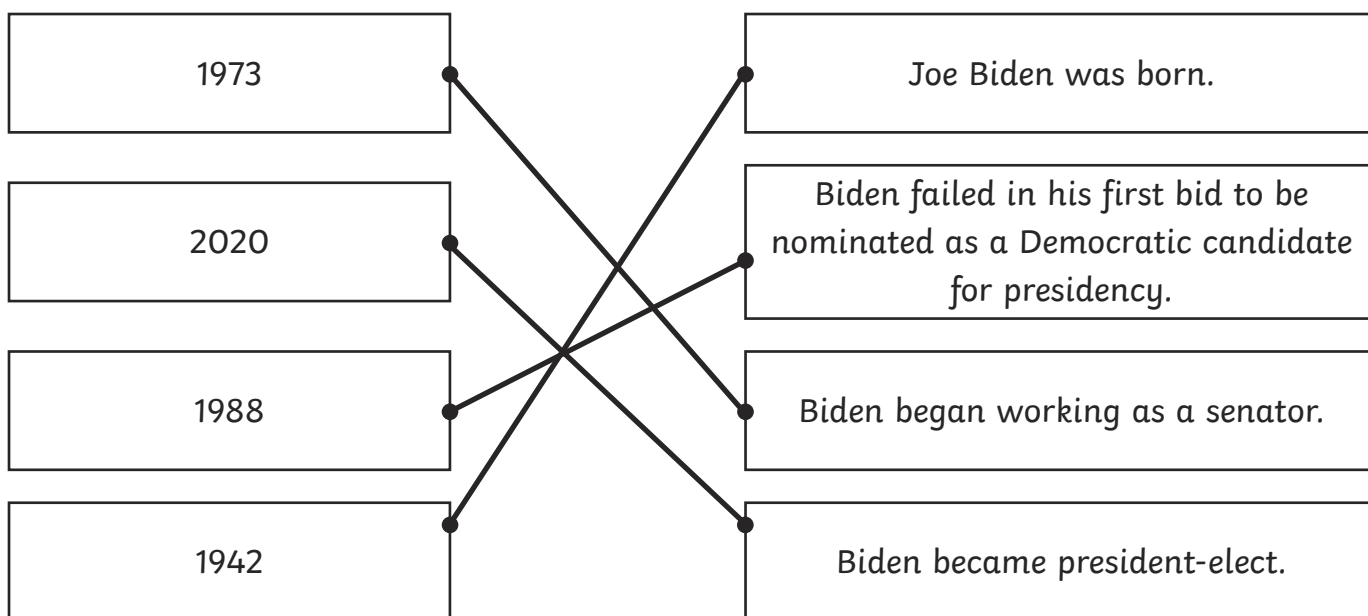


# Answers

1. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- 2** Joe Biden began working at the US Senate.
- 3** Biden married Jill Jacobs.
- 1** Biden studied at university.
- 4** Biden ran for president.

2. Draw **four** lines to match the events to the year they occurred.



3. Look at the sentence beginning **This is the nation's...**  
Find and copy the phrase that means the same as **greatest award**.

**highest honour**

4. Name **two** key dates in Biden's political career.

**Accept any two of the following: November 2020, January 2021, 1972, 1973-2009, 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**

5. Fill in the missing words.

After months of **campaigning**, the **elections** took place and Biden was pronounced the president-elect.

6. Name two qualities which describe Joe Biden and explain your choices.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: He is hardworking - he never stopped even when he lost his wife and daughter and he was a single father to two sons. He is determined - he tried again to run as a Democratic candidate for presidency even though he had failed twice before.**

7. Biden has promised to be a president '...that seeks not to divide, but unify'. What do you think he means by this?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think he means he wants people to work together for the good of the country, whatever their political beliefs.**

8. How do you think that the challenges Biden has faced in his personal life and political career may impact his role as president?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: He has been through a lot of difficult times, like so many other people, and this will enable him to relate to others and others to relate to him. His sad experiences have made him more determined to make the most of life and he has overcome adversity, so will be able to work through challenges that may come his way as president. He will work hard to achieve what he believes is right - just as he continued in his efforts to be a Democratic candidate for presidency even though he had failed twice before.**

9. What do you think might be some of the key policies of Biden's term as US president? Explain your answer fully.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: He will try to stamp out racism and bring about racial equality because it says in the text that he is a keen supporter of racial equality. He will make choices about what to spend money on, as he used to advise Obama on spending. He will try to reduce gun crime because he already has a lot of experience of doing so when he was vice-president. He will try to build positive relationships with other countries because it says he wants to develop the USA's international role.**

10. Explain why you think that Kamala Harris may be a popular vice-president with American citizens.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: She will appeal to a wide range of voters: Joe Biden is 78; Kamala may appeal to younger voters as she can offer a different perspective. She will be an inspiration to many different people, being the first Black person and the first South Asian American person to be elected vice-president. Women may support her because she is the first female vice-president ever elected.**