A Level Politics – Component 1 Revision Guide



Name .....

I am aiming for a grade in my final exams.

A Level Politics Revision Guide

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2. Assessment guidance.....page 3
3. Revision support.....page 4

Section 1 – Component 1

UK Politics

- Democracy and Participation
- Political Parties
- Electoral Systems
- Voting behaviour and the media

Core ideologies

- Liberalism
- Conservatism
- Socialism

Section 2 – Exam questions

- Sample questions

How to use this guide

- ✔ This guide should help you to start your revision, but this should not be the only revision that you do (see the revision support section of this guide).
    - **Aiming for A**: clue in the name! Those aiming for A*/A grades should complete these tasks.
- ✔ Some tasks will require you to use your notes, others will require you to use additional reading e.g. Politics Review
- ✔ **There will be regular checks of this guide every 2 weeks – this will be an additional independent study task.**
- ✔ **You should be spending around 5 hours per week on this revision.**

Assessment guidance

- The new A Level asks a variety of different questions; some will include a source that will be used as stimulus, others will be more straight-forward essay questions.
- Sometimes you will be given a choice of questions, other times there will only be on compulsory question. **This makes revision of all of the course content essential**.
- Each exam will last for 2 hours, be worth 84 marks, and make up 33.3% of the A Level.

Paper 1 (UK Politics and Core Political Ideas):

- Section A (Political participation)
    1. One 30-mark question from a choice of two (each question uses a source) – students must complete one of these.
    2. Plus one 30-mark question from a choice of two – students must complete one of these.
- Section B (Core Political Ideas – conservatism/liberalism/socialism) –
    1. One 24-mark question from a choice of two

Paper 2 (UK Government and Non-Core Political Idea):

- Section A (Political participation) –
    1. One 30-mark question from a choice of two (each question uses a source) – students must complete one of these.
    2. Plus one 30-mark question from a choice of two – students must complete one of these.
- Section B (Non-core Political Idea – feminism) –
    1. One 24-mark question from a choice of two

Paper 3 (US Politics):

- Section A
    1. One 12-mark question from a choice of two
- Section B
    1. One **compulsory** 12-mark question focused on comparative theories
- Section C
    1. Two 30-mark questions from a choice of three

Timings

- 12 mark questions = 15 minutes
- 24 mark questions = 30 minutes
- 30 mark questions = 45 minutes (remember to include reading time for source questions)

Revision support

1. Make yourself a **revision timetable** and STICK TO IT! Divide your day into thirds and spend two of those thirds each day revising e.g. have a lie in, but revise in the afternoon and evening; get up early, revise in the morning and afternoon, then go out in the evening. For each section of your day, specify which topics you will revise e.g. don't just write 'Politics' but instead 'Socialism – core themes'.
2. The earlier that you start revising, the better chance of success you have in your exams. This sounds obvious, but procrastination is the thief of time! **Turn off Netflix, put your phone in a different room and focus!**
3. Remember the end goal – you want to be doing what YOU want in September, whether that is university, an apprenticeship or work. Your A Level grades will be asked for by universities and employers not just as a mark of your intelligence at 18 but as an indicator of attitude, effort and hard work.

Types of task

There are a number of tasks that may feel like revision but are a waste of your time. We would strongly advise you not to use these as a form of revision as they will just take up your time and prevent more meaningful revision:

X Reading through your notes – passive and no impact on long term memory!
X Highlighting key words in your notes/textbooks – isolating information is not a skill required of A Level students
X Copying out your notes – works well for short term retention of information, will not aid you in an exam
X Don't just focus on content - knowing everything on the specification is of no use if you don't know how to apply it (think back to your first bits of assessed work in Year 12!)

Meaningful revision should include repetition of information, selecting the best evidence to support arguments and applying that knowledge to questions.

- ✔ **Condense** information – turn an A4 page into an A5 page. Then turn that into a flash card.
- ✔ Aid your explanation by creating 'how' and 'why' flash cards which require **explanation** e.g. 'why are some pressure groups considered to be elitist?'. Your card would contain an explanation of why with well-selected evidence.
- ✔ **Verbalise** your revision: work with friends of family to explain concepts to them (just make sure that they have the answers to check if you are right!)
- ✔ **Mind maps** can help you to make links between political ideas and events – this a key skill needed at A Level. Don't feel confined by exam papers, make links between all aspect of your course.
- ✔ **Chunk** your revision and make it manageable. Break each module into smaller topics, this has many benefits: it makes work seem more manageable, you can track your progress more easily and feel more satisfaction from the work that you have done. Make sure that it is ordered and logical.
- ✔ **Practice**: after you have created and learned flash cards and mind maps, you need to apply the knowledge. This is crucial. **Use section 4 of this guide to create a plan for each of the questions and hand these in to be marked – ensure that these are quite detailed. In the month running up to your exams, start writing answers to them in timed conditions. The more detailed your plan, the harder your brain has had to work and the better prepared you will be.**
- ✔ Go back to model answers that you have been given; look at your assessed work. Have you taken on board all of the advice that you have been given to improve?
- ✔ **Attend revision sessions, use your teachers and be proactive – seek help from me whenever you need it.**
- ✔ **USE prechewed Politics website – some tasks are included in this booklet. You could also do many others.**

Section 1 – Component 1

UK Politics

Democracy and Participation

1. Define the following key terms
***Aiming for A**:* provide a specific example to support the key term – this should be the best example that you can select to illustrate each term

Key term	Definition	Example
Legitimacy		
Direct Democracy		
Representative Democracy		
Pluralist Democracy		
Democratic deficit		
Participation crisis		
Franchise/suffrage		
Think tanks		
Lobbyists		

Direct Democracy

1. Outline the **key features** of direct democracy on the bubble map below

2. Expand the bubble map to explain the **advantages and disadvantages** of this type of democracy.

Aiming for A: rank the advantages and disadvantages from greatest advantage/disadvantage downwards. How far can direct democracy be used to enhance representative democracy? Use the Politics Review article 'Do Referendums strengthen democracy in the UK?'



Representative Democracy

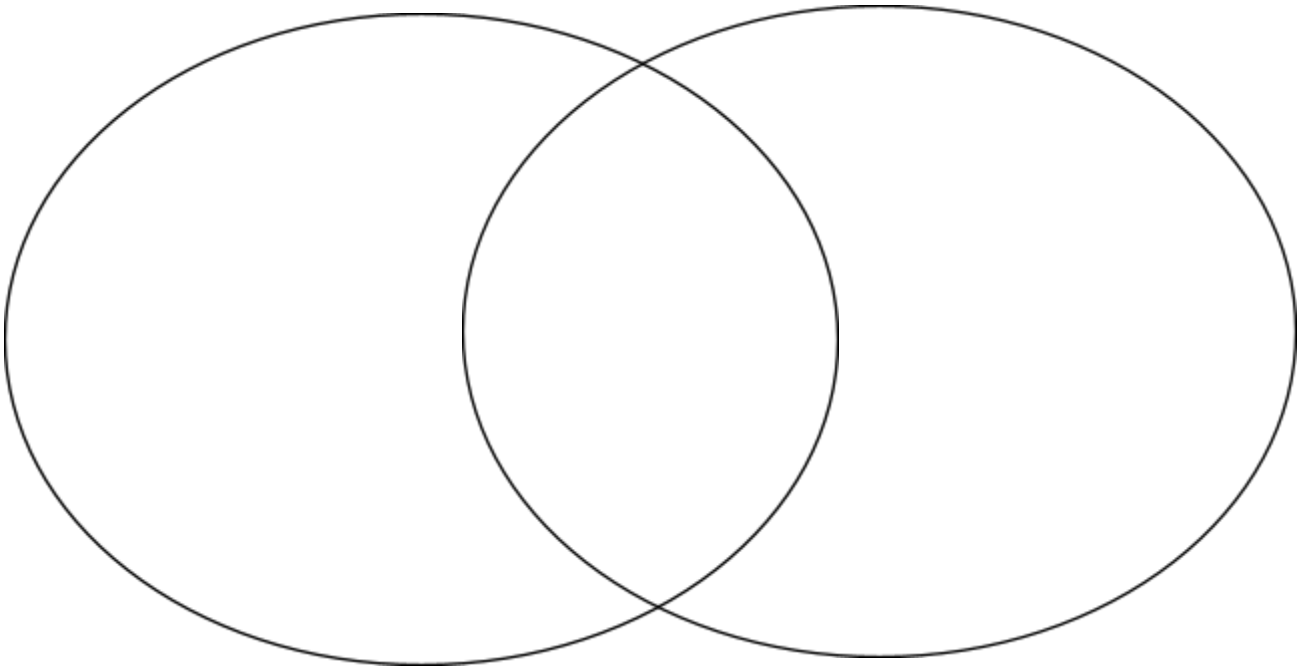
1. Outline the **key features** of representative democracy on the bubble map below

2. Expand the bubble map to explain the **advantages and disadvantages** of this type of democracy.

Aiming for A: rank the advantages and disadvantages from greatest advantage/disadvantage downwards.



3. Compare and contrast (similarity and differences) direct and representative democracy in the UK. Do this in a Venn diagram.



4. What needs to change to improve representative democracy in the UK? Note down three ideas, with an explanation of how this might happen, and why it is needed?

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Democracy in the UK

1. What are the criteria for a democratic society? Summarise them below in a way that suits your revision style.

How democratic is the UK political system?

1. Watch the video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ARnQmrLxjBk and use your textbooks/key notes to complete the table on the next page.

Try to select a precise example to illustrate your explanations in the table.

Feature of democracy	Arguments that it is democratic	Counter argument
Peaceful transition of power		
Free elections		
Fair elections		

Widespread participation		
Freedom of expression		
Freedom of association		
Protection of rights and liberties		
Limited government and constitutionalism		

2. Overall, how democratic is the UK? Write a few arguments, with counter-arguments and mini-conclusions

Political participation in the UK

Widening the franchise

Summarise the **key elements** of each act including:

- numbers who could vote before and after each act
- Impact of each act on extending the franchise based on class, gender, ethnicity and age
- **Why** was the act passed – what was the historical context of each act?
- What was the political impact of each act in securing legitimacy?

1832 Great Reform Act

1867 Second Reform Act

1872 Ballot Act

1884 Third Reform Act

1918 Representation of the People Act

1928 Representation of the People Act

1969 Representation of the People Ac

2016 Scottish Elections Act

Aiming for A:

Look at current participation levels in terms of gender, age, class and ethnicity. Have extensions to the franchise been successful?

The work of suffragists and suffragettes

Explain the role that the suffragists/suffragettes played in extending the franchise. This must be **no fewer than 100 words**.

Withholding the franchise

1. Which groups of people are unable to vote in UK elections?

2. what are the arguments that barriers to the franchise should remain – e.g. for prisoners, foreign national and those under 18 etc. What are those against (include the work of **relevant pressure groups** in this task)

Current issues with the franchise

1. Explain the arguments in each issue concerning the franchise
2 Try to make links to the work of specific pressure groups and the views of different UK political parties – you may include anything else that you feel relevant.

E-voting

Arguments in favour	Arguments against

Votes for 16-17 year olds

Arguments in favour	Arguments against

Compulsory voting

Arguments in favour	Arguments against

Registration reform

1. The system before and after 2014

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2. Implications of these changes

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3. Possible solutions?

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Is the UK experiencing a participation crisis?

Go prechewedpolitics.co.uk. Select the UK page and then Democracy and participation section. Watch video 4 on whether the UK is experiencing a participation crisis and complete the table below.

How has turnout at UK general elections changed in recent decades?	
Why is turnout important in a representative democracy?	
What is differential turnout? Why are average turnout figures so misleading?	

What evidence is there of partisan dealignment in the UK?	
What is meant by 'apathy' and 'hapathy'? Why might they affect turnout levels?	
Why might formal political participation be healthier than previously thought?	
What is e-democracy, and what examples of it can be found in the UK?	
What does the 2019 Audit of Political Engagement suggest about the health of representative democracy in the UK?	

<u>Pressure groups</u>

1. Complete the following:

A pressure group is .....
.....
.....

The functions of pressure groups are:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

2. Outline the features and functions of the following types of pressure group
3.Give an example of one pressure group to support your explanation along with a relevant campaign (be as precise and specific as possible).

Promotional (cause/issue)	Sectional (interest)	Social movements

Insider	Outsider

Pressure group methods

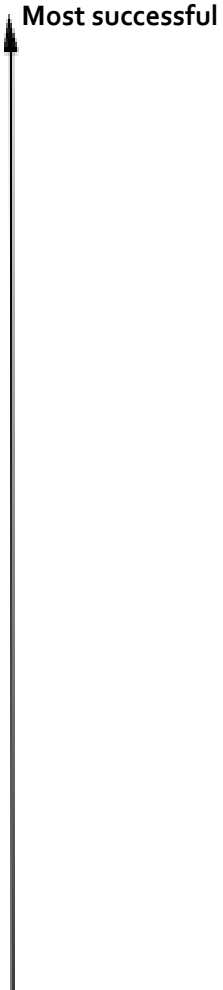
1. Create a mind map of the different methods used by pressure groups – explain what these methods are and how far they affect the influence of groups.

2. In addition, explain the advantages and disadvantages of these methods. Select a precise and relevant example to illustrate each side – **use your case studies here**.

Aiming for A: in addition, how far does each method strengthen (or weaken) democracy, representation and participation?

Pressure group success

1. Rank the factors that affect pressure group success from 'most important' to 'least important'
2. Add an explanation and illustrative example (precise and relevant)



Least successful

Pressure groups and democracy

Go to prechewedpolitics.co.uk and select the UK page and then Pressure Groups section. Watch videos 1+2 on whether pressure groups are good or bad for democracy and fill in the tables below.

Are Pressure groups good or bad for democracy? Pt1

Why is the functional representation provided by pressure groups important?	
What is NIMBYism and hyperpluralism? What is problematic about pressure group representation?	
Why is it important that people are able to participate in politics through pressure groups?	

Why is the internal democracy of many groups an issue?	
What are 'cheque-book members'?	
What is the difference between primary and secondary pressure groups?	
How do pressure groups educate the public?	
What is clicktivism?	
How can the education provided by pressure groups be questioned?	

Are Pressure groups good or bad for democracy? Pt2

What is pluralist theory? What is a pluralist democracy?	
What is the 'revolving door'?	
What is elite theory? How could pressure groups actually reinforce, rather than challenge, political inequality?	

How can pressure groups help limit the power of government?	
Why did Douglas Hurd describe pressure groups as "serpents that strangle efficient government'?	
What is the tyranny of the minority?	
How does the electoral mandate won by the government in recent decades affect the scrutiny role of pressure groups?	

2. Research competing pressure groups who pitch against one another - note their membership as well as their failures and victories.

Think tanks and lobbyists

1. Complete the following definitions

Think tanks are .....
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Think tanks promote democracy because .....
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for example, ...
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However, think tanks are bad for democracy because .....
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for example, ...
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2. Note the work of two think tanks and their contribution to political debate.

3. Complete the following definitions

Lobbyists are .....
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Lobbyists and lobbying firms have faced criticism because .....
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for example, ...
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Pressure groups are different from parties because .....
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4. Compile a checklist of three major companies with political impact in the political world. How have they influenced government, and what were the reasons for this influence?

5. Pull together ideas on whether pressure groups are good for democracy in the table below – add **brief** points and pressure group examples if possible.

Good for democracy	**Bad for democracy**

Exam practice: **Evaluate the view that pressure group politics actually enhances democracy. (30)**

Use the Politics Review article 'Pressure Groups – do they strengthen pluralist democracy?' and other revision guides, etc. to create an essay plan for the above question.

1. Write a definition/brief points for the questions and also the line of argument you would take.

2.Complete the planning table below.

Introduction/definition/structure?

Line of argument

Argument	**Counter-argument (however,..)**
Mini-conclusion/'Therefore…'	

Argument	Counter-argument (however, …)
Mini-conclusion/'Therefore…'	
Argument	**Counter-argument (however,..)**
Mini-conclusion/'Therefore…'	
Overall conclusion	

Aiming for A: evaluate the view that even the most successful pressure group will never be as important as a political party.

Rights in context

Civil liberties are ……
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for example, ……
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Human rights are .....
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for example, ...
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1. For each piece of legislation, summarise what it did to enhance and protect the rights of citizens.
2. For each act, in a different colour, explain why it was **significant** in the protection or enhancement of rights.

1215 Magna Carta

1998 Human Rights Act

2000 Freedom of Information Act

2010 Equality Act

<u>Rights and responsibilities</u>

1. Identify the strengths and weaknesses of rights in the UK
2. Clearly explain why these are strengths and weaknesses

Aiming for A: provide a clear and well selected example to support each strength/weakness

Strengths of rights in the UK	**Weaknesses of rights in the UK**

3. Explain how judicial review has been used to increase the protection of citizens' rights with two well-selected examples of this.

Aiming for A: what criticism is given of the use of judicial review in protecting rights?

4. List the responsibilities that citizens have in the UK?

5. What tensions are there between rights and responsibilities in the UK? (include specific examples/cases)

Aiming for A: Read the Politics Review article – 'The Human Rights Act: why is it difficult to reform?' and answer the questions below.

1. Why is the Conservative Party concerned about the Human Rights Act?

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2. Outline the arguments for reform of the Human Rights Act

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3. Outline the obstacles to reform of the Human Rights Act

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4. Explain why reforming the Human Rights Act is 'easier said than done'.

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Who protects rights in the UK?

1. Create a spectrum on the next page running from 'protects rights well' to 'protects rights poorly'. Add the following to your spectrum:

- Judges
- Parliament
- The State
- The EU
- Pressure Groups

Explain how each protects rights, justify its position on your spectrum. 50 word max for each

Aiming for A: add two case studies/pieces of evidence for each (in support and against) and explain how each case illustrates your point.



Protect rights poorly

What role do pressure groups play in protecting our rights?

1. Focus on the work and actions of Liberty and The Howard League for Penal Reform. What actions have they taken to protect and extend rights in the UK?
2. For each outline their objectives and their failures and successes

Liberty	**The Howard League for Penal Reform**

Aiming for A: which factor is most important in determining the success of pressure groups who wish to protect rights in the UK? Why?

Political Parties

1. Define the following key terms
Aiming for A: provide a specific example to support each key term – this should be the best example that you can select to illustrate each term

Key term	Definition	Example
Right wing		
Left wing		
One Nation		
New Right		

Old Labour		
New Labour		
Classical Liberal		
Modern Liberal		
Party Systems		

2. Annotate this political spectrum with UK parties, including the minor parties from your case studies.
3. Add in a summary of why you have placed each party where you have on the spectrum – 25 words.

Aiming for A: add a specific party policy from the 2017/2019 election manifestoes that illustrates why you have place each party where you have.

Left-wing Right-wing

4. Summarise left wing and right wing views on the following issues (applicable to the UK).
5. In a different colour, explain the variations of these ideas that have developed in the UK (you may need to link to some of your work on ideologies) – for example, think about centre-left and centre-right policies, as opposed to simply left and right wing (e.g. New Labour or post-War One Nation Tories)

	Left wing	**Right wing**
Economic ideas		

Social ideas		

The role of political parties

1. List the **functions** of a political party.
2. Rank the functions that parties fulfil from most important to least important with an explanation of why you have ranked them in the way that you have.

Aiming for A: what is the importance of the role that parties play in a representative democracy?

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3. Answer the following core questions - illustrate each answer with at least one UK example (in a different colour), e.g. Conservative manifesto promises in 2019.

I. What is the doctrine of the mandate?

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II. Why is it significant that the doctrine of the mandate exists?

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III. What problems exist with the doctrine of the mandate?

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IV. Why is it important that parties provide precise manifestoes to the electorate during election campaigns?

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<u>How UK political parties are funded</u>

1. Complete the table of the different ways in which UK parties are funded, with a brief summary of what each method is and at least amount of funds raised for each.

Methods of funding UK parties	**Amounts raised**

2. How far does this achieve fairness in the funding of parties in the UK? What is the impact of this on electoral success? Support your answer with examples from different elections.

3. Complete the table that surrounds the debate concerning UK party funding.

Arguments in favour of state funding of parties	**Arguments against state funding of parties**

4. using the S/W/O/T mode, evaluate the funding of parties in the UK.

Strengths	**Weaknesses**
Opportunities	**Threats**

Aiming for A: How does the funding of UK parties compare to the USA and funding in other countries?

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<u>Political Parties – The Conservative Party</u>

1. Create a mind map for the Conservative party showing its origins and developments. Use the following on your road map – keep it simple:

- ✔ Different strands of thought or dominant factions in the party, e.g. Thatcherism
- ✔ Change in direction where the party has changed its approach, e.g. the 1980s/New Right
- ✔ Key policies/strategies for different Conservative governments, e.g. Thatcher – efforts to lower inflation, cuts to the welfare state, etc.

2. For each faction of the party, outline their beliefs in the following policy areas, with specific policy examples from across time (i.e. not just current policy)

	Traditional Conservative Party	**New Right Conservative Party**	**Today's Conservative Party**
Economy			

Law and Order			
Welfare			
Foreign Policy			

3. For each faction in the Conservative Party, summarise their beliefs, and the extent to which they differ from the rest of their party.

- Cornerstone

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- Conservative Way Forward

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- Tory Reform Group

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- European Research Group

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<u>Exam practice: Evaluate the view that the Conservative Party has stayed true to traditional Conservative values [30]</u>

1. Complete the definition to the question below and the mind mapped plan
2. In addition, what is your line of argument?

Aiming for A: mind map a plan to this question but write out your mini conclusions and your overall conclusion.

Definition

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Line of argument

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Essay plan/Mind map plan + mini-conclusions for each part + overall evaluation/conclusion at the bottom of the plan

Political Parties – The Labour Party

Create a mind map for the Labour party showing its origins and developments. Use the following on your road map:

- ✔ Different strands of thought or dominant factions in the party, e.g. New Labour
- ✔ Change in direction where the party has changed its approach, e.g. the 1990s/Third Way
- ✔ Key policies/strategies for different Labour governments, e.g. Post-War Labour – nationalisation/collectivist policies

2. For each faction of the party, outline their beliefs in the following policy areas, with specific policy examples from across time (i.e. not just current policy)

	'Old' Labour	**New Labour**	**Today's Labour Party**
Economy			
Law and Order			

Welfare			
Foreign Policy			

Aiming for A: is it true to suggest that the Labour Party is the most internally divided party in the UK?

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3. For each faction in the Labour Party, summarise their beliefs, and the extent to which they differ from the rest of their party.

- Momentum

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- Blairites

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- Blue Labour

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- Labour Together

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Exam practice: **Evaluate the view that the Labour has stayed true to socialist values** [30]

1. Complete the definition to the question below and the mind mapped plan
2. In addition, what is your line of argument?

Aiming for A: mind map a plan to this question but write out your mini conclusions and your overall conclusion.

Definition

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Line of argument

……
……

Essay plan/Mind map plan + mini-conclusions for each part + overall evaluation/conclusion at the bottom of the plan

Political Parties – The Liberal Democrats

1.Create a mind map for the Liberal Democrats showing its origins and developments. Use the following on your road map – keep it simple:

- ✔ Different strands of thought or dominant factions in the party, e.g. Orange Book LibDems
- ✔ Change in direction where the party has changed its approach, e.g. the coalition years
- ✔ Key policies/strategies for different Liberal Democrats, e.g. pro-European integration, constitutional/democratic reform.

2. For each faction of the party, outline their beliefs in the following policy areas, with specific policy examples from across time (i.e. not just current policy)

	Liberal Democrats pre-2010	Liberal Democrats in coalition	Today's Lib Dems
Economy			

Law and Order			
Welfare			
Foreign Policy			

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Aiming for A: can the Liberal Democrats ever expect to win political power again?

Extended task: for each faction in the Liberal Democrats, summarise their beliefs, and the extent to which they differ from the rest of their party.

- Orange Book Liberals

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- Social Liberals

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Exam practice: **Evaluate the view that the Liberal Democrats are only influenced by Liberal values** [30]

1. Write a definition/brief points for the questions and also the line of argument you would take.

2.Complete the planning table below.

Introduction/definition/structure?

Line of argument

Argument	**Counter-argument (however,..)**

Mini-conclusion/'Therefore…'	
Argument	**Counter-argument (however, …)**
Mini-conclusion/'Therefore…'	
Argument	**Counter-argument (however,..)**
Mini-conclusion/'Therefore…'	
Overall conclusion	

To what extent are the three main UK parties influences by the ideas of **liberalism**? Consider the following issues:

- The protection of human rights

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- Constitutional reform

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- Social justice

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- Welfare

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- Formal equality

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- Equality of opportunity

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- Law and order

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- Foreign Policy

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.....<u>Political Parties –</u>

<u>Other UK parties</u>

1. Create a mind map for UK political parties from 1990 onwards, showing their development and electoral success. Use a different colour for each party, and include the following parties: SNP, UKIP/Brexit Party and the Green Party.

Include details on electoral success, numbers of seats in Parliament, key policies, etc.

2. For each general election, find the share of the vote that each party has gained.

Party	Share of vote	Number of seats
Cons		
Lab		
LD		
SNP		
UKIP		
Green		
Other?		

1997

Party	Share of vote	Number of seats
Cons		
Lab		
LD		
SNP		
UKIP		
Green		
Other?		

2001

2005

Party	Share of vote	Number of seats
Cons		
Lab		
LD		
SNP		
UKIP		
Green		
Other?		

2010

Party	Share of vote	Number of seats
Cons		
Lab		
LD		
SNP		
UKIP		
Green		
Other?		

Party	Share of vote	Number of seats
Cons		
Lab		
LD		
SNP		
UKIP		
Green		
Other?		

Party	Share of vote	Number of seats
Cons		
Lab		
LD		
SNP		
UKIP		
Green		
Other?		

2015

2017

Party	Share of vote	Number of seats
Cons		
Lab		
LD		
SNP		
UKIP		
Green		
Other?		

3. What conclusions can you draw from this data about the success of minor parties in the UK since 1990?

4. What has been the impact of minor parties on the major parties in the UK political system?

Aiming for A: what are the prospects for the future success of minor parties in the UK?

Minor party policies

1. For each party, summarise their policies in each area.
Aiming for A: make links to policies from the 2017/2019 manifestoes

	The SNP
Economy	
Law and Order	
Welfare	

Foreign Policy	

	The SNP
Economy	
Law and Order	
Welfare	
Foreign Policy	

	UKIP
Economy	
Law and Order	
Welfare	
Foreign Policy	

	The SNP
Economy	
Law and Order	
Welfare	
Foreign Policy	

Exam practice: **Evaluate the view that minor parties are now of limited significance in the UK** [30]

1. Write a definition/brief points for the questions and also the line of argument you would take.

2.Complete the planning table below.

Introduction/definition/structure?

Line of argument

Argument	**Counter-argument (however,..)**
Mini-conclusion/'Therefore…'	
Argument	**Counter-argument (however, …)**
Mini-conclusion/'Therefore…'	
Argument	**Counter-argument (however,..)**
Mini-conclusion/'Therefore…'	
Overall conclusion	

Consensus and adversary politics

1. Define the key terms
2. Give an example of each period in UK political history and assess how the major parties fit into this dichotomy

Aiming for A: who are the specific individuals and what are the specific policies associated with each of these periods in British political history?

Consensus politics

Adversary politics

Trouble spot! What is the difference between adversarial politics and an adversarial style?

Party system classification

1. Complete the definitions of what the following party systems are.
2. In your summary, explain which electoral systems are most likely to relate in this party system

What is meant by the term 'party system'?

One-party system

Dominant-party system

Two-party system

Three-party system

Multi-party system

3. Which party systems exist in the devolved regions, and how does that link to the electoral systems used in these regions?

a) Scotland

b) Wales

c) Northern Ireland

4. To what extent is the UK a two-party system? Your answer should refer to elections since 1945.

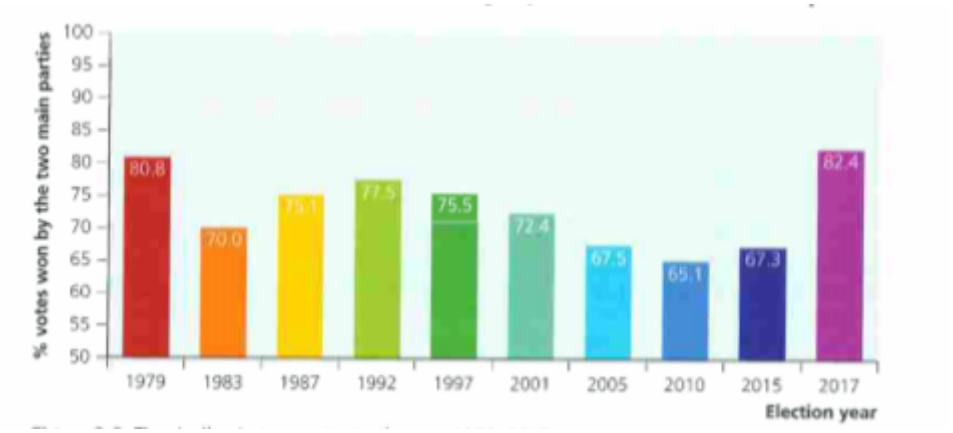
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Aiming for A:: review the number of seats won by parties in UK General Elections, with the percentage of votes won by parties. Does this give a conflicting picture of the party-system in the UK since 1979?

Table 2.9 Two-party dominance in the UK, 1979–2017

Election year	Conservative seats	Labour seats	Third party seats	% of seats won by two main parties
1979	339	269	11	95.8
1983	397	209	23	93.3
1987	376	229	22	93.0
1992	336	271	20	93.2
1997	165	418	46	88.4
2001	166	413	52	87.8
2005	198	356	62	85.6
2010	307	258	57	86.9
2015	331	232	56	86.7
2017	318	262	35	89.2



5. What kind of party system exists at a local level in the UK? Use evidence in your response.

Factors that affect party success

1. Complete the table below, with UK examples which illustrate each reason – or you can use these ideas to complete a mind map on the following page.

Why small parties fail	How small parties can succeed
They lack funding ……	May find wealthy benefactors
The electoral system may discriminate against them ……	In devolved regions, PR helps small parties
The lack media exposure ……	Charismatic leader can help gain media support
People consider voting for them a wasted vote ……	Fewer votes wasted in proportional systems


Factors
affecting party
success and
failure

Political parties and representation – functions of parties

Core task: Complete the table**,** with functions of political parties and also limitations for these ('however' points
Aiming for A: Evaluate the view that the UK could operate without parties. Can political change be achieved without being a political party?

Enhance democracy	Limit democracy (however..)

Electoral Systems

Core task: Define the following key terms
Aiming for A: provide a specific example to support the key term – this should be the best example that you can select to illustrate each term

Key term	Definition	Example
Plurality		
Absolute majority		
Majority government		
Minority government		
Safe seat		
Marginal seat		

Proportional representation		
Referendum		
Initiative		
Tactical voting		
Government by consent		
Coalition government		

First Past the Post

1. Explain how First Past the Post works in the UK and what is meant by a single member simple plurality?

2. Explain the arguments for and against the use of FPTP, with supporting evidence for each argument – try to link arguments with counter-arguments

Arguments for FPTP	Arguments against
simplistic n speedy- by just picking your most desired representative, it is deemed the most simple of them all. also, results materialise in around 24 hours. may 2010's ge saw this rise to about 5 days as there was no official leader immediately, under pr this would be commonplace. 2010 ge in germany saw no result materialising for 18 months, despite being anomalous, this is the product of fptp stronger link of mp's to their constituencies, due to a more concentrated relationship and more opportunity for correspondence and surgeries. for example, jeremy hunt was able to survive the 2024 cons. wipeout, maintaining his seat in surrey due to his appeal. corbyn was still able to maintain his seat as an independent in islington north even after being barred as a labour candidate. extremist parties have a much lower chance of being elected due to the two-partisan state fptp enables fptp has developed an affinity with the electorate, with 68% voting to keep its place for general elections, and the elections act 2022 instating mayoral and pcc elections into fptp from supplementary vote from 28th april 2022.	the link between seats and votes in uneven, with reform sharing 14.3% of votes but earning only 5 seats(AND 832000 votes for every seat compared to labour's mere 23600) , but the ld's with 2.1% less and securing 72 seats due to targeting specific areas, an insider noting that "fptp isn't liked [by us lds], but we had to [play the game presented to us]" wasted votes accounted for 71.1% in 2010, to 74.4% in 2015; results are predictable and sometimes dissatisfying to the electorate.

Aiming for A: rank arguments from strongest to weakest, and link arguments with counter arguments

3. Study the table of election results below. What inferences can you draw from it about FPTP?

Party	% votes won	% seats won	No. of seats won	Notes
Conservative	42.4	48.9	318	Conservative support is concentrated in south and central England.
Labour	40.0	40.3	262	Labour support is concentrated in northern England and Wales.
Scottish National Party	3.0	5.4	35	The SNP suffered significant losses in 2017.
Liberal Democrats	7.4	1.8	12	The party's support is widely dispersed.
Democratic Unionist Party (DUP)	0.9	1.5	10	The DUP only contests seats in Northern Ireland.
Sinn Fein	0.7	1.1	7	Northern Ireland only.
Plaid Cymru	0.5	0.6	4	Contests seats in Wales.
UKIP	1.8	0	0	UKIP support is dispersed and collapsed in 2017.
Green Party	1.6	0.2	1	Support is dispersed.
Others	1.7	0	0	Very dispersed.

4. what are the best bits of evidence to illustrate the FPTP **should not** be used; and what are the best bits of evidence to illustrate that FPTP **should** be used. Highlight these in two colours with a key.

Aiming for A: Read the Politics Review article 'First Past the Post: Is it still fit for purpose?'. Make brief notes for the advantages/disadvantages of FPTP from this article.

Exam practice: Evaluate the view that First Past the Post creates a strong and stable government in the UK [30]

1. Write a definition/brief points for the questions and also the line of argument you would take.

2.Complete the planning table below.

Introduction/definition/structure?

Line of argument

Argument	**Counter-argument (however,..)**
Mini-conclusion/'Therefore…'	
Argument	**Counter-argument (however, …)**
Mini-conclusion/'Therefore…'	
Argument	**Counter-argument (however,..)**
Mini-conclusion/'Therefore…'	
Overall conclusion	

Different electoral systems

1. Explain how alternative electoral systems work in the UK – state where it is used, e.g. AMS for Scottish Parliament elections

1. AMS

2. STV

3. SV

4. Party list system.

2. Complete the table below with arguments for and against the use of each system with 1 piece of supporting evidence for each argument. Try link the pro/con arguments.
Aiming for A: rank the alternative systems from strongest to weakest – explain why.

Alternative system	Pros	Cons	Ranking and justification
AMS			
STV			
SV			

Election results using alternative systems

1. Complete the results table for the devolved elections below.
2. What impact has the electoral system used in each election had on the election result? How does the data illustrate this?

Aiming for A: are elections in these devolved regions providing a better form of democracy for citizens or not? Explain your decisions.

Scotland

Party	Constituency seats won	Regional list system seats awarded	Total seats won	% seats won	% votes won in the regional lists
SNP		4	63		
		24	31		
		21	24		
		6		4.7	6.6
		1		3.9	5.2
Others		0		0	4.5

Aiming for A*:* are elections in this devolved region providing a better form of democracy for citizens or not? Explain your decisions

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Northern Ireland

Party	Seats won	% seats won	% first preference votes won
Unionists	38	35.2	29.2
	28	25.9	24.0
nists	16	14.8	12.6
	12	11.1	12.0
	8	7.4	7.0
	6	5.6	15.2

Aiming for A*:* are elections in this devolved region providing a better form of democracy for citizens or not? Explain your decisions

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London Mayor

Candidate	Party	1st round votes	% votes	2nd round votes	% total
	Labour	1,148,7	44.2	1,310,	56.8
	Conservative	909,7	35.0	994,	43.2
	Green	150,6	5.8	–	
	Lib Dem	120,(	4.6	–	
	UKIP	94,3	3.6	–	
Seven other candidates	Various	173,4	6.6	–	

***Aiming for A**: are elections in this devolved region providing a better form of democracy for citizens or not? Explain your decisions*

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3. With examples, explain the difference between pluralistic/majoritarian systems and proportional systems.

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4. Compare the 2017/2019 general election results with the devolved elections above.

a) How are the outcomes different?

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b) What are the implications of these differences?

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Aiming for A: what debate exists in changing the electoral system of UK general elections? Is there a dilemma between fair representation and effective government?

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5. Answer the **evaluative** (AO3) summary questions in relation to electoral systems in the UK
You should try to include evidence in your answers to support your view?

1. What effect would a change in electoral system have on the party system and would such a change be desirable?

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2. What effect would a change in electoral system have on government formation and would such as change be desirable?

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3. What effect would a change in electoral system have on the UK's democracy and on the experience of voters; would such a change be desirable?

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Aiming for A: What would the biggest impact of changing the electoral system be? Why

Referendums

1.Create a timeline of the key referendums that have been held in the UK since 1970

2. Summarise the issue and results of each referendum.

Aiming for A: what trends can you draw out of your timeline and the results?

1970

2016

Why are referendums called?

1. List the reasons that referendums have been called in the UK

2. Overall, what are the main reasons why referendums have been called?

Aiming for A: rank the reasons the referendums are called from most valid to least valid. Justify your ranking.

3. How far do you agree that referendums should only be called on matters of constitutional change?

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4. Outline in the table below the advantages and disadvantages of using referendums
Try explain why these are advantages or disadvantages
Aiming for A: support your explanation with specific UK examples

Advantages	Disadvantages (however,...)
Advantage: Explanation:	Disadvantage: Explanation:
Advantage: Explanation:	Disadvantage: Explanation:

Advantage: Explanation:	Disadvantage: Explanation:

5. Explain the following implications of referendums
Say whether each one is an advantage or disadvantage of referendums?

- Government gains direct consent

- Authority of government can be undermined

- The result could be too close for comfort

- No decisive outcome is reached

Aiming for A: could the government have predicated the scale of repercussions of the Brexit vote, based on evidence from previous referendums?

Referendums and representative democracy

Core task: explain the impacts that referendums have on representative democracy
Extended task: does this contrast with the way decisions are made by elected representatives – why and how?
Aiming for A: to what extent is representative democracy more desirable in the UK than direct democracy?

Exam practice: **Evaluate the view that referendums should be used more widely to settle political issues in the UK** [30]

1. Complete the definition to the question below and the mind mapped plan
2. In addition, what is your line of argument?

Aiming for A: mind map a plan to this question but write out your mini conclusions and your overall conclusion.

Definition

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Line of argument

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Essay plan/Mind map plan + mini-conclusions for each part + overall evaluation/conclusion at the bottom of the plan

Elections and in the UK

1. List the functions of elections

2. List/Explain why these functions are important in a representative democracy?
Aiming for A: illustrate your explanation with 2017and 2019 GE examples

How fair are UK elections? Hint: this is all elections which happen in the UK. Try to link the fair/unfair arguments.

UK elections are fair	UK elections are unfair

Elections and party systems

1. What sort of governments does FPTP tend to produce in the UK?

2. To what extent is this changing?

***Aiming for A*:** Does the UK have a two-party system because that is what FPTP produces, or because it is what people prefer?

***Aiming for A*:** Does the UK now have a multi-party system in terms of party support, but not in terms of parliamentary seats because of the election system?

3. Why is there a multi-party system in government at a local and regional level (e.g. councils) but not at a national level?

Election systems overall

1. What impact does each system have on government formation – complete the table below

Election system	Impact on government formation
FPTP	
AMS	
STV	
SV	

2. Impact on voter participation, representation and choice – complete the table below

Election system	Impact on voter participation, representation and choice
FPTP	
AMS	
STV	
SV	

3. Impact on party success – complete the table below.

Election system	Impact on party success
FPTP	
AMS	
STV	
SV	

Voting behaviour and the media

1. Define the following key terms
Aiming for A: provide a specific example to support the key term – this should be the best example that you can select to illustrate each term

Key term	Definition	Example
Social class		
Deviant voting		
Swing/floating voter		
Class dealignment		
Partisan dealignment		

Instrumental voting		
Turnout		
Apathy and disillusionment		
Abstention		
Core voters		
Valence issues		
Governing competence		

Economic voting		
Rational choice model		
Salient issues/salience		
Opinion Poll		

Social factors affecting voting

1) For each factor, decide how far it influences voting behaviour in UK elections- include some statistics if you can:

a. Class

b. Gender

c. Age

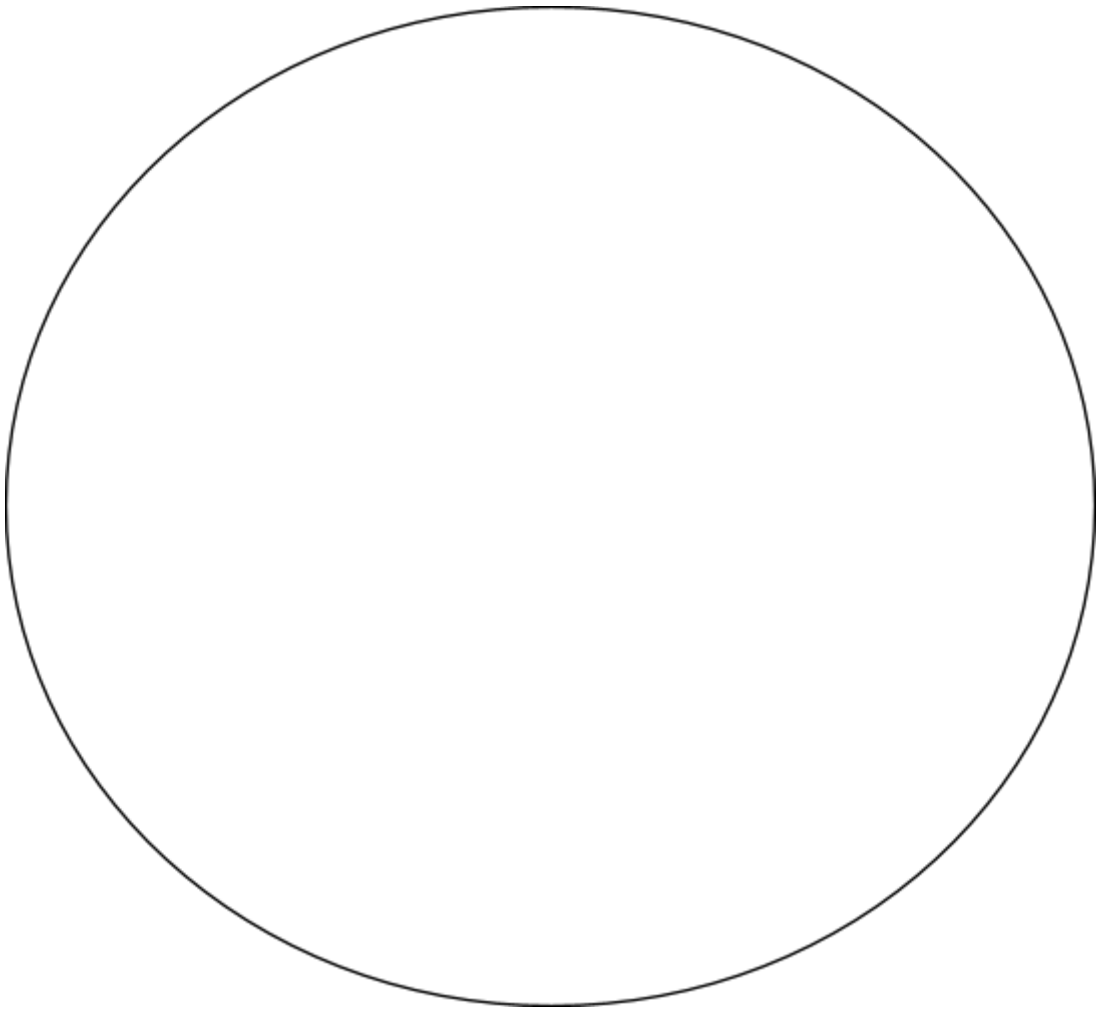
d. Ethnicity

e. Region

Aiming for A: Which factor(s) is most influential on voting behaviour

2. How much of the UK electorate does each different social group make up: draw a pie chart to show this.
3. What percentage of each group voted for each party in the 2017 and 2019 elections

Aiming for A: study the 2017 and 2019 manifestoes – which social groups did different parties target – provide a precise example of policy to illustrate this.



Social factors over time

1. Study elections from 1945 – have the social groups that vote for particular parties changed?

2. How have these changes been causes by how Britain has socially altered e.g. growing middle class, multiculturalism, aging population have affected voting behaviour

Aiming for A: based on the trends in voting behaviour in the UK, how reliable are social factors as a predictor of voting intentions/outcomes?

Class

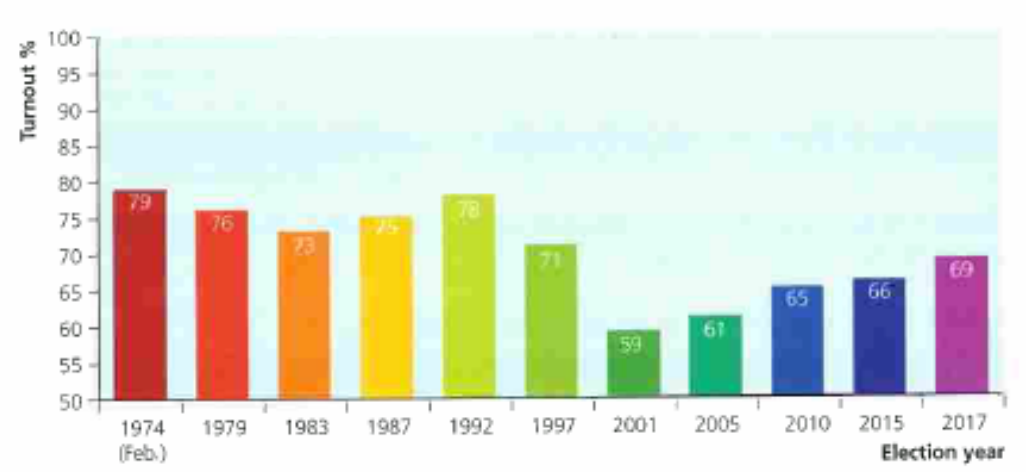
1. What is class-based voting?

2. What is class dealignment and how has this affected how people vote?

4. Give examples of general elections where class dealignment has occurred, e.g. 2019

Turnout

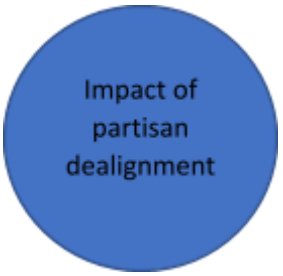
1. Using the graph below, identify what trends have occurred with regards to turnout in UK general elections



Aiming for A: what impact can the media have on turnout? Support your answer with reference to specific elections.

Partisan dealignment

Summarise how partisan dealignment has impacted on UK general elections – give examples



Do you agree that partisan dealignment is coming to an end – again included reference to elections, e.g. 2017 and 2019

Aiming for A: which do you think has had a greater impact on voting behaviour in the UK – class dealignment or partisan dealignment? Justify your judgement using evidence.

Voting trends and theories

1. Explain what is meant by the term valence and how it affects the way in which people vote. Support your explanation with at least 2 pieces of specific UK evidence

2. What differences are there between valence voting and economic voting?

3. Is valence voting or economic voting more important in a general election?

Explain why/why not with support from UK political evidence

Aiming for A: study recent opinion polls (see YouGov, Opinium, IpsosMori etc). Which party is currently ahead in the polls in terms of valence voting, positional voting and governing competency? Turn this into a graph in the space below.

4. What is the rational choice model of voting behaviour?

5. What do parties do during an election to target voters that may be voting based on a rational decision?

Aiming for A: what were the salient issues in 2017 and/or 2019?

5. What role do party leaders have on voting behaviour?

6. Annotate the party leaders/key figures below to explain what qualities that they may or may not have which is important to voters.









7. Consider the current leaders of the UK parties, which have positive images, which have negative images and why?

Aiming for A: create an argument that a party leader is of limited significance to the success of a party in an election. Support your view with precise evidence.

Tactical voting

1. What impact does tactical voting have in UK general elections? Explain in one colour

2. Using a different colour, explain the reasons behind tactical voting in the UK

The media and opinion polls

1. For each type of media summarise arguments that it does and does not influence voting behaviour
2. For each argument identified, explain why it shows an influence and support it with evidence of this (or not)

Aiming for A: in the final column, make a comparative judgement about the relative importance of each form of media

Aspect	Influence	Limited influence	Comparative judgement
Broadcast			
The press			

Social media			
Opinion polls			

3. Should the publication of opinion polls be banned during election campaigns? Assess both sides of this question, with support from evidence, before reaching a judgement.

Aiming for A: distinguish between the long term and short-term factors that influence voting behaviour. Which is most significant and why?

<u>General Election case studies</u>

N.B. It is expected that you refer to your three case studies where appropriate when answering questions on voting behaviour and the media – one must be pre-1997; the 1997 election and one post-1997

1. Complete the information and evidence section of the table for each election
2. Fill in the third column, evaluating how different each aspect of each election was from the others

1979 General Election		
Aspect of election	Information and evidence	Comparison of elections
Outcomes (for each party - % of vote and number of seats)		

Turnout (did this election follow the norms/ trends of the time?)		
Voting behaviour – key factors that influenced voting behaviour in this election		
Impact of issues - valence and salient issues		

Impact of party leaders – did leaders make a difference or was it not apparent?		
Impact of the campaign – strategy and planning		
Impact of the media		

Aiming for A: was this a remarkable or fairly standard general election? Explain your judgement with reference to the table above.

1997 General Election		
Aspect of election	Information and evidence	Comparison of elections
Outcomes (for each party - % of vote and number of seats)		
Turnout (did this election follow the norms/ trends of the time?)		

Voting behaviour – key factors that influenced voting behaviour in this election		
Impact of issues - valence and salient issues		

Impact of party leaders – did leaders make a difference or was it not apparent?		
Impact of the campaign – strategy and planning		
Impact of the media		

Aiming for A: was this a remarkable or fairly standard general election? Explain your judgement with reference to the table above.

2017 General Election		
Aspect of election	Information and evidence	Comparison of elections

Outcomes (for each party - % of vote and number of seats)		
Turnout (did this election follow the norms/ trends of the time?)		
Voting behaviour – key factors that influenced voting behaviour in this election		

Impact of issues - valence and salient issues		
Impact of party leaders – did leaders make a difference or was it not apparent?		
Impact of the campaign		

– strategy and planning		
Impact of the media		

Aiming for A: was this a remarkable or fairly standard general election? Explain your judgement with reference to the table above.

Core ideologies: Liberalism

1. Complete definitions for the key terms in this table.

	LIBERALISM KEY TERMS

Key terms	Egoistical individualism
	Developmental individualism
	Tolerance
	Negative Freedom
	Positive Freedom
	Limited Government
	Laissez-faire capitalism

	Equality of Opportunity
	Foundational Equality
	Meritocracy
	Social Contract

2. Summarise the core ideas and principles behind this ideology
3. Draw on the contribution of key political thinkers in your explanation
Aiming for A: how much coherence is there within this ideology for each principle?

- Individualism

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- Freedom or liberty

- The State

- Rationalism

- Equality and social justice

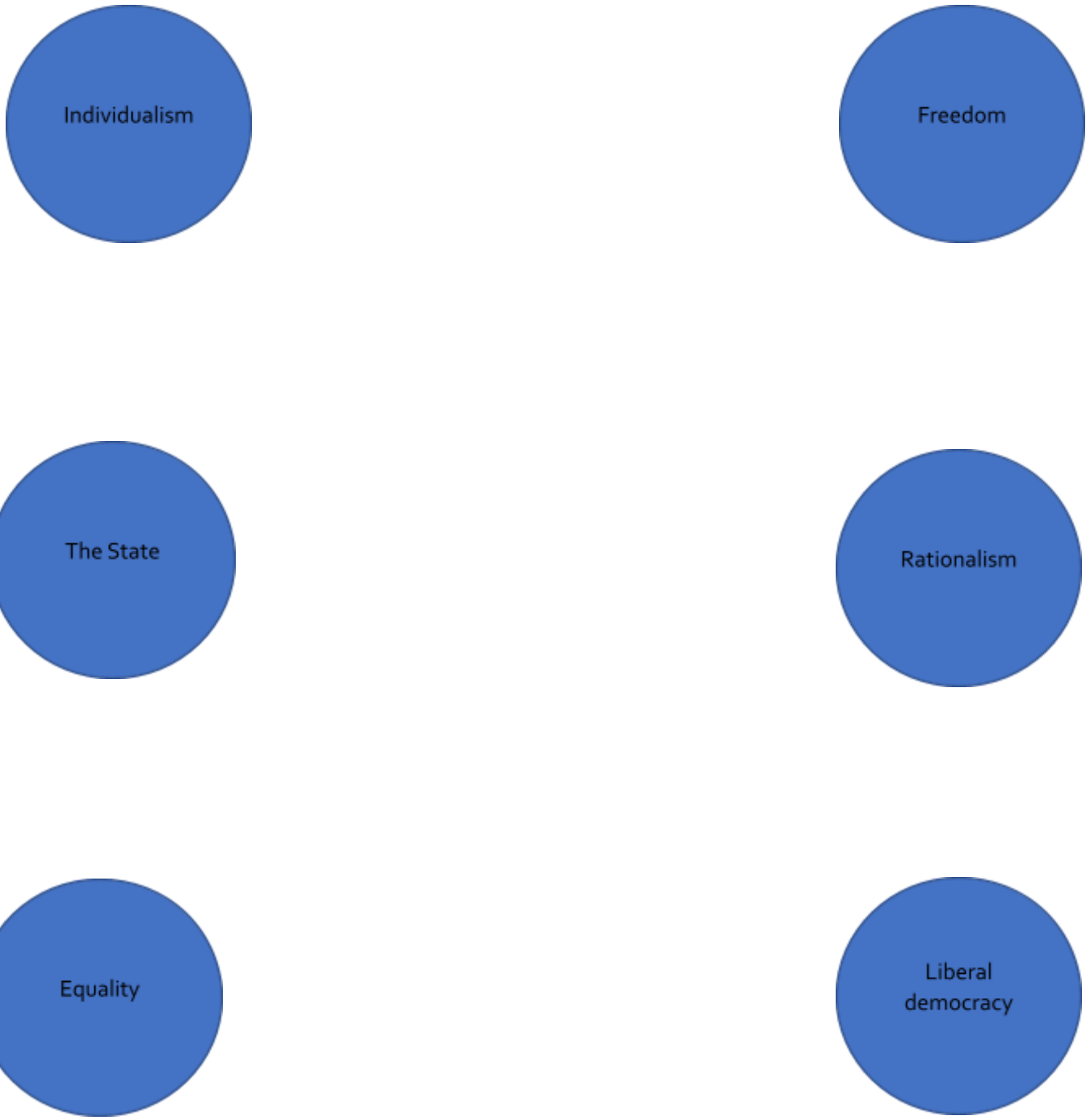
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- Liberal democracy

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<u>Linking the core principles of an ideology</u>

Using your knowledge of the core principles of liberalism, draw links between them. These could be shared thinkers, agreements and disagreement. Any links should be annotated to explain what these links are.



Edexcel Core Principles

1. Summarise the core ideas of liberals on the Edexcel key themes in table below
2. Add the ideas for key thinkers for each of these four themes

Aiming for A: What is the extent do classical liberals and modern liberals differ on these four themes?

Human nature

Classical Liberals	Modern Liberals
Thinkers	Thinkers

State

Classical Liberals	Modern Liberals
Thinkers	Thinkers

Society

Classical Liberals	Modern Liberals

Thinkers	Thinkers

Economy

Classical Liberals	Modern Liberals
Thinkers	Thinkers

Aiming for A: What is the extent do classical liberals and modern liberals agree/differ on these four themes?

Write a paragraph for each theme – Human Nature; The State; Society; The Economy

Aiming for A: To what extent is modern liberalism a contradiction or a continuation of classical liberalism?

Outline the key ideas of the following Liberal thinkers:
Ensure that your outline as key quotes that you could use in your answers

John Locke

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Mary Wollstonecraft

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John Stuart Mill

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John Rawls

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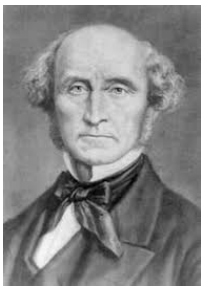
Betty Friedan

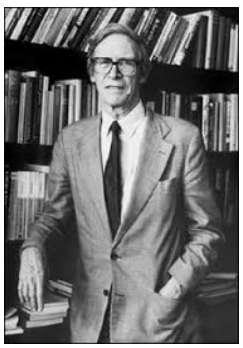
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Aiming for A: make links between the key thinkers – where do they agree and disagree with each other and how?











Exam practice: **To what extent do Liberals agree on the concept of freedom?** [24]

1. Write a definition/brief points for the question and also the line of argument you would take.

2.Complete the planning table below.

Introduction/definition/structure?

Line of argument

Argument	**Counter-argument (however,..)**
Mini-conclusion/'Therefore…'	
Argument	**Counter-argument (however, …)**
Mini-conclusion/'Therefore…'	
Argument	**Counter-argument (however,..)**
Mini-conclusion/'Therefore…'	
Overall conclusion	

1. What is free-market capitalism and Keynesianism?

2. Would these link to classical or modern liberal traditions, or both? Explain your answer.

3. To what extent is liberal democracy a contradiction in terms?

Aiming for A: Hayek argues that neo-liberalism represents the 'third strand of liberal ideology. How far do you agree with Hayek's assertion?

Core ideologies: Conservatism

1. Add brief definitions for the key terms in the table below.

	CONSERVATISM KEY TERMS
Key terms	Change to Conserve
	Human Imperfection
	Atomism
	Hierarchy
	Organic society

	Authority
	Noblesse oblige
	Laissez-faire
	Radical
	Free market economy
	Keynesianism
	Anti-permissiveness

2. Summarise the core ideas and principles behind this ideology

3. Refer key political thinkers in your explanation

Aiming for A: how much coherence is there within this ideology for each principle?

- Pragmatism

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- Tradition and hierarchy

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- Human imperfection

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- Organic society

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- Paternalism

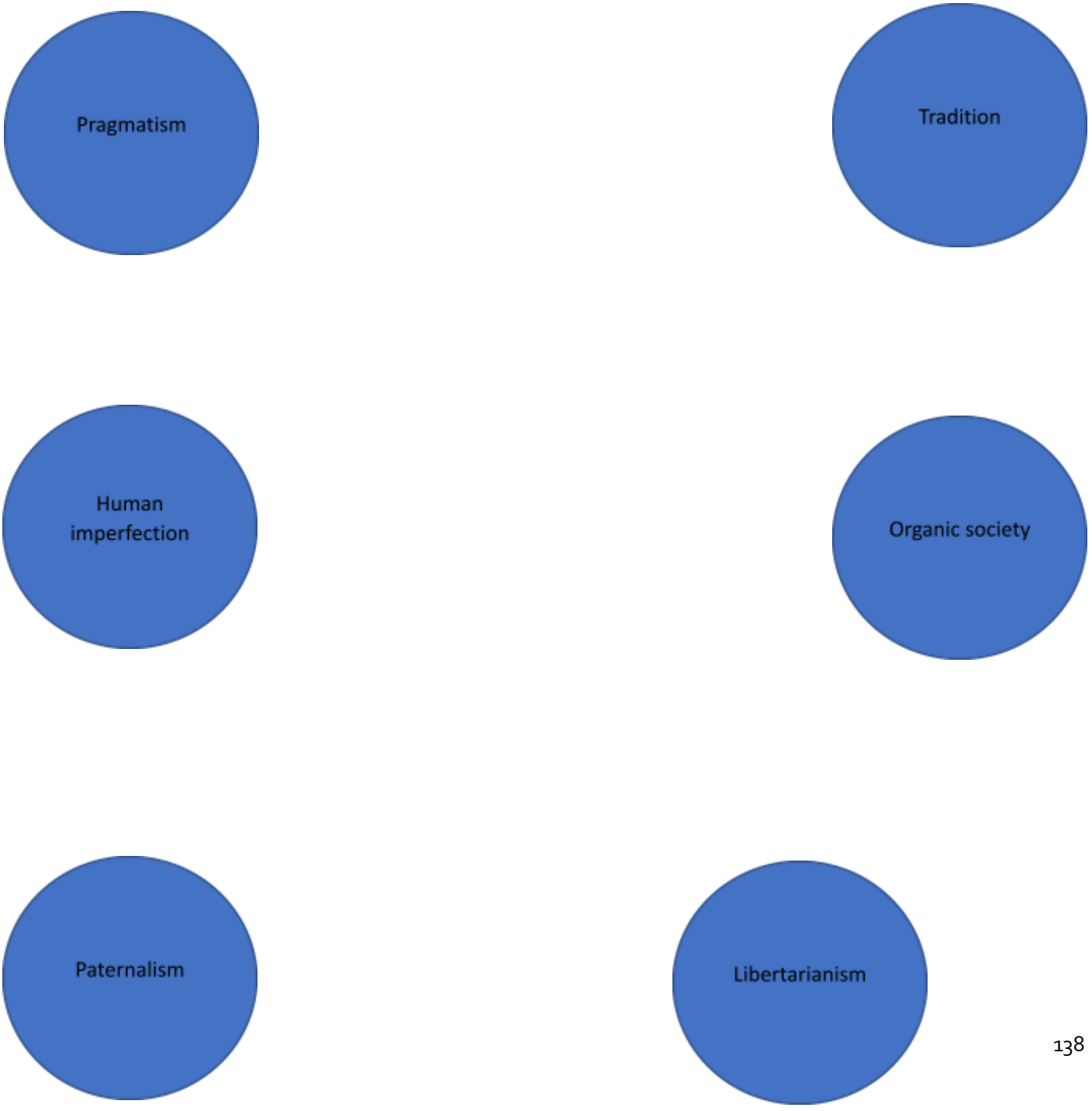
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- Libertarianism

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Linking the core principles of an ideology

Extended task: using your knowledge of the core principles of conservatism, draw links between them. These could be shared thinkers, agreements and disagreement. Any links should be annotated to explain what these links are.



Edexcel Key themes

1. Summarise the core ideas of liberals on the Edexcel key themes in table below
2. Add the ideas for key thinkers for each of these four themes

Human nature

Traditional Con.		Thinkers
One-Nation Con.		Thinkers
Neo-liberals		Thinkers
Neo – Con.		Thinkers

State

Traditional Con.		Thinkers
One-Nation Con.		Thinkers
Neo-liberals		Thinkers
Neo – Con.		Thinkers

Society

Traditional Con.		Thinkers
One-Nation Con.		Thinkers
Neo-liberals		Thinkers
Neo – Con.		Thinkers

Economy

Traditional Con.		Thinkers
One-Nation Con.		Thinkers
Neo-liberals		Thinkers
Neo – Con.		Thinkers

Aiming for A: What is the extent do different strands of conservatism agree/differ on these four themes?

Write a paragraph for each theme – Human Nature; The State; Society; The Economy.

To what extent is New Right conservatism a contradictory doctrine?

Aiming for A: how did traditional conservatism adapt to the challenges of communism and fascism?

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1. Outline the key ideas of the following conservative thinkers:
2. Ensure that your outline as key quotes that you could use in your answers

Thomas Hobbes

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Edmund Burke

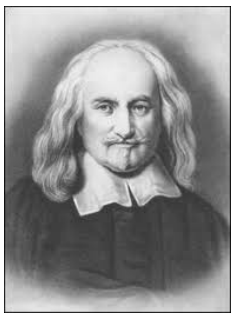
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Michael Oakeshott

Ayn Rand

Robert Nozick

Aiming for A: make links between the key thinkers – where do they agree and disagree with each other and how?











Exam practice: To what extent do conservatives agree on the concept of pragmatism? [24]

1 .Complete the definition to the question below and the mind mapped plan
2. Add your line of argument?
Aiming for A: mind map a plan to this question but write out your mini conclusions and your overall conclusion.

Definition

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Line of argument

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Mind map plan + mini-conclusions + overall evaluation

1. What is the difference between neo-liberalism and neo-conservatism?

2. Which aspect has had the greatest impact on western governments? Why?

Extended task: to what extent would you argue that conservatism is not an ideology?

Aiming for A: Was the Brexit referendum a 'conservative moment'?

Core ideologies: Socialism

1. Add brief definitions for the key terms in the table below.

	SOCIALISM KEY TERMS
Key terms	Fraternity
	Marxism
	Communism

	Capitalism
	Common Ownership
	Social Justice
	Revisionism
	Evolutionary Socialism
	Keynesian economics

2. Summarise the core ideas and principles behind this ideology
3. Refer to key political thinkers in your explanations
Aiming for A: how much coherence is there within this ideology for each principle?

- Equality

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- Community

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- Class politics

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- Common ownership

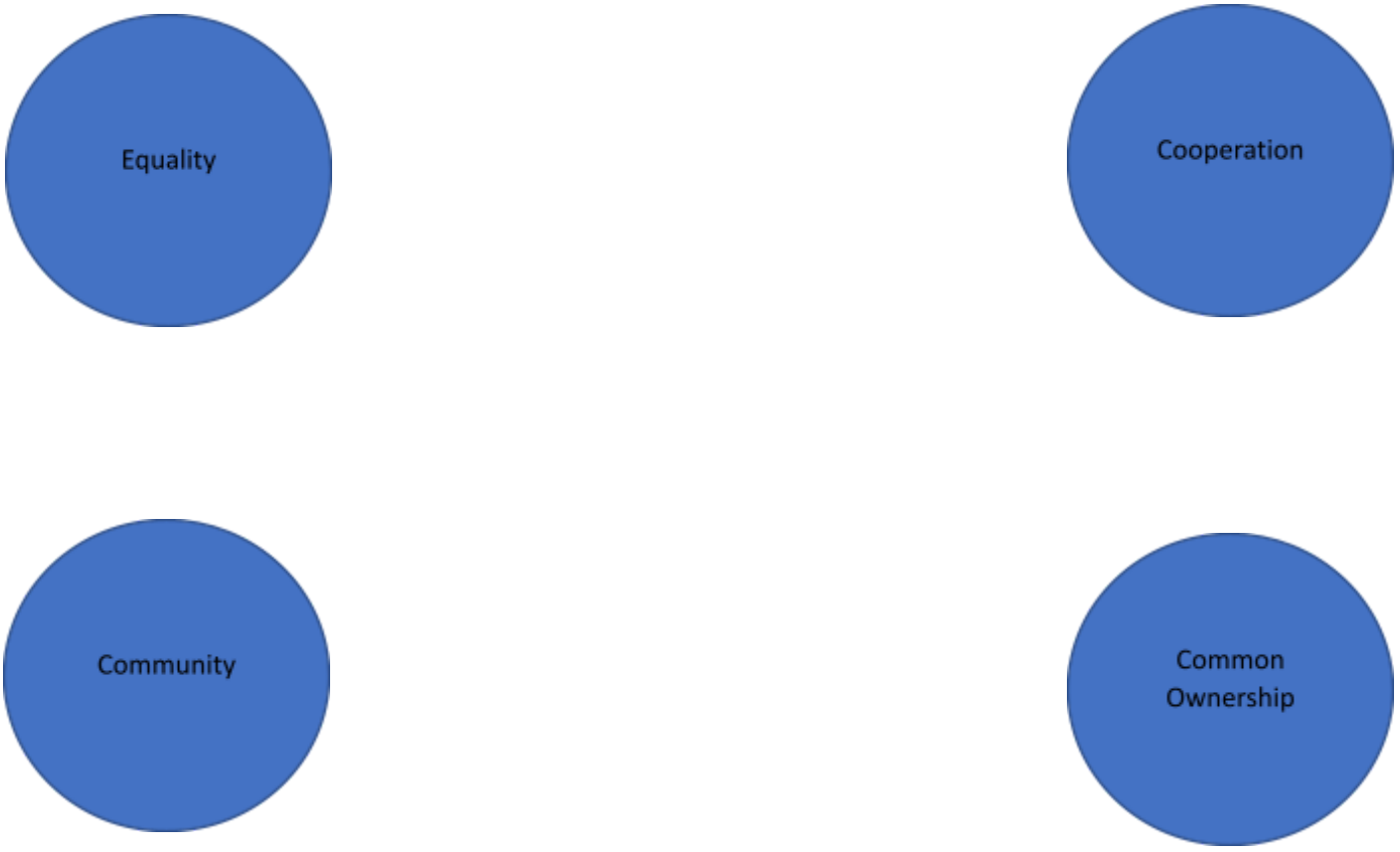
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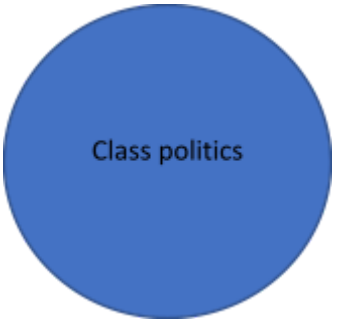
- Cooperation

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Linking the core principles of an ideology

Using your knowledge of the core principles of socialism, draw links between them. These could be shared thinkers, agreements and disagreement. Any links should be annotated to explain what these links are.





Edexcel Core themes

1. Summarise the core ideas of socialists for the four Edexcel themes
2. Make links between the key thinkers for socialism and these four themes

Aiming for A: how do the views of revolutionary, social democrats and Third Way Socialists differ on these four themes?

Human nature

State

Society

Economy

1. To what extent did Marxism develop from the 1960s onwards?

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Aiming for A:is Marxism now redundant? Justify your opinion.

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Core task: Outline the key ideas of the following socialist thinkers:
Extended task: ensure that your outline as key quotes that you could use in your answers

Marx and Engels

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Rosa Luxemburg

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Beatrice Webb

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Anthony Crosland

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Anthony Giddens

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Aiming for A: make links between the key thinkers – where do they agree and disagree with each other and how?











1. What is the difference between democratic socialism and social democracy?

2. Which aspect has had the greatest impact on western governments? Why?

3. To what extent is the Third Way an update of social democracy?

Section 3 – Exam questions

UK politics 30-mark source questions

1a. *The first source presents views following on from the 2015 General Election, where Ukip were unable to win a parliamentary seat. This article is taken from the Daily Telegraph and presents the views of former Ukip leader Nigel Farage. The second source, also from the Daily Telegraph was written by David Cameron in the run up to the 2011 AV referendum.*

Source 1

Nigel Farage has attacked a "bankrupt" electoral system that left the party with a single MP despite more people supporting the UK Independence Party than the Scottish National Party and Liberal Democrats. The former Ukip leader said he was appalled that 3.9million voted Ukip on Thursday – yet the party was left with a single MP. In comparison, the same number of people elected 64 SNP or LibDem MPs.

Ukip is now set to make electoral reform a key plank in the party's campaigning strategy over the next five years, with one plan including a march through London. Mr Farage pointed out that Douglas Carswell, the party's single MP, was a passionate advocate of electoral reform. He said: "I think the First Past The Post system is bankrupt, it is bankrupt because one party can get 50 per cent of the vote in Scotland and nearly 100 per cent of the seats, and our party can get four million votes and just one seat. "For those reasons there are a lot of angry Ukip people out there. They're not giving up on Ukip, but absolutely determined that we get a fairer, more reflective system. "Electoral reform wouldn't just make our politics fairer, I think it would make it more open, more honest, and we would see some real, real debate. "This result leaves millions of people unrepresented and the current system leads to negative campaign in general elections – this needs to change."

Source 2

To me there are four important reasons to save the First-Past-the-Post system we use today. The first is its simplicity. It's so simple it can be summed up in one sentence: the candidate who gets the most votes wins. Just compare that to AV: a confusing mess of preferences, probabilities and permutations.

Leaving aside the clear danger that this complexity could encourage negative campaigning – as in Australia, where voters are greeted at polling stations by party apparatchiks with 'How to Vote' cards, telling people the exact order in which to rank each candidate – it would also throw up some patently unfair results.

Under AV, the person who comes third in people's first preferences can end up coming first in the race. It makes winners of losers and losers of winners. The result could be a Parliament full of second-choices who no one really wanted but didn't really object to either. The second major strength of First-Past-the-Post is its effectiveness. Throughout history, it has risen to the demands of the time, often with a brutal decisiveness. That's what happened when it brought in the Thatcher government in 1979. The British people recognised it was time for change – and the electoral system didn't let them down.

On other occasions, when the public has felt that none of the major parties have all of the answers, it has led to a hung Parliament – as it did last year. Under AV, such decisiveness is much less likely. It will make hung Parliaments more commonplace and make it more difficult to kick out tired governments.

Using the source, evaluate the view that the Westminster voting system should be reformed.

1b. *This source is adapted from a blog by Dr Andrew Defty of the University of Lincoln, entitled 'Press affiliation and the 2015 General Election', posted 19 November 2015.*

At the 2015 general election five out of 11 national daily newspapers supported the Conservative Party. Only two supported Labour, The Mirror and the The Guardian, Conservative press share in 2015 was 71% compared to 15% for Labour and 5% for the Liberal Democrats. The overwhelming Conservative domination of the press would seem to reinforce the argument that press support is central to electoral reform.

However, it is hard to know exactly what influence, if any, the press has on voting behaviour. The newspaper one reads does not necessarily define political affiliation. There is clearly some link; polling data from 2015 clearly indicates that the majority of Guardian and Mirror readers vote Labour while the overwhelming majority of Telegraph and Daily Mail readers vote Conservative. However, a small proportion of Guardian readers vote Conservative (6%), and research shows that a large proportion of Labour MPs are avid readers of The Daily Mail, and not always to find out what the Conservative opposition thinks.

The circulation of daily newspapers in the UK is in seemingly terminal decline. Out of a total electorate in May 2015 of around 45 million, the total circulation of national newspapers in the UK was around 7 million, one in six voters. It is hard to attribute significant political influence to newspapers which are read by such a small proportion of the voting public. However, while print sales are in decline this has been at least partly offset by the online presence of Britain's daily newspapers, which has grown significantly in recent years.

Britain has a highly partisan press and in recent years political parties have spent a great deal of energy and money chasing the endorsement of various section of the print media. However, there are significant questions about whether this has a significant or indeed any impact on electoral fortunes.

(Source: whorunsbritain.blogs.lincoln.ac.uk/2015/11/19/press-affiliation-and-the-2015-general-election)

Using the source, evaluate the view that the newspaper press does NOT have a major influence on voting behaviour.

1c. *This source is adapted from a report produced in 2014 by The University of London Constitutional unit, called 'Is Britain Facing a Crisis of Democracy?' The report was based on a four-year research project on this issue.*

'On certain measures, Britain does, indeed, appear to be facing something of a participation crisis in its political system. Levels of trust in government and confidence in the political system are lower than they were little more than a decade ago. Electoral turnout has fallen sharply, most noticeably at the 2001 general election. Meanwhile, the introduction of new political institutions since 1997, designed in part to restore people's trust and confidence, appears to have had little impact.

On the other hand, people do not seem more disengaged from the political system. Participation outside the ballot box has increased somewhat over the last fifteen or so years. Levels of political interest have not fallen, and people remain confident in their own ability to engage with the political process and to believe in the importance of voting at elections.

Perhaps the most reassuring evidence from our research is that which suggests the decline in trust and turnout is not due to long-term social forces, but to short-term political ones. The most plausible explanation for the decline in trust is the public reaction to allegations of misconduct and 'sleaze' on the part of politicians.

These conclusions suggest that the remedies for any 'crisis' largely lie in the hands of politicians themselves. Trust is acquired when words and actions accord with one another. And only a closely fought and clear competition between the parties appears to prompt many citizens to cast their vote. Meanwhile constitutional change should not be regarded as a quick fix. However, it would be wise to look to measures to both reform and improve democracy in the UK. Hence, British democracy – and especially its politicians – certainly face a 'challenge'. But talk of a 'crisis' is premature.'

Using the source, evaluate the view that UK democracy is in crisis

1d. *This source is adapted from information on the Parliament website about the party system and information on the 'Vice magazine' UK website focused on minority parties.*

The party system

Political parties have existed in one form or another since at least the 18th century, they are an essential element of UK politics. Since the Second World War, all the Governments in the UK have been formed by either the Labour Party or the Conservative Party. This did differ in 2010 when the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats formed a coalition government. The major parties capture the main issues of the day and present choice. Furthermore, the current electoral system favours few parties in the race to govern.

Minority parties

'Minority parties' are those that sit outside the traditional big three (Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat Parties) and have had power over Parliament for over a century. A significant shift has taken place in politics in recent years, with more people questioning the 'Establishment of Westminster' and looking to parties like the SNP, Plaid Cymru, the Green Party and UKIP.

In 2015, UKIP and the Greens obtained 5 million votes between them, also the SNP reached 56 seats of the 59 available in Scotland, becoming the third largest party in the House of Commons. Minority parties are enjoying success and recognition.

A secure victory is now not the expected norm for either Labour or Conservative Parties, they now have much to fear and much to lose from a range of minority parties who are gaining ground.

The voter has little to choose between when looking to the major parties. In terms of policy, there is little that separates the major parties and all the policy they produce is similar, with battles over style as opposed to substance. By contrast, many of the minority parties present a fresh approach to politics.

Source: from www.parliament.uk – used under Open Parliament Licence v3.0 and adapted from: The New Wave: Minority Parties – SNP, Plaid Cymru and the Green Party http://www.vice.com/en_uk/video/the-new-wave-minority-parties)

Using the source, evaluate the view that the major parties still remain the dominant force in UK politics.

1e. *The source presents two different views of the social media group, 38 Degrees – one from David Babbs who welcomes the group's activities because it alerts citizens to a current issue and empowers them to express their views and to achieve change and another from Conservative MP, Guy Opperman, who believes that such social-based media platforms may hinder fair and open debate.*

David Babbs states: People are not as apathetic as politicians often claim. 38 Degrees gives people a sense of purpose and ownership and gets them involved. Many people feel that conventional politics doesn't work: it does not change government policy. 38 Degrees changes all that, it brings politics to life and enables people to interact with politics in a way that has not been possible before. In its numerous campaigns 38 Degrees has shown that politicians change their minds if sufficiently large numbers of people express an alternative view. MPs get angry about 38 Degrees, often claiming our exposures of their activities are inaccurate. MPs have to realise that democracy is about more people participating. Furthermore 38 Degrees sees action move from the digital and social media platforms to face-to-face meetings. There are a lot of issues where ordinary people's participation makes for better decisions.

Guy Opperman, MP states: Being lobbied by pressure groups is a regular part of an MP's life. 38 Degrees has set itself up as a critic of the government on a number of issues. There is nothing wrong with this. But it is totally wrong to spin, as matters of fact, claims that are simply not correct. 38 Degrees has an agenda. So they have simply presented the opposite view as fact, ignoring reasoned debate. It is totally irresponsible, when trying to exercise influence as a pressure group, to twist the facts completely. Websites like 38 Degrees are not taking political debate any further, but hindering it by demanding alternative outcomes. Assertions by 38 Degrees are often riddled with errors, overstatement and simple inaccuracies. This is not a constructive way to conduct important debates about reforming and improving life in the UK.

(Sources: adapted from http://blogs.ft.com/westminster/ 2016/02/interview-david babbsfounder-38-degrees/ and http://www.conservativehome.com/platform/2011/09/fromguyoppermanmp-

the-falsehood-of-the-38-degrees-campaign-on-health.html)

Using the source, evaluate the view that pressure group activity supports democracy and participation.

1f. *The source involves comments on the 2016 EU referendum from the Constitution Unit of University College, London and statistical information concerning the referendum provided by Parliament.*

In a parliamentary democracy, advisory referendums are potentially destabilising because they generate alternative, competing sources of democratic legitimacy. If a referendum demonstrates that a majority of the public hold the opposite view to elected representatives, which view of democratic legitimacy carries most authority? Some reasonably take the view that a referendum won by a very narrow margin is an insufficient mandate for major change. A 'Leave' vote, if implemented, is effectively irreversible: a 'Remain' vote leaves open the possibility of future referendums on the same issue. For this reason, many constitutional commentators believe that major referendums should require some form of super-majority – 60 per cent of votes cast is the threshold most commonly suggested.

However, there are arguments that support the legitimacy of the EU referendum. It produced a turnout of 33 million voters, more than any other referendum. It was a very rare example of direct democracy for the whole of the UK. Clearly parliament only exists and MPs only function by and for the will of the people. Key factors endorse its legitimacy: holding it was a feature of the Conservative manifesto. World leaders regard the vote as being decisive, as Mrs May has stressed in meetings with EU leaders. In summary – the government is constitutionally mandated to implement this decisive vote by the people.
Proportion of the vote across the UK in the EU Referendum June 2016

	Leave the EU %	Remain in the EU %
England	53.4%	46.6%
Wales	52.5%	47.5%
Scotland	38.0%	62.0%
Northern Ireland	44.2%	55.8%
United Kingdom (overall)	**51.9%**	**48.1%**

(Sources: adapted from https://constitution-unit.com/2016/07/22/the-eu-referendum-andsome-paradoxes-of-democratic-legitimacy/ and http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-7639)

Using the source, evaluate the view that referendums create more problems than solutions.

1g. *This source is adapted from a blog by Dr Andrew Defty of the University of Lincoln, entitled 'Press affiliation and the 2015 General Election', posted 19 November 2015.*

At the 2015 general election five out of 11 national daily newspapers supported the Conservative Party. Only two supported Labour, The Mirror and the The Guardian, Conservative press share in 2015 was 71% compared to 15% for Labour and 5% for the Liberal Democrats. The overwhelming Conservative domination of the press would seem to

Using the source, evaluate the view that the newspaper press does NOT have a major influence on voting behaviour.

1h. *This source comes from an academic report on pressure group influence*

Liberal democratic governments favour disproportionately the interests of well-funded, well-organised pro-capitalist pressure groups because governments depend for their very survival on the profitability and efficiency of private capitalism, on which in turn levels of employments, living standards and economic growth depend. Furthermore, most pressure groups, apart from trade unions, are joined mainly by relatively affluent middle-class people and most pressure group leaders [who may not be chosen by especially democratic methods] are even more likely to be middle class. It has also been argued that the existence of so many pressure groups persuades people to believe that they have influence when in fact they have very little. From the 1970s theorists influenced by New Right ideology

Using the source, evaluate the view that group activity undermines democracy in the UK.

1i. *This source has been taken from the 2015 General Election manifestoes of the Conservative Party and the Labour Party.*

SEVENTEEN

Conservative manifesto policies, 2015
Make migrants wait four years before they can claim certain benefits
Stop migrants from claiming child benefit from dependents living outside the UK, and remove those that have failed to find work after six months
Eradicate the deficit by 2018 and secure an overall budget surplus by 2019-20
Achieve the above by spending cuts, not tax rises, while raising NHS spending
Extra £2 billion into frontline health services across the UK
In England, everyone would be able to see a GP seven days a week by 2020
An income tax cut for 30 million people by 2020
No increases in VAT
Hold a referendum on Britain's membership of the EU by 2017
Protect foreign aid budget
Replace Trident
Create 3 million apprenticeships to be paid for by benefit cuts

Labour manifesto policies, 2015
Stronger border controls to tackle illegal immigration with 'proper' entry and exit checks
'Smarter' targets to reduce low-skilled migration but ensure students and high-skilled worker are not deterred
Employment agencies to be stopped from only recruiting abroad: higher fines for employing illegal immigrants
Get the current budget unto surplus and the national debt falling 'as soon as possible in the next Parliament'; no additional borrowing for new spending
An extra £2.5 billion a year above the Conservative plan for the NHS
Patients in England would get a GP appointment within 48 hours and wait no longer than a week doe cancer tests and results
Scrap the Health and Social Care Act and end 'creeping privatisation' of the NHS
Reintroduce the 50p top tax rate of income tax for earnings over £150,000
Cut income tax for 24 million people by brining back the 10p rate, paid for by scrapping the married couples' tax allowance
Bring in a 'mansion tax' on properties worth over "2million to raise £1.2 billion
A tax on bankers' bonuses
Push for reform of the EU and prevent Britain from 'sleepwalking towards exit'
Guarantee a job for under 25s unemployed for over a year and adults unemployed for more than two years
Commit to holding a strategic defence and security review every five years

(SOURCE: the 2015 general election manifestos)

Using the source, evaluate the view that there is little in common between Conservative and Labour Party policies and ideas.

1j.

Advantages of FPTP
It's simple to understand
It doesn't cost much to administer
It is fairly quick to count the votes and work out who has won
It enables voters to clearly express a view on which party they think should form the next government
It is ideally suited to a two-party system and generally produces single-party governments, which tend not to have to rely on support from other parties to pass legislation
Some argue that FPTP encourages board-church centralists policies and keeps out extremists

Disadvantages of FPTP
Representatives can get elected with low levels of public support
It encourages tactical voting
It is regarded as wasteful, as votes cast in a constituency for losing candidates, or for the winning candidate above the level they need to win the seat, count for nothing
It can severely restrict voter choice. Parties are not homogenous and do not speak with one unified voice
Rather than allocating seats in line with actual support, FPTP rewards parties with what is often termed 'lumpy' support. Third parties with significant support may be greatly disadvantaged
With relatively small constituency sizes, the way boundaries are drawn can have important effects on the election result
Having small constituencies often leads to a proliferation of safe seats, where the same party is all but guaranteed re-election
If large areas are effectively electoral deserts for a particular party, those areas may be ignored by the party. Ambitious local politicians may have to move away if they aspire to influence within their party

Using the source, evaluate the view that FPTP is no longer suitable for UK general elections.

1k.

Why did the Conservatives lose the 1997 election, especially at a time of economic recovery?

Britain's forced withdrawal from the ERM in 1992 (which, paradoxically, helped recovery)
The government had driven forward unpopular policies, for example, rail privatisation and an increase in VAT.
The government had an air of arrogance and hubris despite issues such as sleaze, cheating on pairing. on fishing quotas (1996), arms to Iraq, IRA prison escapes, BSE, judicial reviews. Ministers were reluctant to take responsibility and resign.
John Major had a minority government by the end of 1996, dependent on Unionists in the Commons.
Manifest and bitter party disunity over Europe
Sniping from the wings by James Goldsmith's Referendum Party and Alan Sked's Independence Party.
Unpopularity of Major when compared to Blair.
Inept campaigning, for example, the 'demon eyes' and weeping lion' posters which were ridiculed.
The Conservative press largely turned against them, especially the *Sun*
Longest post-war electoral campaign, which backfired.
It was time for a change – a widely held public sentiment

Why did Labour win?
John Smith's death in 1994 allowed creation of a New Labour by the more modernising Tony Blair - notably, abandonment of Clause IV in 1995.
Rapid centralisation of the party, increased focus on the leader, the work of spin-doctors at Millbank election headquarters and a highly polished election campaign.
Abandonment of traditional socialist – or even social democratic - principles and acceptance of market economics, low inflation and interest rates, cuts to taxation, spending and welfare.
Pre-election commitment to maintain existing tax levels for a five-year term and existing spending levels for two years; 'welfare to work'; tough law and order, especially for juvenile offenders.
Difficult for the Conservatives to criticise what were, largely their own policies.
Desire for power, combined with growing party discipline, largely silenced left-wing dissidents.
Internal reforms, for example, some reduction in trade union power; introduction of one member one vote.
Europe was not an obviously contentious issue as it was for the Tories.
Introduced new, radical proposals for constitutional reform.

Using the source, evaluate the view that governments lose elections rather than the opposition winning then.

UK Politics 30 mark essay questions

1. Evaluate the extent to which the UK is in the midst of a 'participation crisis' (30)
2. Evaluate the extent to which the UK suffers from a 'democratic deficit' (30)
3. Evaluate the extent to which reforms to the political system have improved the UK's system of representative democracy. (30)

4. Evaluate the extent to which the pressure groups with the greatest means achieve their objectives. (30)
5. Evaluate the extent to which democratic rights are protected in the British political system. (30)
6. Evaluate the extent to which rights and liberties are protected in the UK (30)
7. Evaluate the way in which various rights are protected in the UK (30)
8. Evaluate the extent to which Theresa May's Conservative Party is Thatcherite (30)
9. Evaluate the extent to which the modern Labour Party is true to traditional Labour values (30)
10. Evaluate the extent to which third parties can influence UK politics (30)
11. Evaluate the extent to which the UK is a two-party system (30)
12. Evaluate the extent of internal divisions within the current UK political parties. (30)
13. Evaluate the extent to which First Past the Post produces strong and stable Westminster government. (30)
14. Evaluate the extent to which the advantages of First Past the Post outweigh its disadvantages (30)
15. Evaluate the extent to which alternatives to First Past the Post can be considered better electoral systems. (30)
16. Evaluate the extent to which the wider use of referendums would improve democracy in the UK (30)
17. Evaluate the view that voters in UK do not want the choice provided by proportional election systems (30)
18. Evaluate the extent to which the use of alternative electoral systems has improved democracy in the UK (30)
19. Evaluate how far the use of referendums undermines representative democracy in the UK. (30)
20. Evaluate the extent to which the newspaper press has a major influence on voting behaviour. (30)
21. Evaluate the extent to which social class can be seen as the main determinant of voting behaviour in UK general elections. (30)
22. Evaluate the extent to which short-term factors (e.g. perception of leaders) are now more important than long-term factors (e.g. social class) in influencing the outcome of UK general elections (30)
23. Evaluate how far class voting remains the most important factor in determining the results of general elections in the UK. You should refer to at least three general elections, one pre-1997 that of 1997 and on post-1997. (30)
24. 'The influence of the media is the most important factor that determines the success or failure of a political party.' (30)
25. Evaluate the extent to which voting behaviour has changed in the UK. You should refer to at least three general elections, one pre-1997 that of 1997 and on post-1997. (30)
26. Evaluate the view that, for the general public, the media is more significant than policy statements and manifestoes from political parties (30)
27. Evaluate the extent to which general elections in the UK are lost by the government rather than won by the opposition. (30)

<u>Core ideologies 24 mark essay questions</u>

1. To what extent do modern and classical liberals agree over the role of the state? (24)
2. To what extent is there agreement between classical and modern liberals? (24)
3. To what extent have modern liberals abandoned individualism and embraced collectivism? (24)
4. To what extent does modern liberalism depart from the ideas of classical liberalism? (24)
5. To what extent have modern liberals abandoned individualism and embraced collectivism? (24)

6. To what extent does modern liberalism depart from the ideas of classical liberalism? (24)
7.
8. To what extent is there agreement between classical and modern liberals? (24)
9. To what extent can liberalism be reconciled to collectivism? (24)
10. To what extent is conservatism merely the politics of pragmatism? (24)
11. To what extent is conservatism a philosophy of imperfection? (24)
12. To what extent is conservatism a coherent ideology? (24)
13. To what extent are the views of One Nation conservatives on the economy consistent with those of the New Right? (24)
14. To what extent are conservatives pragmatic? (24)
15. To what extent do conservatives differ over the role of the state? (24)
16. To what extent do conservatives have a common view of human nature? (24)
17. To what extent do different conservatives agree on the importance of paternalism? (24)
18. To what extent are socialists committed to equality of outcome? (24)
19. To what extent does socialism require revolutionary change? (24)
20. 'Socialists have disagreed over means rather than the ends'. To what extent is this true?
21. To what extent is class politics an essential feature of socialism? (24)
22. On what grounds have Marxists predicted the inevitable collapse of capitalism? (24)
23. How closely did Orthodox communism reflect the classical idea of Marx? (24)
24. To what extent is socialism defined by a rejection of capitalism? (24)
25. To what extent is social democracy really a form of socialism? (24)
26. To what extent is the social democratic compromise inherently unstable (24)
27. To what extent do different socialists agree over the role of the state? (24)
28. To what extent *can* there be a 'third way' between capitalism and socialism? (24)