

PiXL Independence:

Government and Politics – Student Booklet

KS5

Government and Politics of the United Kingdom

Contents:

- I. Multiple Choice Questions – 10 credits per section (should get 8/10 correct for credits) (100)
- II. Short Answer Questions – 20 credits per 2 questions (100)
- III. Middle Length Questions – 25 credits per question (50)
- IV. Wider Reading – 50 credits per article/link and 20 credits for using it to answer a question (3 per section – 30)
- V. Essay Style Questions – 100 credits per question and 20 if you mark your own (5 per section – 50)

I. Multiple Choice Questions

10 credits for each set of questions answered

Government in the UK - The British Constitution

1. A set of rules and principles that is written down in one single document and sets out the laws of the state is known as...
 - a. Bill of Rights
 - b. Uncodified constitution
 - c. Codified constitution
 - d. Limited government

2. The British constitution is...
 - a. Unwritten
 - b. Magna Carta
 - c. Parliament Acts
 - d. Uncodified

3. Which of these has placed the historical documents mentioned in the correct order that they were passed in the UK (earliest first)?
 - a. Bill of Rights, Acts of Union, Act of Settlement, European Communities Act
 - b. Magna Carta, Bill of Rights, Parliament Acts, Acts of Union
 - c. Magna Carta, Act of Settlement, Acts of Union, Parliament Acts
 - d. Act of Settlement, Bill of Rights, Acts of Union, Parliament Acts

4. Which of the following is not a source of the UK constitution?
 - a. Common law
 - b. Parliamentary sovereignty
 - c. Statute
 - d. Conventions

5. Which of the following best defines the idea of royal prerogative?
- a. Law derived from Acts of Parliament and subordinate legislation
 - b. The power of senior judges to review the actions of government and declare them unlawful
 - c. Discretionary powers of the Crown that are exercised by government ministers
 - d. Law derived from general customs or traditions
6. Which of these statute laws allowed the Commons the power to control the Lords over money bills?
- a. Great Reform Act 1832
 - b. Parliament Act 1911
 - c. Parliament Act 1949
 - d. Scotland Act 1998
7. Where does common law come from?
- a. Courts
 - b. Accepted practice
 - c. Ordinary commoners
 - d. The House of Commons
8. When did the monarch last refuse assent to a bill?
- a. 1660
 - b. 1707
 - c. 1812
 - d. 1911

9. Who was responsible for the phrase about the Prime Minister that they were 'first among equals'?

- a. Erskine May
- b. A. V. Dicey
- c. Lord Hailsham
- d. Walter Bagehot

10. Which of these is the most important principle of the UK constitution?

- a. Parliamentary sovereignty
- b. The rule of law
- c. A unitary state
- d. Parliamentary government allowed by a constitutional monarchy

Government in the UK - Parliament

11. If a bill starts on the floor of the House of Commons, how many readings will it have before it gains royal assent?

- a. 3
- b. 4
- c. 6
- d. 8

12. How many people sit in the House of Commons when it is full?

- a. 600
- b. 625
- c. 629
- d. 650

13. How many people sit in the House of Lords when it is full?

- a. 796
- b. 802
- c. 812
- d. 822

14. Who decides the vote in the event of a tie in the House of Commons?

- a. The monarch
- b. The Prime Minister
- c. The Lord Chancellor
- d. The speaker

15. Which of these is the correct model of representation favoured by Edmund Burke?

- a. Delegate
- b. Trustee
- c. Functional
- d. Mandate

16. At which general election did the Labour Party first use all women shortlists?

- a. 1992
- b. 1997
- c. 2001
- d. 2005

17. What percentage of the MPs are Black and Minority Ethnic?

- a. 6
- b. 7
- c. 8
- d. 9

18. What is a Green Paper?

- a. A law passed by parliament
- b. A government document setting out legislative options
- c. A bill concerning the use of public money
- d. A document from the government setting out a detailed proposal for legislation

19. Which of these countries has its own parliament?

- a. Scotland
- b. Wales
- c. England
- d. Northern Ireland

20. What is it called when one party is in power but does not have enough votes to guarantee success?

- a. Majority
- b. Coalition
- c. Minority
- d. National government

Government in the UK - The Prime Minister

21. Which prime minister was the last to lose their position due to a general election defeat?
- a. John Major
 - b. Tony Blair
 - c. Gordon Brown
 - d. David Cameron
22. How many cabinet positions are permanently available to be filled not including the PM?
- a. 20
 - b. 21
 - c. 22
 - d. 23
23. Which are the three most senior positions available in the cabinet?
- a. Chancellor, Foreign Secretary, Home Secretary
 - b. Chancellor, Foreign Secretary, Defence Secretary
 - c. Chancellor, Home Secretary, Health Secretary
 - d. Chancellor, Foreign Secretary, Health Secretary
24. Why should ministers resign if they do not agree with government policy?
- a. Individual responsibility
 - b. Party loyalty
 - c. Collective responsibility
 - d. They shouldn't

25. Which of the sub-committees of the cabinet are permanent while the prime minister is in office?

- a. Implementation taskforce
- b. Ad hoc committees
- c. Ministerial sub-committees
- d. Ministerial standing committees

26. Who was the last person to become prime minister whilst still a member of the House of Lords?

- a. Winston Churchill
- b. Anthony Eden
- c. Harold Macmillan
- d. Alec Douglas-Home

27. Which of these are not covered under the powers of patronage of the PM?

- a. The honours system
- b. Succession planning
- c. Life peers
- d. Appointing cabinet ministers

28. Which prime minister introduced the poll tax?

- a. James Callaghan
- b. Harold Wilson
- c. Edward Heath
- d. Margaret Thatcher

29. Who resigned over the Crichton Down affair?

- a. Winston Churchill
- b. Anthony Eden
- c. Sir Thomas Dugdale
- d. David Blunkett

30. Who is reported to have said 'all political lives end in failure'?

- a. David Cameron
- b. Tony Blair
- c. Gordon Brown
- d. John Major

Government in the UK - The judiciary

31. Which is the highest court in the UK?

- a. High Court
- b. Court of Appeal
- c. Crown Court
- d. Supreme Court

32. How many justices serve in the court from Q.31?

- a. 10
- b. 12
- c. 14
- d. 16

33. What does it mean to say that judges should be able to operate without bias?

- a. Judicial independence
- b. Judicial neutrality

34. What is meant by ultra vires?

- a. Acting beyond the authority given by parliament
- b. Acting outside the law
- c. Acting in a way that makes more public money
- d. When a country does not have to observe a law for a period of time.

35. What were the Supreme Court justices previously named within parliament?

- a. MPs
- b. Peers
- c. Lords Ecclesiastical
- d. Lords of Appeal in Ordinary

36. Why was the Factortame case so important from 1990?

- a. It allowed UK law to be judged ultra vires
- b. It allowed the EU to remove UK law
- c. It decided that UK law had to be compatible with EU law
- d. It increased the conflict between the Law Lords and the government

37. If the UK government is found to have broken EU law it must answer for it currently at...

- a. The Supreme Court
- b. European Court of Human Rights
- c. European Court of Justice
- d. European Council

38. Which is seen to be more powerful?

- a. The UK Supreme Court
- b. The US Supreme Court

39. Why is the Supreme Court constantly open to the accusation of changing the law?

- a. The UK has no constitution that is codified, so can be constantly changed
- b. The UK has a constitution that is uncodified, so the Supreme Court can advise changes to statute law
- c. The Supreme Court in the UK sets a precedent for all courts to follow for future cases
- d. All of the above

40. Who is currently the President of the Supreme Court?

- a. Lord Reed
- b. Lord Neuberger
- c. Lady Hale
- d. Lord Kerr

Government in the UK - Devolution

41. Which of the devolved institutions are seen as the most powerful?
- a. Welsh Assembly
 - b. London Assembly
 - c. Scottish Parliament
 - d. Northern Ireland Assembly
42. In which year previously was a vote held on devolution, when Scotland voted 52% yes but were denied a Scottish assembly?
- a. 1977
 - b. 1978
 - c. 1979
 - d. 1980
43. Which electoral system is used in the Scottish Parliament?
- a. First past the post
 - b. Additional member system
 - c. Additional vote
 - d. Single transferable vote
44. In which policy area does the Scottish government have powers that the Welsh and Northern Irish do not?
- a. Health
 - b. Environment
 - c. Education
 - d. Tax

45. Which party has been in government in Wales since 1999?

- a. Liberal Democrats
- b. Conservative
- c. Labour
- d. Plaid Cymru

46. How many of the 60 members for Wales are voted in from the regional list?

- a. 40
- b. 30
- c. 20
- d. 10

47. What is unusual about the Northern Ireland Assembly?

- a. All 108 members are made up of two parties
- b. It has to have a government made up of two opposing parties
- c. It has no specific devolved powers

48. Which are the two largest parties (currently) in Northern Ireland?

- a. Ulster Unionist Party and Social Democratic Labour Party
- b. Democratic Unionist Party and Social Democratic Labour Party
- c. Ulster Unionist Party and Sinn Fein
- d. Democratic Unionist Party and Sinn Fein

49. What is the West Lothian question?

- a. Should English MPs vote on Scottish laws
- b. Should Scottish MPs vote on English laws
- c. Should there be only English votes for English laws
- d. All of the above

50. Which person has been voted the first mayor directly elected in Greater Manchester in 2017?

- a. Andy Burnham
- b. George Osborne
- c. William Hague
- d. Ed Miliband

Politics in the UK - Democracy and participation

51. Which type of democracy allows most people the vote and wants representatives to act in the best interests of everybody?

- a. Liberal
- b. Majoritarian
- c. Presidential
- d. Representative

52. Which type of democracy is it when a referendum is called?

- a. Majoritarian
- b. Parliamentary
- c. Direct
- d. Representative

53. This is a system where the views of the most people are all the government are interested in pleasing:

- a. Majoritarian
- b. Liberal
- c. Direct
- d. Representative

54. The UK parliament uses the first past the post system (FPTP) which has some major issues, which of these is not one of them?

- a. Wasted votes
- b. Unrepresentative
- c. Strong governments
- d. Winner's bonus

55. When were all men over 21 given the vote?

- a. 1832
- b. 1867
- c. 1918
- d. 1928

56. When were all women over the age of 18 given the vote?

- a. 1867
- b. 1918
- c. 1928
- d. 1969

57. In 2005 the case of Hirst v UK was deciding on whether who had the right to vote?

- a. Prisoners
- b. People living abroad
- c. People previously judged mentally incapable
- d. Peers (Lords)

58. When Tony Blair and Labour won the 1997 election, there was a turnout of 71% and he won a 179-seat majority. What was unusual about this election result?

- a. It was the lowest turnout since 1923
- b. He got less votes than John Major who had a 21-seat majority in 1992
- c. It saw a significant rise in 18-24 year old voters
- d. It was the best turnout of the 20th Century

59. Which of the following is described as 'an essential part of life and cannot be removed'?

- a. Absolute
- b. Fundamental
- c. Universal
- d. Positive rights

60. Which of the following is not a civic responsibility?

- a. Free speech
- b. Pay taxes
- c. Obey the law
- d. Serve on a jury

Politics in the UK - Elections and referendums

61. Which social class is most likely to vote in elections?

- a. AB
- b. C1
- c. C2
- d. DE

62. Which age bracket is most likely to vote in elections (by %)?

- a. 18-19
- b. 30-39
- c. 50-59
- d. 70+

63. 39% of people classed as white voted Conservative in 2015, what percentage of those classed as BAME voted for the same party?

- a. 14
- b. 23
- c. 56
- d. 65

64. In 2015 which party saw a record number of seats for their party won at the general election?

- a. Conservatives
- b. Liberal Democrats
- c. Labour
- d. Scottish Nationalist Party

65. Whose 1983 manifesto was described as the longest suicide note in history?

- a. Conservatives
- b. Liberal-SDP Alliance
- c. Labour
- d. SNP

66. In the 1997 election the Labour party gained votes all over the country. Which area stayed predominantly Conservative?

- a. London
- b. South East
- c. South West
- d. Scotland

67. In 2017 Labour gained 30 seats and the Conservatives lost 13. However, in which social group did the Conservatives make the most gains?

- a. C1 and C2
- b. AB and C1
- c. C2 and DE
- d. AB and DE

68. How many UK-wide referendums have there been up until 2017?

- a. 3
- b. 4
- c. 5
- d. 6

69. Over what were there two referendum, one in 2005 in Edinburgh and another in 2008 in Manchester?

- a. Council tax rises
- b. Directly elected mayors
- c. Housing development
- d. Congestion charges

70. In 1992, John Major defied poor opinion polls and won the election. Who did a number of politicians say had the biggest impact on the election?

- a. The Sun newspaper
- b. BBC
- c. John Major
- d. Neil Kinnock

Politics in the UK - Political parties

71. Which is currently the second largest minority party, after the SNP, in the UK?

- a. Plaid Cymru
- b. DUP
- c. UKIP
- d. Green

72. How many MPs has UKIP had in its history as a political party?

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 3
- d. 4

73. The Conservatives grew out of the old Tory party from the House of Commons. Which PM is often named as the first Conservative leader?

- a. Pitt the Elder
- b. Pitt the Younger
- c. Robert Peel
- d. Lord John Russell

74. Who changed Conservative party policy significantly to move away from one-nation conservatism?

- a. Edward Heath
- b. Harold Macmillan
- c. John Major
- d. Margaret Thatcher

75. Which major group was a key player in the formation of the Labour party and played a key role well into the 1990s?

- a. Trade Union Congress
- b. Army
- c. Corporation of British Industry
- d. Communist party

76. Which clause of the 1918 Labour constitution was reworded by Tony Blair and Labour in 1995?

- a. Clause 2
- b. Clause 3
- c. Clause 4
- d. Clause 5

77. The Liberal Democrats are a merger of the Liberal Party and the Social Democratic Party. Which party did the 'Gang of Four' leave to make the SDP?

- a. Labour
- b. Conservatives
- c. Liberal

78. Why did Nick Clegg face a serious backlash after the 2010 general election?

- a. He was found to have cheated on expenses
- b. There was a serious change in policy that upset voters
- c. The majority of supporters felt they should have supported Labour
- d. He announced his intention to leave the party

79. Who was the opponent for Jeremy Corbyn in his 2016 Labour leadership election?

- a. Yvette Cooper
- b. Andy Burnham
- c. Angela Eagle
- d. Owen Smith

80. When the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act was passed in 2000, what was the limit that meant a donation had to be declared to the Electoral Commission?

- a. £1,000
- b. £5,000
- c. £10,000
- d. £30,000

Politics in the UK - Pressure groups

81. What is a pressure group called that has access to government and can influence policy making directly?

- a. Outsider
- b. Cause
- c. Insider
- d. Sectional

82. Which of these would be seen as a type of direct action that is intended to raise the profile of a group?

- a. Lobby
- b. Strike
- c. Give evidence at a hearing
- d. Digital campaign

83. Why might a pressure group have limited success?

- a. Cheque book membership
- b. Large membership
- c. Celebrity membership
- d. Insider status

84. Pressure groups are a great example of what in British society?

- a. End of corporatism
- b. Increasing turnout at elections
- c. The increasing participation crisis
- d. Pluralism in society

85. Why is the internet and social media not good for pressure groups?

- a. Too many groups, so one does not stand out or its cause may be misunderstood
- b. Easier and convenient method of political action
- c. Can allow a large rally or movement to take shape quickly and be easily coordinated
- d. Information can be shared easily and raising awareness

86. Which of the following is an example of a sectional group?

- a. British Medical Association
- b. Oxfam
- c. RSPCA
- d. Gurkha Justice

87. Which of the following is an example of a cause group?

- a. British Medical Association
- b. National Union of Teachers
- c. RSPCA
- d. RMT Union

88. Which of these is an insider group most likely to link with to achieve their aims?

- a. Think tanks
- b. Corporations
- c. Lobbyists
- d. Media

89. Which of these is an outsider group most likely to link with to achieve their aims?

- a. Think tanks
- b. Corporations
- c. Lobbyists
- d. Media

90. Which of the following pressure groups is unlikely to query the government over rights for citizens?

- a. British Dietetic Association
- b. Liberty
- c. Stonewall
- d. Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions

Politics in the UK - European Union

91. In which year did the UK vote to join the European Economic Community?

- a. 1952
- b. 1958
- c. 1968
- d. 1973

92. Which treaty set the way for the Euro by timetabling the monetary union of Europe, from which John Major secured an opt-out for the UK?

- a. Maastricht
- b. Amsterdam
- c. Nice
- d. Lisbon

93. Which of these allows government ministers from different countries to meet and discuss issues?

- a. European Commission
- b. European Council
- c. European Parliament
- d. European Court of Justice

94. How many members are there of the European Parliament?

- a. 651
- b. 721
- c. 751
- d. 771

95. What is it called when power for decisions is passed from a national government to the EU?

- a. Policy Competence
- b. Popular Sovereignty
- c. Legal Sovereignty
- d. Democratic Deficit

96. Which group of voters were most likely to vote Leave in the 2016 EU referendum?

- a. AB
- b. C1
- c. C2
- d. DE

97. What percentage of people voted Remain across the electorate in the EU referendum?

- a. 41.8
- b. 48
- c. 48.1
- d. 48.8

98. In which area of the country was the biggest vote for Remain?

- a. Greater London
- b. Scotland
- c. Northern Ireland
- d. South East

99. In which area of the country was the biggest vote for Leave?

- a. West Midlands
- b. East Midlands
- c. Yorkshire and the Humber
- d. East England/East Anglia

100. What is the provisional date for Britain leaving the European Union?

- a. 9th March 2019
- b. 17th March 2019
- c. 19th March 2019
- d. 29th March 2019

II. Short Answer Questions

20 credits per two questions

Government of the UK

The Constitution

1. Explain and analyse three constitutional changes introduced by Labour between 1997 and 2010.
2. Explain with examples the features of a codified constitution.
3. Explain with examples three historical documents that have influenced the UK constitution.
4. Explain and analyse three of the main sources of the UK constitution.
5. Explain with examples the idea of parliamentary sovereignty.
6. Explain with examples the difference between a unitary state, union state and federal state.
7. Explain and analyse three strengths of the UK constitution.
8. Explain and analyse three possible impacts of the Scotland Act 2016.
9. Explain and analyse arguments in favour of the UK having a codified constitution.
10. Explain with examples how the UK has delegated power from the UK parliament.

Parliament

1. Explain with examples the ways in which MPs represent their constituents.
2. Explain and analyse three powers of the House of Commons.
3. Explain with examples where the government is scrutinised in the House of Commons.
4. Explain with examples the three different types of government that an election can cause.

5. Explain and analyse three reforms of the House of Lords.
6. Explain and analyse the role of the Speaker.
7. Explain with examples the role of the whips.
8. Explain with examples three strengths of the House of Lords.
9. Explain and analyse the three different types of private members bills.
10. Explain and analyse three roles of the Opposition.

Prime Minister and Cabinet

1. Explain with examples the role of a government minister.
2. Explain and analyse the three main elements of collective responsibility.
3. Explain with examples the reasons for a ministerial resignation.
4. Explain and analyse three roles or powers that the cabinet has.
5. Explain with examples how someone might become prime minister.
6. Explain and analyse three powers of the prime minister.
7. Explain with examples the role of the Prime Minister's Office.
8. Explain and analyse three powers of the executive.
9. Explain with examples the different areas that make up the executive.
10. Explain and analyse three exceptions to collective responsibility.

The judiciary

1. Explain with examples the role of the Supreme Court.
2. Explain and analyse three ways that judicial neutrality is guaranteed.

3. Explain with examples the appointment process for the Supreme Court.
4. Explain and analyse three reasons for the establishment of the Supreme Court.
5. Explain with examples the power the Supreme Court has under the Human Rights Act.
6. Explain and analyse three key cases decided by the Supreme Court.
7. Explain with examples the idea of ultra vires.
8. Explain and analyse three ways in which the Supreme Court is criticised.
9. Explain with examples the idea of judicial review.
10. Explain and analyse three principles that underpin the UK Supreme Court.

Devolution

1. Explain and analyse three powers given to the Scottish Parliament.
2. Explain and analyse three impacts of devolution on UK politics.
3. Explain with examples what is meant by power-sharing.
4. Explain with examples what is unique in the UK about the Northern Ireland Assembly.
5. Explain and analyse three types of devolution within England.
6. Explain and analyse three impacts of the Scottish 2014 Independence referendum.
7. Explain with examples the idea of reserved powers.
8. Explain with examples the way Welsh Assembly members are elected.
9. Explain and analyse three areas of policy divergence.
10. Explain with examples the West Lothian question.

Politics of the UK

Democracy and participation

1. Explain with examples what is meant by direct democracy.
2. Explain with examples why the Westminster model is seen as under strain.
3. Explain and analyse three ways in which democracy could be improved in the UK.
4. Explain and analyse three extensions to the franchise since 1832.
5. Explain with examples the idea of parliamentary democracy.
6. Explain with examples the idea of pluralist democracy.
7. Explain and analyse three positive ways that democracy operates in the UK.
8. Explain and analyse three arguments that support the idea of a participation crisis.
9. Explain with examples the work of the Suffragettes.
10. Explain and analyse three reasons for extending the franchise to 16 year olds.

Elections and referendums

1. Explain with examples proportional representation.
2. Explain and analyse three reasons for removing first-past-the-post as an electoral system.
3. Explain with examples local referendums.
4. Explain and analyse three reasons for the increase in use of referendums.
5. Explain with examples minority government.
6. Explain and analyse three key issues in the 1997 election.
7. Explain with examples the impact of the media on elections.
8. Explain and analyse three ways that class impacts voting behaviour.

9. Explain with examples the impact of the 2010 general election.

10. Explain and analyse three changes in the role of the media.

Political parties

1. Explain and analyse three New Labour policies.

2. Explain and analyse three different categories of MPs under Margaret Thatcher.

3. Explain with examples why the UK is a two-party system.

4. Explain with examples an electoral mandate.

5. Explain and analyse three types of party in the UK.

6. Explain and analyse three changes David Cameron made to the Conservatives.

7. Explain with examples the factions of the Labour Party.

8. Explain with examples how parties choose a leader.

9. Explain and analyse three changes to party funding.

10. Explain with examples party structure.

Pressure groups

1. Explain with examples think tanks.

2. Explain with examples cause groups.

3. Explain and analyse three factors in pressure group success.

4. Explain and analyse three ways pressure groups can influence government policy.

5. Explain with examples direct action.

6. Explain and analyse three differences between insider and outsider groups.

7. Explain with examples why people join pressure groups.
8. Explain with examples pressure group methods.
9. Explain and analyse three failures of an outsider group.
10. Explain and analyse three successes of an insider group.

The European Union

1. Explain with examples the freedoms of the European Union.
2. Explain and analyse three treaties since 1992 from the European Union.
3. Explain with examples what is meant by a democratic deficit.
4. Explain and analyse three areas that the UK has conflicted with Europe.
5. Explain with examples the Common Agricultural Policy.
6. Explain and analyse three roles of the European Parliament.
7. Explain with examples the EU legislative process.
8. Explain and analyse three ways the UK is an 'awkward partner' with Europe.
9. Explain with examples the UK's funding of the EU budget.
10. Explain and analyse three ways in which the EU has met the original aims.

III. Mid-length Questions

25 credits per question

Government of the UK

The Constitution

1. Describe how the UK constitution was made.
2. Describe how the UK government works within a constitutional monarchy.
3. Evaluate the arguments for the UK needing more constitutional reform.
4. Evaluate the arguments for the UK maintaining an uncodified constitution.
5. Evaluate the argument 'English votes for English laws'.

Parliament

1. Describe how a bill is passed in the UK Parliament.
2. Describe the work of select committees.
3. Evaluate the arguments that the House of Commons is unrepresentative.
4. Evaluate the arguments that the House of Lords should be elected.
5. Evaluate the arguments that the House of Commons fails to scrutinise the government effectively.

Prime Minister and the Cabinet

1. Describe what is meant by collective responsibility.
2. Describe the main powers of the prime minister.
3. Evaluate the view that the prime minister is primus inter pares (first among equals).
4. Evaluate the view that cabinet government no longer exists.
5. Describe the role of the cabinet.

The judiciary

1. Evaluate the view that judicial independence is achieved in the UK Supreme Court.
2. Evaluate the view that the Supreme Court has had little impact since 2009.
3. Describe the work of the Supreme Court in upholding the Human Rights Act.
4. Describe the appointment process of a Supreme Court justice.
5. Evaluate the view that the Supreme Court is not representative of the UK as a whole.

Devolution

1. Describe the current state of devolution in the United Kingdom today.
2. Describe the EVEL (English votes for English laws) argument and why it has arisen again since 2014.
3. Evaluate whether devolution has been successful in Scotland since 1997.
4. Evaluate the view that further devolution in England is unnecessary.
5. Describe the devolution process in Northern Ireland.

Politics of the UK

Democracy and participation

1. Evaluate whether more could be done to improve democracy.
2. Evaluate whether the UK has a participation crisis.
3. Describe how the franchise has extended since 1918.
4. Describe which groups seem to be most politically active and consider why.
5. Describe how democracy exists in the UK.

Elections and Referendums

1. Describe the criticisms of first-past-the-post electoral system.
2. Describe the use of referendums in the UK political system.
3. Evaluate the view that parliamentary sovereignty is undermined by referendums.
4. Evaluate the view that proportional representation gives voters greater choice.
5. Describe the impact of the 1997 election on the Conservative party.

Political Parties

1. Evaluate the view that political parties have lost their core beliefs.
2. Evaluate the argument that there is no longer a two-party system.
3. Evaluate the argument that minor parties are becoming cause groups.
4. Describe the UK party system.
5. Describe the different ways parties elect a leader.

Pressure groups

1. Describe the main actions of a pressure group.
2. Describe the difference between an insider and outsider group.
3. Describe the features of a sectional group.
4. Evaluate the view that pressure groups are bad for democracy.
5. Evaluate the view that cause groups are less successful than sectional groups.

European Union

1. Describe the main functions of the European parliament.
2. Evaluate the view that the European single market is a success.
3. Describe the process for passing legislation in the European Union.
4. Evaluate the view that the European Court of Justice is an effective check on governments.
5. Evaluate the view that the European Union has too much power.

IV. Wider Reading

50 credits per article/link, with an additional 20 credits if you include it in a question.

Government of the UK

The Constitution

1. Taylor, J. (2017) 'Comparing the UK and US constitution', Politics Review, Volume 27, Number 1. Found here at https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/media/Documents/magazine-extras/Politics%20Review/Pol%20Rev%20Vol%2027%20No%201/PoliticsReview27_1_US_UK_constitutions.docx?ext=.docx

Parliament

1. The UK parliament website: www.parliament.uk
2. Kelso A, 'Parliaments: an effective check on the Coalition government?' (Politics Review, Vol. 24, 2014-15, No.4, Apr).

Prime Minister and the Cabinet

1. Foley M, The British Presidency (Manchester University Press, 2000) – although a little out of date is still the main focus for the debate.
2. Bennister M, 'The cabinet: is there still collective cabinet responsibility?' (Politics Review, Vol.26, 2016-17, No.4, Apr).

Judiciary

1. Green, C. (2014) in The Independent 12th October 2014 'Lord Neuberger on the Supreme Court: Five key cases from its first five years'. Found at this web address: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/lord-neuberger-on-the-supreme-court-five-key-cases-from-its-first-five-years-9789269.html>
2. Supreme Court website: <https://www.supremecourt.uk>

3. 'Debate: is the UK judiciary too powerful?' (Politics Review, Vol. 25, 2015-16, No.3, Feb).

Devolution

1. Bogdanor, V. (2010) 'Sovereignty and devolution: quasi-federalism?', Politics Review, Volume 19, Number 3.
2. Devolution Matters: <https://devolutionmatters.wordpress.com>
3. Curtice, J. (2014) 'The Scottish independence referendum: the result analysed', Politics Review, Volume 26, Number 1.

Politics of the UK

Democracy and Participation

1. Stoker, G. (2012) 'The UK political system: is it democratic?', Politics Review, Volume 22, Number 1.
2. Fairclough, P. (2016) 'Democratic participation: has the nature of political participation changed?' Politics Review, Volume 26, Number 2.
3. Johnston, R. (2011) 'Which electoral systems are best for Westminster?', Politics Review, Volume 21, Number 2.

Elections and Referendums

1. Batchelor, A. (2012) 'Referendums: without a consensus, the answer is no', Politics Review, Volume 21, Number 3.
2. <https://yougov.co.uk/news/2017/06/13/how-britain-voted-2017-general-election/>
Yougov review of the 2017 general election result.

Political Parties

1. Bale, T. (2017) 'How socialist is the Labour Party?', Politics Review, Volume 26, Number 3.
2. 'Debate: should political parties be funded by the state?' (Politics Review, Vol.24, 2014-15, No. 3, Feb).
3. Policies from each of the major parties at the 2017 election from the BBC website:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2017-39955886>

Pressure Groups

1. Jordan, G. and Maloney, W. (2007) Interest groups and Democracy. (Palgrave).
2. Rathbone, M. (2015) 'Pressure groups: do they strengthen pluralist democracy?' Politics Review, Volume 25, Number 2.

European Union

1. Whitaker, R. (2014) 'The European Parliament: does it matter?' Politics Review, Volume 23, Number 3.
2. 'How to save Europe' in The Economist (March 2017) Link:
<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2017/03/25/can-europe-be-saved>

V. Essay Questions

50 credits per question, an additional 20 credits if you mark your own.

Government of the UK

The Constitution

1. 'The UK Constitution is too adaptable for the 21st Century'. Analyse and evaluate this statement.
2. 'Labour's constitutional reform programme from 1997 to 2010 gave the Commons too much power'. How far do you agree with this statement?
3. Analyse and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the UK constitution.
4. Analyse and evaluate the potential impact of Brexit on the protection of human rights in the UK.
5. 'The House of Lords needs further reform'. Analyse and evaluate this statement.

Parliament

1. 'Select committees are the best way of holding the government to account'. How far do you agree with this statement?
2. 'There is now a case for English votes for English laws'. Analyse and evaluate this statement.
3. 'Prime Ministers Questions is political soap opera with no real scrutiny'. Analyse and evaluate this statement.
4. Evaluate the extent to which the House of Commons adequately represents the UK population.
5. Evaluate the effectiveness of backbench MPs.

Prime Minister and the Cabinet

1. 'The prime minister is a president in all but name'. Analyse and evaluate this statement.
2. 'Events are the sole determinant of whether a prime minister is successful or not'. How far do you agree with this statement?
3. Analyse and evaluate the amount of responsibility that individual ministers should take for departmental decisions.
4. Evaluate the view that there is no future for collective responsibility.
5. Evaluate the extent to which cabinet ministers have any control over policy.

Judiciary

1. 'The Supreme Court has no power to enact change'. How far do you agree with this statement?
2. Evaluate how effective the judiciary in the UK is in achieving neutrality.
3. 'The ECJ holds all the power, the Supreme Court is for show'. Analyse and evaluate this statement.
4. Analyse and evaluate the composition of the Supreme Court.
5. Evaluate the view that the Supreme Court is too political, despite the changes made in 2009.

Devolution

1. 'The UK does not have enough devolved powers'. Analyse and evaluate this statement.
2. Evaluate the extent to which further devolution to the other states is inevitable.
3. Evaluate the view that the West Lothian question has never been solved.
4. 'Devolution has failed in Northern Ireland'. How far do you agree with this statement?
5. Evaluate the case that the UK has become a federal state.

Politics of the UK

Democracy and Participation

1. 'The UK needs to be more democratic'. Analyse and evaluate this statement.
2. 'Parliament is the best defender of the rights of citizens'. How far do you agree with this statement?
3. Evaluate the extent to which there is a participation crisis in UK politics.
4. 'The Suffragettes showed that direct action is successful at changing government policy'. Analyse and evaluate this statement.
5. Evaluate the extent to which social media and the internet is making the UK more democratic.

Elections and Referendums

1. Evaluate the view that we need more referendums on wider issues.
2. Evaluate the view that first-past-the-post is no longer fit for purpose.
3. 'The 1997 election was the last time a government had a true mandate'. Analyse and evaluate this statement.
4. 'The public voting in referendums undermines parliament'. How far do you agree with this statement?
5. Evaluate the case for which electoral system used in the UK works best.

Political Parties

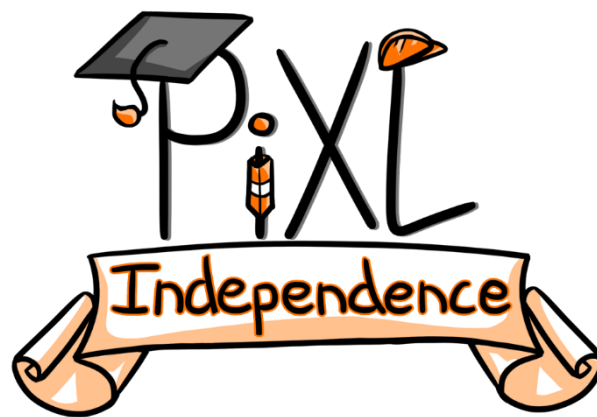
1. Evaluate the view that the modern Conservative party bears little resemblance to the party of Churchill.
2. Evaluate the view that Labour under Jeremy Corbyn is returning to Old Labour.
3. 'Political party funding needs to come from the state'. Analyse and evaluate this statement.
4. 'There is no longer a UK party of ideology'. How far do you agree with this statement?
5. 'The UK political system fails smaller parties'. Analyse and evaluate this statement.

Pressure Groups

1. Analyse and evaluate the methods used by pressure groups.
2. Evaluate the view that insider groups are more successful due to government support.
3. 'Pressure groups are being replaced by online petitions'. How far do you agree with this statement?
4. 'No outsider pressure group can be truly successful'. Analyse and evaluate this statement.
5. Evaluate the view that celebrity endorsement is the biggest factor in pressure group success in the 21st Century.

European Union

1. Evaluate the view that the European Union has gone beyond the original aims.
2. 'British sovereignty was the key reason for the Leave vote'. Analyse and evaluate this statement.
3. Evaluate the case for a democratic deficit within the European Union.
4. 'The Human Rights Act is the best thing that EU membership has given Britain'. How far do you agree with this statement?
5. Evaluate the view that the EU and the UK have always been 'awkward partners'.



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