



Subject	Politics		
Title/Topic	Format	Length	Date
Paper 1 – UK politics and Core Political Ideas	Written Exam	2 hours	Fri 2 September 9.00am

### In this assessment the topics I will be assessed on are...

Democracy and Participation:

#### **1.1 Current systems of representative democracy and direct democracy.**

- The features of direct democracy and representative democracy.
- The similarities and differences between direct democracy and representative democracy. Advantages and disadvantages of direct democracy and representative democracy and consideration of the case for reform.

#### **1.2 A wider franchise and debates over suffrage.**

- Key milestones in the widening of the franchise in relation to class, gender, ethnicity and age, including the 1832 Great Reform Act and the 1918, 1928 and 1969 Representation of the People Acts.
- The work of the suffragists/suffragettes to extend the franchise. The work of a current movement to extend the franchise.

#### **1.3 Pressure groups and other influences.**

- How different pressure groups exert influence and how their methods and influence vary in contemporary politics.
- Case studies of two different pressure groups, highlighting examples of how their methods and influence vary.
- Other collective organisations and groups including think tanks, lobbyists and corporations, and their influence on government and Parliament.

#### **1.4 Rights in context.**

- Major milestones in their development, including the significance of Magna Carta and more recent developments, including the Human Rights Act 1998 and Equality Act 2010.
- Debates on the extent, limits and tensions within the UK's rights-based culture, including consideration of how individual and collective right may conflict, the contributions from civil liberties pressure groups – including the work of two contemporary civil liberties pressure groups.

Electoral systems

#### **3.1 Different electoral systems.**

- First-past-the-post (FPTP), Additional Member System (AMS), Single Transferable Vote (STV), and Supplementary Vote (SV).
- The advantages and disadvantages of these different systems.
- Comparison of first-past-the-post (FPTP) to a different electoral system in a devolved parliament/assembly.

#### **3.2 Referendums and how they are used.**

- How referendums have been used in the UK and their impact on UK political life since 1997.
- The case for and against referendums in a representative democracy.

#### **3.3 Electoral system analysis.**

- Debates on why different electoral systems are used in the UK.
- The impact of the electoral system on the government or type of government appointed.
- The impact of different systems on party representation and of electoral systems on voter choice.

Voting behaviour and the media



#### **4.1 Case studies of three key general elections.**

- Case studies of three elections (one from the period 1945– 92, the 1997 election, and one since 1997), the results and their impact on parties and government.
- The factors that explain the outcomes of these elections, including:
  - o the reasons for and impact of party policies and manifestos, techniques used in their election campaigns, and the wider political context of the elections
  - o class-based voting and other factors influencing voting patterns, such as partisanship and voting attachment
  - o gender, age, ethnicity and region as factors in influencing voting behaviour, turnout and trends.
- Analysis of the national voting-behaviour patterns for these elections, revealed by national data sources and how and why they vary.

#### **4.2 The influence of the media.**

- The Assessment of the role and impact of the media on politics – both during and between key general elections, including the importance and relevance of opinion polls, media bias and persuasion.

### **Conservatism**

Core ideas and principles of conservatism and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy:

- pragmatism – flexible approach to society with decisions made on the basis of what works – to cover links between pragmatism and traditional conservative and one-nation philosophy
- tradition – accumulated wisdom of past societies and a connection between the generations – to cover how this creates stability, links with organic change, and enhances humans’ security
- human imperfection – humans are flawed which makes them incapable of making good decisions for themselves – to cover the three aspects of psychological, moral and intellectual imperfection
- organic society/state – society/state is more important than any individual parts – to cover how this links to the underpinning of the beliefs of authority and hierarchy, and a cohesive society
- paternalism – benign power exerted from above by the state, that governs in the interests of the people – to cover the different interpretations by traditional (an authoritarian approach, the state knows what is best so the people must do what they are told) and one-nation conservatives (there is an obligation on the wealthy to look after those who are unable to look after themselves) and why it is rejected by New Right Conservatives
- libertarianism (specifically neo-liberalism) – upholds liberty, seeking to maximise autonomy and free choice, mainly in the economy – to cover the moral and economic values associated with this idea.

The differing views and tensions within conservatism:

- traditional conservative – commitment to hierarchical and paternalistic values
- one-nation conservative – updating of traditional conservatism in response to the emergence of capitalism
- New Right – the marriage of neo-liberal and neoconservative ideas and include:
  - o neo-liberal: principally concerned with free-market economics and atomistic individualism
  - o neo-conservative: principally concerned with the fear of social fragmentation, tough on law and order and public morality.

### **Liberalism:**

Core ideas and principles of liberalism and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy:

- individualism – the primacy of the individual in society over any group – to cover egoistical individualism and developmental individualism
- freedom/liberty – the ability and right to make decisions in your own interests based on your view of human nature – to cover how liberals guarantee individual freedom, the link between freedom and individualism, that freedom is ‘under the law’
- state – it is ‘necessary’ to avoid disorder, but ‘evil’ as it has potential to remove individual liberty, thus should be limited; this is linked to the liberal view of the economy



- rationalism – the belief that humans are rational creatures, capable of reason and logic – to cover how rationalism underpins an individual’s ability to define their own best interests and make their own moral choices, creating a progressive society
- equality/social justice – the belief that individuals are of equal value and that they should be treated impartially and fairly by society – to cover foundational and formal equality, and equality of opportunity
- liberal democracy – a democracy that balances the will of the people, as shown through elections, with limited government (state) and a respect for civil liberties in society – to cover why liberals support it as well as why they are concerned about it.

The differing views and tensions within liberalism:

- classical liberalism – early liberals who believed that individual freedom would best be achieved with the state playing a minimal role
- modern liberalism – emerged as a reaction against free-market capitalism, believing this had led to many individuals not being free. Freedom could no longer simply be defined as ‘being left alone’.

### **Socialism**

Core ideas and principles of socialism and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy:

- collectivism – to cover how collective human effort is both of greater practical value to the economy and moral value to society than the effort of individuals
- common humanity – to cover the nature of humans as social creatures with a tendency to co-operation, sociability and rationality, and how the individual cannot be understood without reference to society, as human behaviour is socially determined
- equality – is a fundamental value of socialism – to cover the disagreements among socialists about the nature of equality and how it is critical to the state, society, the economy and human nature
- social class – a group of people in society who have the same socioeconomic status – to cover the extent to which class impacts on socialists’ views of society, the state and the economy
- workers’ control – to cover the importance and the extent of control over the economy and/or state and how it is to be achieved.

### **What should I do to revise and prepare for this assessment?**

To prepare for this assessment:

1. Read the articles shared on teams.
2. Ensure that you can answer all the questions at the end of each chapter in your textbook and booklets.
3. Read over notes from each lesson and consolidate learning by writing summary paragraphs.

### **What useful websites/resources could I use to help me prepare?**

Wider Reading Booklets

Tutor 2u

Ideologies textbook.