

CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL DEBATES IN THE UK

COURSE SCHEDULE & LESSON PLAN

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1/Lesson plan

1/ What does the 'United Kingdom' (UK) correspond to?

DEBATE / ESSAY QUESTION: Will Brexit lead to the end of the UK itself?

2/ The British Constitution /

DEBATE / ESSAY QUESTION: Should the UK adopt a "written" Constitution?

3/ The British monarchy /

DEBATE / ESSAY QUESTION: Should the UK become a Republic?

4/ The British Parliament /

DEBATE / ESSAY QUESTION: Why & how should the House of Lords be reformed?

5/ Elections & political parties in the UK /

DEBATES / ESSAY QUESTIONS:

Is the UK (still) a "two-party country"?

+ Should the electoral system used for parliamentary elections be changed?

6/ The British Government /

DEBATES / ESSAY QUESTIONS:

Do Prime Ministers have too much power? What exact powers do they actually hold?

+ Does the government hold too much power in comparison to the parliament?

7/ The people: giving 'the people' a voice in a parliamentary democracy such as the UK /

DEBATES / ESSAY QUESTIONS:

Should Members of Parliament act as « representatives » or as « delegates » of the people?

+ Is populism on the rise in the UK? Was the Brexit vote a sign of this?

8/ The Scottish independence debate (before & since the Brexit vote) /

DEBATES / ESSAY QUESTIONS:

Should Scotland become independent?

+ Will Brexit make Scottish independence more likely?

9/ Northern Ireland back in the spotlight /

DEBATE: Will Brexit make the reunification of Ireland more likely?

Short Reading List

2 textbooks on British Politics:

-Griffiths, Simon, *British Politics. Third Edition*, Macmillan Education, 2018

-Jones, Bill, Norton, Philip & Daddow, Oliver (eds), *Politics UK*, Routledge, 2018

+1 book on British Politics since Brexit

Evans, Geoffrey & Menon, Anand, *Brexit and British Politics*, Polity Press, 2017

2/ Course schedule

<p><u>Week 1:</u></p> <p>What does the ‘United Kingdom’ (UK) correspond to? DEBATE: Will Brexit lead to the end of the UK itself?</p>	<p><u>Week 6:</u></p> <p>The British Government / DEBATES: Do Prime Ministers have too much power? What exact powers do they actually hold? + Does the government have too much power in comparison to the parliament?</p>
<p><u>Week 2:</u></p> <p>The British Constitution / DEBATE: Should the UK adopt a “written” Constitution?</p>	<p><u>Week 7:</u></p> <p>The people: giving « the people » a voice in a parliamentary democracy (such as the UK) / DEBATES: Should Members of Parliament act as « representatives » or as « delegates » of the people? + Is populism on the rise in the UK? Was the « Brexit » vote a sign of this?</p>
<p><u>Week 3:</u></p> <p>The British monarchy / DEBATE: Should the UK become a Republic?</p>	<p><u>Week 8:</u></p> <p>The Scottish independence debate (before & since the Brexit vote) / DEBATES: Should Scotland become independent? Will Brexit make Scottish independence more likely?</p>
<p><u>Week 4:</u></p> <p>The British Parliament / DEBATE: The House of Lords: why & how should it be reformed?</p>	<p><u>Week 9:</u></p> <p>Northern Ireland back in the spotlight / DEBATE: Will Brexit make the reunification of Ireland more likely?</p>
<p><u>Week 5:</u></p> <p>Elections & political parties in the UK / DEBATES: Is the UK (still) a “two-party country”? + Should the electoral system used for parliamentary elections be changed?</p>	<p><u>Week 10:</u></p> <p>WRITTEN EXAM</p>