

# Year 12 Term 1 Politics —Representative Democracy

## Knowledge Organiser Government and Politics Component 1: Topic 1: Democracy

### Pillars of Democracy



**PARTICIPATION  
REPRESENTATION  
LEGITIMACY  
ACCOUNTABILITY  
RIGHTS**



**Direct Democracy- A system where people vote on policy issues directly- Referendums, Consultations**



**Representative Democracy- A system where people elect representatives to vote on their behalf.**

### Is Political Participation in Decline?

Turnout General Elections: 2001:59% 2015: 66.1% 2019:67.3%  
Political Party Membership: Con: 2.8m 1954- 180k 2020  
Lab: 1m 1954- 550k 2020  
Lib Dem: 145k 1989-115k 2020  
Pressure Group Membership: RSPB: 1.5m, TUC: 6.4m 38degrees 2.5m, CBI: 190K Businesses  
Epetitions: Revoke Article 50: 6.1m, Prevent Trump visit: 1.9m, End Child Food Poverty:1.1m  
Social Media: Twitter, FB, Instagram and YouTube have seen a dramatic increase in political blogging, debate and discussion

### Relevant Political Examples:

CRONYISM: Nomination Zak Goldsmith to HoL despite losing election  
Issues with FPTP: 2015 UKIP 3.6m votes 1 seat, SNP 1.6m 56 seats  
Redress of grievances: Hazel Blears Greater Manchester-Claire's Law  
Successful E-Petitions: Hillsborough Enquiry 2011, 140,000 signatures  
ABD Social Movement –scrap proposed road tax 1.8m signatures 2007  
Use of media and celebrity endorsement Marcus Rashford and Fareshare-  
Uturn on free school meals in holidays for PP pupils.  
Corruption and mistrust- Robert Jenrick and millionaire party donors  
2020- Jenrick issued lucrative contracts to property tycoons following donations.  
Priti Patel- bullying enquiry- broke ministerial code kept job 2020 Dominic Cummings 2020 COVID rule break no punishment  
Participation: 2019 biggest turnout ever for youth voters  
Safe Seat: Knowlsey Merseyside: Lab 81% vote share, Cons 8%  
Largest protest: Stop the War Coalition 2003- 1m protesters London  
Soc Media campaigns : BLM, Greenpeace, Extinction Rebellion.  
Referendum turnout- Scottish Independence 85%

### Key Words

<b>REPRESENTATION</b>	<b>PARTICIPATION</b>	<b>ENGAGEMENT</b>
<b>LEGITIMACY</b>	<b>ACCOUNTABILITY</b>	<b>RIGHTS</b>
<b>DEMOCRATIC DEFICIT</b>	<b>TURNOUT</b>	<b>ELECTORATE</b>
<b>DISPROPORTIONATE</b>	<b>REFERENDUM</b>	<b>DEMOCRACY</b>
<b>DIRECT DEMOCRACY</b>	<b>REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY</b>	<b>WASTED VOTES</b>
<b>FIRST PAST THE POST</b>	<b>CONSTITUENCY MP</b>	<b>EPETITION</b>
<b>FUNCTIONAL REPRESENTATION</b>	<b>SOCIAL REPRESENTATION</b>	<b>CORRUPTION</b>
<b>VOTER APATHY</b>	<b>PRESSURE GROUP</b>	<b>LOBBYISTS</b>
<b>THINK TANKS</b>	<b>DEMOCRATIC REFORM</b>	<b>SUFFRAGE</b>
<b>FRANCHISE</b>	<b>DEVOLUTION</b>	<b>INSIDER GROUP</b>
<b>OUTSIDER GROUP</b>	<b>SECTIONAL/PROMOTIONAL</b>	<b>CAUSE/INTEREST</b>
<b>UMBRELLA GROUP</b>	<b>SOCIAL MOVEMENT</b>	<b>PLURALISM</b>
<b>ELITISM</b>	<b>PARTISAN DEALIGNMENT</b>	<b>IDEOLOGY</b>
<b>RIGHTS BASED CULTURE</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE</b>	<b>LEGISLATURE</b>
<b>JUDICIARY</b>	<b>SEPARATION OF POWERS</b>	



### Democratic Deficit UK?



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+Many access points to lobby/ redress grievances</li> <li>+ Voter turnout improving in Gen elections</li> <li>+Pressure Group membership strong</li> <li>+Youth engagement improving</li> <li>+Several levels of representation</li> <li>+Strong link with constituency MP</li> <li>+Lords partially reformed only 92 peers now</li> <li>+Devolution has improved Representation</li> <li>+Supreme Court has partly decentralised power</li> <li>+There are a range of political parties and candidates To choose from.</li> <li>+New more democratic election systems used in some Elections e.g. N. Irish assembly, Mayoral elections.</li> <li>+Human/civil rights protected by ECHR</li> <li>+LGBTQ representation in Parliament good</li> <li>+Referendums have been used more widely</li> <li>+Free and fair elections –little interference</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+MPs often support party/ self interest rather than constituents</li> <li>- Some elite pressure groups have too much influence</li> <li>+ Despite support, no plans to extend votes for 16</li> <li>- MPs are not elected by majority (40% avg)</li> <li>- FPTP system disproportionate wastes votes</li> <li>- discriminates smaller parties, safe seats and tactical voting- govts have questionable legitimacy</li> <li>- Parliament not socially representative for women, working class, people of colour, state school ed.</li> <li>- Lords unelected- party bias</li> <li>+Declining turnout in many elections</li> <li>+Cronyism and corruption rife/ unpunished-issue with accountability at all levels of govt.</li> <li>+ Elective dictatorship- executive controls Legislature</li> <li>+ Many in UK apathetic and disengaged/ disenfranchised</li> <li>- Almost impossible for any other party to win Parl.</li> </ul>
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	D R	DEM	REP	DEM
Proportionate?		✓		✗
Power to People?		✓		✗
Mediated for minority?		✗		✓
Increase Engagement?		✓		✗
Frequent?		✓		✗
Wide range issues?		✗		✓
Legislation thoroughly Scrutinised?		✗		✓
Professionals?		✗		✓

### Timeline Development of Suffrage and Rights

Pre-1832 Only 3% could vote- rotten boroughs and lack of representation

1832 Representation of the People Act- Extended franchise to 6% (1 in 5 males)

1967 Second reform Act- further extended franchise further

1887 Third Reform Act extended franchise to all working holding land valued £10 +60% men could now vote

1918 Representation of People Act enfranchised women over 30 and all men and women over 30. (Women still had a property qualification)

1928 Extended franchise to all men and women over 21.

1969 Franchise extended to all women and men over 18

FUTURE: Votes for 16? Prisoner votes?

