

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

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

Democratic Deficit UK?

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



	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?

