



Y12 Politics Term 4—Pressure Groups



Knowledge Organiser Government and Politics Component 1: Topic 1: Pressure Groups

 **Insider Group**- One which has links to Govt and can directly influence policy

 **Outsider Group**- One which is either forced to or chooses to remain outside of government influence and thus relies on media and public opinion to influence decision makers

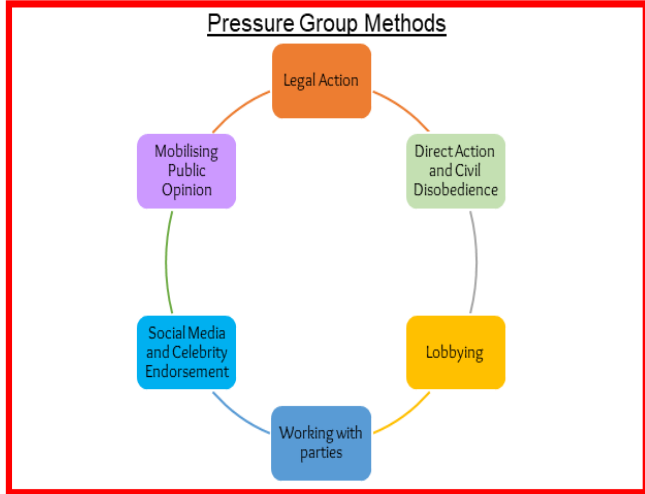


Do you know your Case Studies?

Referendums: 2011 AV, 2014 Scottish Independence, 2016 EU Votes for 16
 Votes for Prisoners- the Howard League for Penal Reform
 Election Turnout 2001-2019
 Successful Pressure Groups including diff. types of pressure group
 Think Tanks- Adam Smith Institute
 Rights-Howard League
 Human Rights Act and the Conservative Party
 Liberty



- Factors Affecting Pressure Group Success:
1. Size/membership
 2. Resources
 3. Insider Status/ Strategic Position e.g. NFU/ CBI
 4. Public Opinion
 5. Govt. Attitudes/ Ideology
 6. Celebrity Endorsement –can help but not necessarily
 7. Strength of Opposition Groups



RIGHTS IN CONTEXT

CITIZENSHIP-An exchange of rights for responsibilities-what liberals would refer to as a social contract.
Individual Rights-rights pursued by individuals- right to develop and flourish without govt interference
Collective Rights: Rights of a group of similar people e.g religious or cultural group- can conflict with individual rights.
Qualified Rights: Rights which may be interfered with to protect rights of another group or wider public interest. EG right to free speech may be curbed to protect privacy of individual.
 ECHR 1950- Response to WWII atrocities
 Human Rights Act 1998-Can be defended in UK Courts
 The Equality Act 2010-Made it illegal to discriminate on grounds of: race, sex, age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage/ civil partnership, pregnancy/ maternity, religion/ belief or sexual orientation.
ARGUMENT over RIGHTS BASED CULTURE- Increase in no. of judicial reviews and challenges to govt.. Policy.

OTHER INFLUENTIAL ORGANISATIONS

THINK TANKS
 Think tanks are groups/institutions which focus on one area of policy. EG Social policy, Economic policy etc. Conduct research and offer advise- run by academics and experts. Usually have a clear place on political spectrum.

EXAMPLES:
 Policy Exchange, Adam Smith Institute, Fabian Society, ResPublica, Reform.
 Can publish articles, data or even draft legislation.
 There are 32 key Educational Think Tanks alone.

They are funded by charities, private donors and corporations which is why it can be claimed they are undemocratic.
 Heavily reported in the media which is why some argue they are democratic- most publicly declare their funding.

LOBBYISTS
 Lobbyists-paid to lobby/ attempt to influence policy makers. This gives corporations and big businesses access to politicians and can lead to them having far more influence than normal citizens. Cabinet/former Cabinet members have worked for lobbyists. Priti Patel worked for Weber Shandwick who's clients include the govt of Bahrain and British-American Tobacco. Huge conflict of interest!



PRESSURE GROUPS-ELITIST AND UNDEMOCRATIC?

+Pluralist democracies are known as such because Many groups can compete freely for influence
 +Pressure groups with mass membership often do well
 +Social media has enabled less well funded pressure Groups to reach a wide audience- social movements
 Such as the ABD, BLM and The People's Fuel Lobby
 Have achieved successes.
 +Pressure Groups are an important source of functional Representation in the UK e.g. Sectional/ Promotional Groups
 +Thousands of pressure groups and their opposition can Exist and operate freely.
 +Pressure groups safeguard against tyranny of majority By speaking up for minority groups e.g. Muslim Council
 +Insider groups rarely have permanent insider status
 This often changes depending on govt ideology.
 -prevents a monopoly on influence

-Some pressure groups have disproportionate wealth depending on donors can use to dominate media and social media campaigns-disproportionate access to public.
 +Insider groups have more access and can often affect legislation before its even drafted
 +Pressure groups ideologically opposed to govt rarely achieve their aims
 +Many of the largest pressure groups have little success at a national level e.g. 38 Degrees-2m members most success in local campaigns e.g. NIMBY
 +Money is important to pay retaining fees for experts and to fight in the legal system- wealthier groups have a clear advantage here.
 -Pressure Group leaders are unelected and members Often have little-no influence on decisions being made

IMPACT OF TERRORISM ON RIGHTS

2005 terror attacks in London and those since have led to an increasing no. of laws being passed which infringe on rights.

Introduction of Secret Courts
 Investigatory Powers Bill
 See campaigns from Howard League for Penal Reform and Liberty

Future of rights in UK?
 Many wealthy corporations and Lobbyists have sought to end the Human Rights Act in the UK due to affects on profits. Conservative govt has discussed replacing with their own HRA in future.