

## UK Government with Miss Chandler

What are we actually going to do?

We study Component 2. It's called **UK Government and Non-core Political Ideas**

**UK Government** is split into four sections:

1. The Constitution
2. Parliament
3. Prime Minister
4. Relationship between the branches

**Non-core Political Ideas** focuses on one ideology:

Nationalism

### UK Government

#### The Constitution:

- Definition of a constitution.
- Overview of the development of the constitution through key historical documents – Magna Carta (1215); Bill of Rights (1689); Act of Settlement (1701); Acts of Union (1707); Parliament Acts (1911 and 1949); The European Communities Act (1972).
- The nature of the UK Constitution: unentrenched, uncoded and unitary, and the 'twin pillars' of parliamentary sovereignty and the rule of law.
- The five main sources of the UK constitution: statute law; common law; conventions; authoritative works and treaties (including European Union law)
- How the constitution has changed since 1997.
- Labour (1997-2010): House of Lords reforms; electoral reform; devolution; the Human Rights Act; and the Supreme Court.
- The Conservative-Lib Dem Coalition (2010-2015); Fixed Term Parliaments; further devolution to Wales.
- Major reforms undertaken by governments since 2015, including further devolution to Scotland (in the context of the Scottish referendum).
- The role and power of devolved bodies in the UK, and the impact of this devolution on the UK, including devolution in England
- Scottish Parliament and Government, Welsh Assembly and Government, Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive
- Debates on further reform: extension of devolution, whether the constitution should be changed to be entrenched and codified, including a bill of rights.

## **Parliament:**

- The structure and role of the House of Commons and the House of Lords
- The selection of members of the Commons and the Lords, including the different types of Peers.
- The main functions of the Commons and the Lords and the extent to which these functions are fulfilled.
- The comparative powers of the Commons and the Lords; the exclusive powers of the Commons; the main powers of the Lords and debates about relative powers of both.
- The legislative process: the different stages a bill must go through to become law; the interaction between the Commons and the Lords during legislation, including the Salisbury Convention.
- The ways in which Parliament interacts with the Executive: the role and significance of backbenchers in both Houses, including the importance of parliamentary privilege.
- The work of Select Committees.
- The role and significance of the opposition.
- The purpose and nature of ministerial question time, including PMQs.

## **Prime Minister and Executive:**

- The structure, role and powers of the Executive.
- Its structure, including PM, the cabinet, junior ministers and government departments.
- Its main roles, including proposing legislation, proposing a budget and making policy decisions within laws and budget.
- The main powers of the Executive, including Royal Prerogative powers, initiation of legislation and secondary legislative power.
- The concept of individual ministerial responsibility and the concept of collective ministerial responsibility.
- The power of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet.
- The factors governing the Prime Minister's selection of Ministers.
- The factors that affect the relationship between the Cabinet and the Prime Minister, and the ways they have changed and the balance of power between PM and Cabinet.
- Mm
- The power of the PM and Cabinet to dictate events and determine policy
- The influence of PMs who served between 1945-97 and one post-1997 PM (covering events, policy, examples of control and lack of control)

## Relations between branches:

- The role and composition of the Supreme Court.
- The key operating principles of the Supreme Court, including judicial neutrality and judicial independence and their extent.
- The degree to which the Supreme Court influences both the Executive and Parliament, including the doctrine of *ultra vires* and judicial review
- The influence and effectiveness of Parliament in holding the Executive to account.
- The influence and effectiveness of the Executive in attempting to exercise dominance over Parliament.
- The extent to which the balance of power between Parliament and the Executive has changed.
- The aims of the EU including the 'four freedoms' of the single market; social policy; political and economic union; extent to which these have been achieved.
- The role of the EU in policy making.
- The impact of the EU, including the main effects of at least two EU policies and their impact on the UK political system and UK policy making.
- Mm
- The distinction between legal and political sovereignty.
- The extent to which sovereignty has moved between different branches of government
- Where sovereignty can now be said to lie in the UK.

<b>Non-core Political Ideas</b>
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## Nationalism

- Core ideas and principles – nations; self-determination; nation-state; racialism; internationalism.
- Differing views and tensions within Nationalism.
- Nationalist thinkers and their ideas – Jean-Jacques Rousseau; Johann von Herder; Giuseppe Mazzini; Charles Maurras; Marcus Garvey

<b>What will the exam be like ?</b>
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The exam will be 2 hours and consist of **two sections** – A and B

**Section A – UK Government: this section is worth 60 marks**

You will answer one source question which will require you to compare and analyse. There is a choice of two questions and you will answer one. The source will be an extract of text but might be accompanied with data in table, pie chart or graph.

You will then answer a (non-source) essay question, again from a choice of two.

**Section B – Core Political Ideas: this section is worth 24 marks**

You have the choice of two questions and answer one. It will focus on the core ideas and principles as well as differing views within a core ideology. You will also have to include information about key thinkers and their ideas. It might cover one ideology or require you to consider two.

Total: 84 marks.

There are three assessment objectives against which your work will be marked:

AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, political concepts, theories and issues.(35%)

AO2: Analyse aspects of politics and political information, including in relation to parallels, connections, similarities and differences. (35%)

AO3: Evaluate aspects of politics and political information, including to construct arguments, make substantiated judgements and draw conclusions. (30%)

<b>Anything else?</b>
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Yes.

**I will:**

- Try to make lessons interesting, accessible and challenging
- Be up to date with our understanding of politics
- Provide materials where appropriate, and guidance to relevant material where not
- Be on time for lessons
- Set homework that is useful
- Explain, and explain again, including in different ways, if necessary
- Not mind if people don't understand
- Mind if a) people don't understand and don't say so or b) don't do their home or classwork or c) don't know things they should
- Encourage opinions and debate
- Help create a supportive and positive atmosphere so we can enjoy ourselves, learn lots and do well

**You will:**

- Be on time to lessons
- Do your homework on time, every time
- Ask if you don't understand
- Contribute to class debate
- Follow the news
- Help create a supportive and positive atmosphere so we can enjoy ourselves, learn lots and do well