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By Harry Jivenmukta

The debate about the UK's role in the EC is as much about internal party politics as it is about the actual issue of a European Community.

Both the Conservative and Labour parties are split internally as to the level of involvement that Britain should have with the rest of Europe. Most politicians are in favour of the removing of trade barriers between nations, but the split comes when the issue becomes to what extent the UK should be part of a Federal Europe.

The **Euro-Sceptics** believe that enough power has already passed from Westminster to Brussels and that all further dealings with Europe should not involve the loss of sovereignty from the UK.



The supporters of closer links with Europe believe that it is crucial for the UK to get involved since the European Union is inevitable and the UK should be at the '**Heart of Europe**' rather than finding itself on the fringes later on. They fear that if the UK does not get involved now, the Union is still going to progress and the UK will have to follow the lead of others and will have had little involvement in shaping the new Europe.

In party political terms Europe is very important because the Conservative government since 1992 has had only a very slim majority in the House of Commons and has to rely on every vote to ensure that its political programme goes through smoothly. By upsetting the Euro-sceptics the government fears that its majority might be lost if some MPs resign or vote against the government. John Major and any political leader without a large majority in the Commons will have to walk a political tightrope, balancing the needs of closer European integration with the dissenters in their parties.



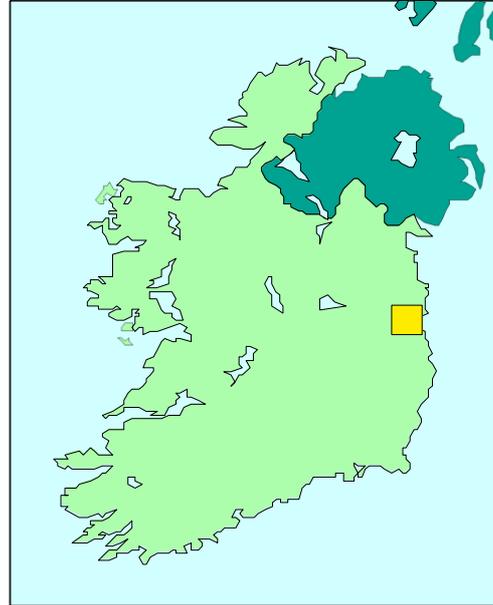
Make a list of the important dates and phases that span the history of the EC since its inception after the second world war.

What are the arguments for and against closer European ties?

Make a list of the main problems that John Major faced in the Commons as a result of the European debate between 1992 and 1996.

What are the prospects of widening the EC to include former East European nations?

The Irish Question has been a factor in British politics for many years. Put simply there are two sides; Catholics and Protestants. Ireland is traditionally Catholic and the occupation by the British introduced Protestantism into the country. The Protestants were mainly English people who settled in the north of Ireland. Increasingly the Catholics rebelled against British occupation and from the 1880s there was increasing calls for independence for Ireland. In 1921 Ireland was divided into two countries, an Independent Eire in the south and Northern Ireland.



The reason why the British kept the north was that there were more Protestants than Catholics in this area and the majority of people in the north wanted to stay loyal to the British. The Catholics argued that although this was true, in Ireland as a whole there was a majority for the independence of the whole of Ireland. The north south split was an artificial split which has some historical justification. The British could not expect millions of Protestants to give up everything they had built and simply leave. Neither could they ignore the fact that the north of Ireland contained a majority of Protestants who wanted to continue the union with the UK.

Today, Northern Ireland is split and many terrorist groups exist on both sides. The Irish Republican Army, (IRA), are the most infamous of these, and they have vowed to fight until the British leave Ireland for good.

There have been many attempts to solve the problems, but at the core is the undeniable fact that there are many people who do not want to sever links with the UK. The British government fears that if the troops left, there would be civil war, and a bloodbath.



Chart the History of the Irish Problem.

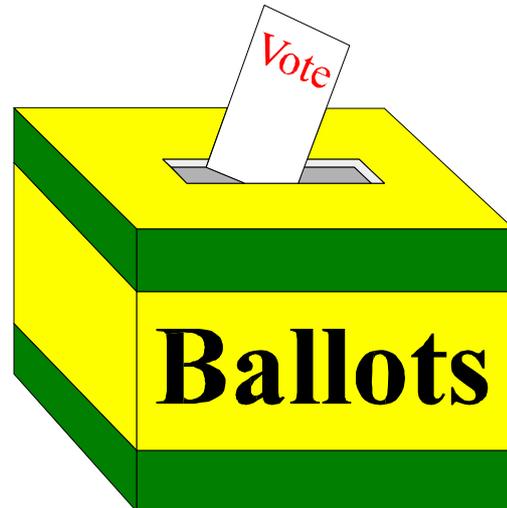
Make a list of how the British and Irish governments have tried to resolve the Irish Problem.

Can the Irish Problem be resolved to the satisfaction of all?

If you were in charge of the peace talks how would you approach the issue?

In the UK's **'First Past The Post'** electoral system the winning candidate sometimes has fewer than 50% of the votes cast. First past the post means simply that the person with the most votes wins the election. Candidates have won with as little as 34% of the vote in the past.

Another feature of this electoral system is that in a General Election a party like the Liberal Democrats can get a total vote of about 5 million but only win a handful of seats. This is because they have a wide ranging support across the country but the vote is not concentrated in many areas and they may come second or third but with a good percentage of the total votes cast. Compared with this the Conservatives and Labour parties win hundreds of seats with only about double the votes of the Liberals.



People who want electoral reform point to this lack of democracy as a good reason to reform. In simple terms democracy implies that the winner should have more than half of the votes. In some countries the electoral system ensures that only those with more than 50% of the vote are elected.

There are many electoral models which would ensure that candidates had to win over 50% of the votes. In some systems, voters are asked to vote for candidates in preference. If there were three candidates but no one candidate had over 50%, the second preferences of the candidate in third place would be counted ensuring that whichever of the first two won, they would have a majority of the votes.

Another system is the party list system where voters simply vote for a party rather than a candidate. The parties are then allocated the percentage of seats that they polled. They have a list of candidates in order of preference and the candidates take their place up to the number allowed by the percentage of votes they received.



What are the advantages and disadvantages of the **'First Past The Post'** system?

Write a paragraph each on the workings of another three types of electoral systems, and list their advantages and disadvantages.

Should there be electoral reform in the UK? Why?

Unemployment is a political issue for two main reasons. Firstly, there is the sheer waste of peoples lives who are unemployed and the social problems of rising crime, bad health and poverty that come with this. Secondly, unemployment costs the treasury billions in benefit payments and lost taxes which the otherwise employed workers would be paying.

Unemployment as a social problem also costs the nation money. People have poorer diets and worse health problems when they are unemployed and this translates into higher costs to the health service. There is also a link between unemployment and increased crime rates which costs money in terms of increased policing and the Criminal Justice System.



Unemployment is a major issue for governments. Politically, unemployment is a vote loser and this often leads to an attempt to '**massage the figures**'. Since 1979 the way unemployment is worked out has changed more than 20 times! Today the unemployed are classed as those people who are out of work, receiving Unemployment or Income Support benefits and who are actively seeking employment. Disabled people who are looking for work are not classed as unemployed because they receive benefits other than unemployment benefits or income support. Other types of benefit do not count. If a couple are unemployed, then only the person receiving the benefits is considered to be unemployed even if their partner is also seeking employment.

Massaging figures and bending the rules is not the domain of any particular political party; because unemployment is such a crucial vote losing issue all parties have strategies in place to deal with the problems. Essentially it is an economic problem. Without real jobs it is difficult to resolve. With the trend towards part time working and short term contracts it is accepted that there will never be full employment again in the UK. Politicians do not expect that unemployment will ever fall below about 1.5 million.



Find out about unemployment in the last twenty years. Draw a graph of the way unemployment numbers have changed.

Why do governments **massage** the figures?

What conditions are required in order for unemployment to fall radically?

What implications are there for the UK if unemployment does not fall significantly in the next ten years?

Food scares are becoming more and more common in modern times and often governments are blamed for either withholding the facts about the safety of our food, or they are criticised for creating a crisis in confidence.

A good example of food scares is the **'mad cow'** scare where British cattle has been found to have the disease which causes BSE in cattle and a similar illness CJD in humans. The government was accused by many of hiding the true facts about the link between the two diseases, and that infected cattle could pass the disease to humans; but when the government did admit the link, they were accused by others of creating a crisis.

The government has often got to balance the needs to publish sensitive information with the the need to protect jobs and livelihoods and the BSE crisis is a good example of how difficult it is to do.

Politics in Europe also affected this crisis. The British government was seen as standing in the way of more European integration and many nations saw their opportunity to get some revenge by banning British Beef in Europe and effectively throughout the world.

There are plenty of theories why food scares are increasing. Some people believe that it is because animals are being fed foodstuffs which they would never eat in nature. These include supplements which may include animal remains. Others believe that many of the infections have always existed but today the monitoring is more comprehensive.

Whatever the reasons for recent foodscars it is likely that people will be more discerning in what they eat. Governments are also more vigilant and international safeguards are stricter than ever before.



Make a list of the food scares that have occurred in the UK in the last ten years. How do you think the government handled these issues?

Can the government ever win in this type of situation because no matter what it does it is going to cause problems for one group or another?

Should Europe have a voice on matters like food scares? Should there be an international body to govern the safety of foodstuffs across the world?

The transport system is a political issue for reasons including:

**High profile projects, e.g. the Channel Tunnel;**

**Increased congestion;**

**Controversial road building projects, e.g. the Newbury Bypass;**

**Privatisation of public transport.**

The priorities in transport policy for recent governments has been to concentrate on the road building programme to the detriment of public transport. However, the increase in the number of cars on the road has meant that any new roads have not helped to ease congestion. Many people argue that more roads mean that more people are prepared to use cars and in fact this leads to even more congestion.



Environmentalists want more and better public transport. The government has privatised both the bus and rail services and think that they will be more efficient and offer a better service in this way. Critics argue that private owners would only be interested in running profit making routes and would neglect lesser populated and less profitable areas. To a great extent this has been borne out and there are some country areas which no longer have a reliable public transport service.

All the political parties in the U.K. have different transport policies which they would put in place if they had the opportunity.



Write a report on the different transport policies of the major political parties in the UK.

Conduct a survey in your school to determine how many people use public transport and what they would do if there was more provision of public transport, and if there were less.

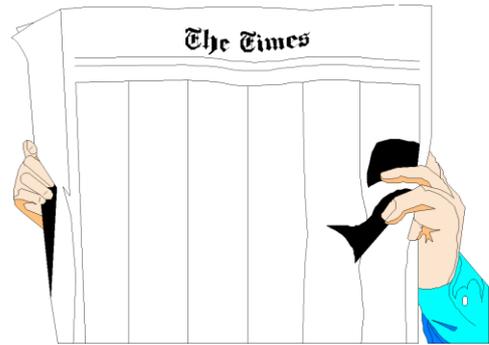
What is the environmental impact of transport policies which encourage more car ownership?

Media means the communications systems which inform us. They include:

**Television;**

**Radio;**

**Newspapers.**



The main issue regarding the media in recent years has been the way in which the power of the media has increased. People in the '**public eye**' often are seen to '**play to the camera**' in order to remain popular. The question of how much freedom the press should have is highlighted by the amount of coverage given to the marriage of Prince Charles and Diana. Many people feel that the media made their problems worse by creating additional pressures and infringing on the privacy of the two people.

One sure sign of democracy is that the press is free to take any political stance it wants, and the press in the U.K. has been trying hard through agreeing to voluntary codes of practice to keep its freedom. Increasingly people are trying to make sure that reporting on personal affairs should not be allowed to the extent it has been in the past.

**EXERCISE.**

Select three main stories from the press and find out how reporting of the event affected the people involved and whether it seems that the media helped to solve the problem or merely make it worse.

NEWS ITEM	FAIRLY REPORTED ASPECTS	UNFAIRLY REPORTED

There has been much speculation about the future of the Monarchy in recent years, although technically the Queen is Head of State in the UK. In reality, the Prime Minister fulfils this role and the Queen is a ceremonial figurehead.

The main opposition to the monarchy has come from people who expect the monarchy to set an example to the rest of the population. With the divorce of Prince Charles especially, many people see the monarchy to have lost its position of moral and proper behaviour. Some other people feel that the Royals are just people like other people are and can easily have similar problems and difficulties.

There is no doubt that the monarchy does attract people to visit the UK and that many countries are envious of the British Monarchy.

What are the arguments for and against keeping the monarchy as it is?



ARGUMENTS FOR KEEPING THE MONARCHY	ARGUMENTS FOR ABOLISHING THE MONARCHY

What are the alternatives to the Monarchy and how practical are these options?

Favoured nation status is the special relationship which can develop between nations. When there is this special relationship it is usually translated into better trading relationships as well. In the world of international trade it is very important for nations to have this special relationship. Traditionally, the USA and Britain have had such a relationship. This was particularly strong during the time when Margaret Thatcher was Prime Minister in the UK and Ronald Reagan was President of the USA.



An example of how important favoured nation status is can be seen in the relationship between the USA and China. The copyright laws in China are virtually non-existent and a large industry developed in producing pirated CD games and music in China. The USA

insisted that if China expected to enjoy favoured nation status, they should make sure that this illegal trade stopped. China at first did not respond. They did realise, however, that they would lose huge amounts of trade and investment if they did not do what the USA wanted. The CD industry was quickly 'reviewed' by China.

The UK has favoured nation status with the USA and other nations. Some relationships are special but are not called favoured nation status. In the case of the UK this can be seen in the relationship between the UK and Commonwealth countries among other.

The opposite of favoured nation status is Pariah nation status, where a nation is shunned because of its human rights, armaments or other disagreeable stance. A good example of this is Libya. The Americans want two suspected bombers extradited to the West to be charged with the Lockerbie aircraft bomb but Colonel Gaddafi refuses to cooperate. There are sanctions against Libya in place which are far-reaching.



Make a list of countries which have close trading and friendship links with the UK.

Make a list of countries which are '**Pariah**' nations because they have a bad human rights record or because of their political stance.

Why is it important to have a favoured nation status with the USA?

What difference does it make to the UK that it has a good relationship with Commonwealth countries?

In many instances the UK is seen as four distinct nations. Examples of this can be seen in the international football and rugby teams. In governmental terms it is also easy to see distinctions. There are Welsh, Scottish and Northern Ireland Secretaries of State. In terms of policy decisions some refer particularly to Scotland or Northern Ireland. When it comes to calls for devolution, however, the British Government has traditionally rejected it out of hand.

Political parties in the UK have different policies on devolution. The Conservative party is opposed to any move towards self determination for any region in the UK. The Labour party is committed to holding a referendum in Scotland and testing the political will of regions before committing themselves.



There are many reasons for devolution, especially in Scotland, which are convincing. In 1996 only a handful of the 60+ Scottish seats in Parliament were held by Conservatives, although their government still decide Scottish policy. Many Scots feel that government policy generally is designed for England and imposed on Scotland when it might not be relevant for that region. Some policy is already specific to Scotland, like education, and it would be logical to extend powers for these and similar matters to the Scots themselves.

The biggest unanswered problem which all unionists ask is; if Scots decide their own policy should they be allowed to also send MPs to Westminster. It is unfair if they do. If they do not take part in UK politics then aren't they in fact proposing independence rather than devolution?

Another issue is that if there was a Scottish parliament, (under devolution), should it have tax raising powers? If it did then the Scottish people would be paying an additional tax on top of the taxes already levied at the moment.



What are the arguments for and against devolution generally?  
 What are the differences between calls for devolution between Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland?  
 What is the difference between devolution and independence?



One of the political 'hot potatoes' of recent years has been the privatisation of previously centrally held industries. The government argued that industries which were held centrally were inefficient and too large and cumbersome. They argued that if industries were privatised they would have to compete more with other businesses and would become more efficient and effective.

It is generally true that nationalised industries tend towards some inefficiency because of the lack of competition. But on the other hand it is also true that privatised industries tend more toward profit rather than providing services regardless of costs.

**EXERCISE.**

Make a list of the industries which have been privatised since the mid 1980s. Are they better privatised or should they have been kept in national hands?

**PRIVATISATION**

NAME OF INDUSTRY	ARGUMENTS FOR	ARGUMENTS AGAINST

The underclass is a relatively new concept which has been borrowed from the USA. The underclass is the people who are at the bottom of the social scale, who are unemployable, largely uneducated, and excluded from many social activities because they are seen to be/ or see themselves as being excluded.

The underclass are different from other unemployed people because they have additional problems over and above being unemployed. Members of the underclass generally have a poor education, and their children in turn often avoid going to school. The underclass is perpetuated from generation to generation, as children learn not to work or partake in mainstream society from their parents.

The main question which is still being argued is:



**DOES THE UNDERCLASS EXIST OR IS IT THE CREATION OF RIGHT WING CONSERVATIVES TO JUSTIFY THEIR POLICIES OF REDUCING BENEFITS AND FORCING PEOPLE TO WORK FOR WELFARE.**

If we accept that there is an underclass we can then justify either ignoring the problems of this group and merely acknowledging that there is nothing to be done for these people; or we can say that they should be forced to work and be punitive with them 'for their own good'. Many people believe that there is an underclass but that what is to blame for their plight is the right wing political thinking which has led to a greedy society in which only the most competitive survive and many others will inevitably be casualties.



Do you believe that there is an underclass in the UK?

What is the difference between unemployed people and people who are in the underclass?

How can people be helped back into work and receive help for their social problems?

There are many arguments put forward by anti immigration supporters which sound quite impressive but which are usually misleading.

1 ***This country is only small and cannot take any more people. Immigration should be stopped.*** Actually more people have left the UK every year since 1975 than have entered the country. Those who oppose immigration usually do so from Black countries only. They remain silent about immigration from countries with white people. The government's own policy on immigration is also racist in that it requires people from some countries to have visas and pays special attention to those countries all of which are countries in Africa or Asia.



2 ***Black people came here to take our jobs.*** Actually black people were invited to come to work in the UK by the Governments of the 1950s. The second world war left a shortage of people to work in British industry. Immigrants were welcomed as workers, with open arms.

3 ***Black people have been flooding in ever since 1950.*** Along with the immigration of men who came to work at the invitation of the UK, it was inevitable that these men would one day want their families to join them. What would you feel like if an adult close to you (father or mother) went to work in a far off country and you were never allowed to join them? The UK has one of the tightest immigration regulatory systems in the world.

4 ***If all the blacks went home there would be enough work for the rest of us.*** How many doctors are unemployed? If 'all the blacks went home' hospitals would come to a standstill. It is not true that the unemployed workforce could even begin to fill the vacancies presently held by black people in this country. Most people who are unemployed at the moment are unemployed at least partly because they do not have skills relevant to present employment needs.

5 ***Blacks are scroungers, living off the dole.*** Actually as an economic unit black people as 5.5% of the population generate 10% of the wealth of this country!

6 ***They are all foreigners.*** Is someone born and brought up in this country a foreigner just because their parents come from a different country? Once you adopt a country as your own are you still a foreigner?



Immigration is a very sensitive issue. This page has deliberately been presented as supporting immigration. Can you write a page which justifies Britain's tight immigration policy?

Law and Order is a vote winning issue because the party which seems most to support a strict law and order policy is more likely to get support from a public which lists this issue as one of the most important on the political agenda.

Traditionally the Conservative party has been seen as the party of law and order although irrespective of which party has been in government the level of crime has continued to rise. The Labour party also sees itself as the party of law and order.

Across the world governments are trying many different methods of fighting crime. Some of the more controversial proposals are:

**Boot Camps, where young offenders are worked hard for 16 hours a day, in a military style regime;**

**Chain gangs, where prisoners are shackled to each other and forced to break stones or do other hard labouring tasks;**

**longer sentences with fewer privileges.**

The main issue which causes difficulties between the law and order lobby and others is the question of **Civil Liberties**. Some people believe that stricter treatment of prisoners leads to a general decline in the civil liberties of all. There is also a feeling that although criminals have done wrong, they are still human beings who should be treated with more consideration.

The argument boils down two main positions:

**Criminals should be punished hard for their misdeeds;**

**Criminals should be helped and re-educated to become better citizens.**



Why is law and order an important issue in politics?

What are the main arguments for a strict prison regime?

If people are just locked up for the period of their imprisonment won't they just be as ill equipped for life after their release as they were when they committed their offence? Shouldn't prison be an opportunity to help prisoners to be re-educated to become better people?

Race Relations legislation has been in place in the UK for over twenty years yet Home Office figures show a steady rise in racial incidents and attacks during this period. Racism is a recognised problem in the U.K. but the government has not been able to find an answer other than the legislation of 1976, (Race Relations Act) which has only been of limited effectiveness.

All major political parties are committed to anti racism but some policies which governments introduce can inadvertently lead to discrimination. One example of this is the hardened policy of immigration control which stops legitimate as well as illegitimate entry into the UK. The government requires visa entry only from 7 nations in the world, all of which are in Asia or Africa. Immigration from other countries is subject to far less scrutiny.

Racists believe that Britain was once a great country with an empire because the white people in it were superior in intelligence and technique to the many peoples which it controlled. They also believe that the reason for the demise of the British Empire was because of the influx of Black people and Jews into Britain. They believe that black people take the jobs which otherwise would go to white people, take their housing, use up the resources of the state by having larger families and claiming unemployment benefit etc. The simple solution to make Britain great again would be to expel all foreigners, but especially those whose skin is not white, and so allow Britain to become great again.

The basic belief of racists and fascists is very simple. They believe that the problems which they face can be simply solved by removing some people from their country and letting other people have their homes jobs and wealth. In Nazi Germany the problems that Hitler faced was having removed one group he had to then decide which other groups to remove. He chose trade unionists, communists, Jews.... Racism needs someone to blame in order to succeed. If there is no-one to blame and people are still suffering unemployment or bad housing or poverty ordinary people would realise that it does not work.

In Britain, racist political parties have never enjoyed widespread support and they have never had enough support to elect an MP to Parliament. They have occasionally threatened to win local council seats and have won one seat once.



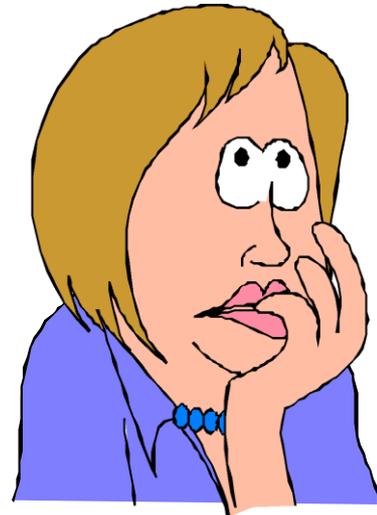
Why are some people racist?

How can racism be tackled effectively?

Is it inevitable that some racism will always exist in a multicultural society?

The UK has had equal opportunities legislation in place for more than 20 years and yet there are clearly many examples of sexism in British society today. The British workforce has more women in it today than ever before across all employment ranges, yet women on average still earn only about 75% of the average earnings of men in similar work, and represent only about 10% of the managers in industry. In Parliament there are only a handful of women MPs although the position is improving.

Across the world there are examples of sexism which make the UK look very advanced. In Saudi Arabia women are not allowed to drive cars, whilst the levels of illiteracy in the 'third world' among women is much higher than in men.



### **EXERCISE.**

You are a member of a working group on women's rights in your school. Your brief is to make sure that the inequality which women face should be tackled in a positive manner. The Principal of your school has made it clear that he/she wants to see results in the near future.

1. Conduct a survey among females in your school to identify which areas of inequality are the most unacceptable and what females want to be done about it.
2. Compile a report of your survey and write up a list of proposals.
3. Be critical! Decide which things can be undertaken which will see a real and immediate impact.
4. What level of opposition is there to your work? What proportion of males object to your work?
5. Is there more hidden than open opposition to the work which you are doing?
6. Which of your policies are relevant to be implemented in society generally?

Education divides the Labour party more than it does the Conservatives. The Labour party believes in an equal education opportunity for all, with the Comprehensive school system as the model. Recently the Labour party has been involved in internal disagreements because the leader Tony Blair and a shadow cabinet member Harriet Harman decided to send their children to grammar schools. Opponents point to the hypocrisy of believing in one system for everyone else but choosing another option for their own children.

The Conservatives, however, have no disagreements on education. They believe that parents should be free to choose whatever type of school they want their children to go to, and have changed the law to make this type of choice making easier.

The problems which ordinary people face with the Conservative policy on education is that if there are many types of schools then there is a chance that some schools will not receive the correct funding and others might get more money. Traditionally has meant that grammar schools have more funds than comprehensive schools. Opted out schools which become **grant maintained** take control of their own funds which means that the local education authority has less money to share out among the remaining schools.



Do you agree that there should be different types of schools, or should all schools be comprehensive? Why?

What do you think of the Labour leader who says he supports comprehensive education but sent his own son to a grammar school?

Is there a real difference between the aims of government education policy and the aspirations of parents?

State benefits make up the single largest budget item of the government and is increasing at more than the rate of inflation every year. State benefits include:

- Pensions;**
- Unemployment Benefit;**
- Income Support;**
- Child Benefit.**



It is agreed by all politicians that the amount should be reduced but the way in which this is possible is a highly debated issue. The obvious reduction would be to stop universal child benefits. This means that every mother receives benefit for a child irrespective of the needs of the mother. She may be unemployed or may be earning £100,000 per year. Both Labour and the Conservatives have toyed with the idea of making this benefit means tested but both have stopped short of making it party policy because it is a vote loser. Especially for the Conservatives whose voters tend to earn more it would be very unpopular. The Labour Shadow Chancellor, Gordon Brown, lost many votes in the Shadow Cabinet elections of 1996 for suggesting it as an idea which a Labour government might follow up.

Many people think that if any benefits are reduced or removed that this would be the **'thin edge of a wedge'**, opening up the way for more cuts in the future. Despite this, most people also agree that the social security budget cannot be maintained at its present levels. No one seems to have a clear answer about what can be done.



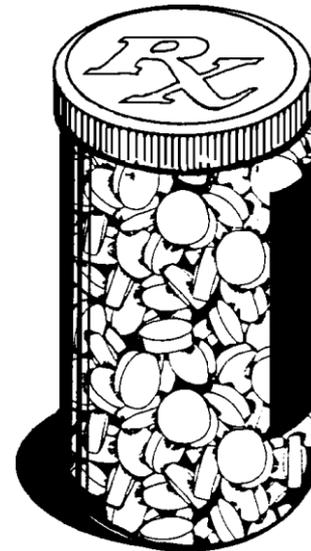
What are the main policies of the major UK political parties towards the reform of state benefits?

Imagine you have been selected to review the State Benefits system. You are expected to make cuts. How would you do it, and which benefits would you choose? Why?

**'The Health Service is safe in our hands'.**

All political parties in the U.K. have different plans for the Health Service and yet all also claim that it is in safe hands with their party. The Health Service is a crucial political issue. In the 1990s it has become clear that the Health Service as it was originally envisaged at its inception can not continue because of the great demands on healthcare of an ageing population.

No other country has as comprehensive a **'free at the point of delivery'** Health Service. The Conservative party believes that the Health Service is too expensive and that people should **opt out** and take private health insurance. The Health Service would become a safety net for those who could not afford private care. The Labour party believes that the Health Service should be better funded and kept more or less as it was originally envisaged, offering help to all who needed it regardless of their ability to pay.



The main problem is one of money. Everyone would like the Health Service to be even better than it is, but politicians believe that they have also to be realistic. The Health Service has undergone many changes in the last 10 years and costs have escalated. One example is to look at prescription charges. From 15p in 1979, they have risen to £5.50 in 1996. The government has defended these rises by arguing that people on benefit still get their medicine free and only those who can afford to do so pay the full amount.



Chart the history of the Health Service since its inception after the second world war.

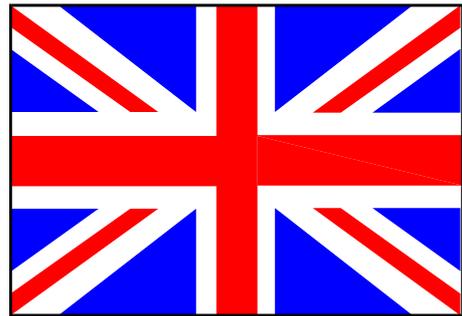
How has the Health Service changed in the last 10 years?

Which changes do you think need to be made to the Health Service in order to ensure its future given that the needs of the people are increasing but the cost of delivering the healthcare is also rising?

The basic meaning of Citizen is:

**A MEMBER OF A COUNTRY OR STATE**

Citizen means much more to many people than this. Some people think that there are good and bad citizens which can be measured by the degree of loyalty to the institutions of the state. In the case of the UK this would mean loyalty to the Queen, respect for Parliament and an unquestioning obedience to the law of the land.



Citizenship implies that whilst we have certain rights, as a member of a club might have, we also have responsibilities and duties and possibly punishments. In the U.K. citizens can vote at the age of eighteen but can also be imprisoned if they break the law.

**EXERCISE.**

Do you belong to a Club or Society? This could be a sports club, or a social club. In one sense your school is like a club because it has rules about who can and cannot join, and has its own set of rules. Make a list of the benefits you enjoy as a result of being a member of your club, and the restrictions it imposes on you.

BENEFITS OF BEING A MEMBER	DISADVANTAGES

What does citizenship mean to you?