

# POLITICS KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UK

## KEY WORDS AND DEFINITIONS - Constitution

Anti-constitutional	Seeking the complete overthrow of the constitution.
Bicameral legislature	A Parliament with two chambers or houses. (Commons & Lords)
Common Law	Law based on custom and precedent rather than on statute.
Constitution	A set of rules and principles by which a state is governed.
Constitutional law	Law that regulates the powers of the various branches of the state.
Constitutional Monarch	An impartial and largely symbolic hereditary head of state whose powers are subject to Parliament and the will of the people.
Constitutionalism.	Advocacy of, or acting within, a set of clear and enforceable rules which set limits to the power of the state and government.
Unitary constitution	A constitution based upon a single, sovereign, national legislature.
Unwritten/ uncodified constitution	Set of rules and principles of government (some written), but not contained in a single, legal document.
Conventions	<b>Unwritten rules</b> of the constitution which have become so through traditional practice, but which have no legal force.
Elective dictatorship.	Lord Hailsham's thesis of excessive executive power, between elections, over Parliament and public. ( Pressure groups critique?)
Federalism	Division of power between central and local executives. (USA)

## KEY WORDS AND DEFINITIONS - Legislative branch

Backbencher	An MP who does not hold a ministerial or "shadow" ministerial post because they tend to sit on the back benches of the HOC.
Bicameral legislature	A Parliament with two chambers or houses. (Commons & Lords)
Backbench revolt	Disunity by backbench MPs, who vote against their party on a "whipped" vote.( Whipped = told to vote with the party on an issue)
Committee of the Whole House	A meeting of the full chamber of the HOC to consider the committee stage of a government bill.
Frontbencher	An MP who holds a ministerial or "shadow" ministerial post and who usually sits on the front benches.
Government	Legislature, executive and judiciary.
Hereditary Peer	Peers who hold inherited titles which also carry the right to sit in the HOL. Since 1999 only 92 elected by all hereditary peers.
Legislature	The branch of government that has the power to make laws through the formal enactment of legislation. (Statutes).
Legitimacy	Rightful authority
Life Peer	Peers who are entitled to sit in the Lords for their own lifetimes and are appointed by the PM. (1958 Life Peerage Act).
Lords Spiritual	Bishops and archbishops of the C of E. Collective term. 26 only appointed by PM.
Lobby fodder	MPs who speak and vote as their parties dictate without thinking for themselves.
Mandate	Authority to govern, granted by the electorate, to implement manifesto proposals.
Minority government	A government that does not have overall majority support in parliament, formed by single parties that are unable, or unwilling, to form coalitions.
Money Bill	A bill that contains significant financial measures. Speaker.

## ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES AND SKILLS:

**9 Mark Question X3—AO1** Detailed knowledge of relevant political concepts, institutions and processes is demonstrated and appropriate political vocabulary. Thorough explanations and appropriate selection of accurate supporting examples demonstrate detailed understanding of relevant political concepts, institutions and processes **(6 marks)** **AO2** Analysis of three clear points is structured, clearly focused on the question and confidently developed in to a coherent answer **(3marks)**

**25 Mark Extract- AO1-** Detailed and accurate knowledge and understanding of relevant political concepts, institutions and processes are used to support analysis of the issue **(5 marks)** **AO2-** Analysis of the extract is balanced and confidently developed. Comparisons are well explained, are focussed on the question and fully supported with relevant and developed examples. Well structured and a sustained analytical focus **(10 marks)** **AO3-** Evaluation of the concepts is well substantiated conclusions that are consistent with the preceding discussion. Relevant perspectives and/or the status of the extract are successfully evaluated in the process of constructing arguments **(10 Marks)**

**25 Mark essay- choice of one from two- AO1-**Detailed and accurate knowledge and understanding of relevant political concepts, institutions and processes are used to support analysis of the issue under discussion **(5 Marks)** **AO2-** Analysis is balanced and confidently developed. Synoptic links are well explained, are focussed on the question and fully supported with relevant and developed examples , well organised, coherent with a sustained analytical focus on the question **(10 Marks)** **AO3-** Evaluation leads to well substantiated conclusions that are consistent with the preceding discussion. Relevant perspectives are successfully evaluated in the process of constructing arguments **(10 Marks)**

## KEY WORDS AND DEFINITION- Legislative branch

Open government	A free flow of information from government to representative bodies, the mass media and the electorate based on the publics "right to know".
Parliamentary government	System based on overlap rather than separation of powers.
Private Members bill	A bill that is proposed by an MP who is not a member of the government, usually through an annual ballot.
Strong government	Government can govern as it translates its legislative programme into public policy.
Unicameral constitution	A parliament with only one chamber or house

## THEORIES OF REPRESENTATION

<u>Model</u>	<u>Theory</u>
Burkean/Trustee	Associated with Edmund Burke, 18th Century MP- electors should trust their MP to act in their best interests. MP will consider what is in their constituents' best interests listening to their views but <b>not bound</b> by them. It involves exercising own judgement- eg an MP voting according to own conscious for abortion or euthanasia.
Delegate	Opposite of trustee model. MPs are viewed as mouthpieces for their constituents and entirely bound by their wishes. An MP voting against a planning or transport decision that is very unpopular in their constituency would reflect this model- Zak Goldsmith stood down as a Conservative MP in 2016 to fulfil his promise to his constituents about opposing a third runway at Heathrow. He stood as an independent but was not re-elected- voters may not always respect the delegate model
Mandate	MPs are elected primarily to carry out the manifesto promises of their party. This is the prevalent model in modern British Politics, given the power and discipline of political parties. It reflects the fact that most votes an MP receives are because of party allegiance, not personality.

## **POLITICS KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UK**

### **KEY WORDS AND DEFINITIONS - Judicial Branch**

Constitutional reform Act	2005- reduced the power of the Lord Chancellor and most senior appointments were completed by the independent Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC).
Green Paper	A consultative document, that precedes a white paper, that usually outlines a range of legislative options.
Factortame	Landmark case in 1990—UK courts have also been able to suspend UK statutes that appear to be in violation of EU law.
Judicial Independence	the judiciary should be kept separate from other branches of government
Judicial neutrality	the idea that judges should be politically neutral as so not to allow their views influence their judgment
Judicial review	Court hearings against the actions of central or local government.
Law	Rules of state enforceable by the courts.
Legitimacy	Rightful authority
Rigid constitution	One which requires a special legal process for change
Unconstitutional	Breaking any rule of the constitution.
Ultra Vires	Acting beyond your power
White Paper	A statement of policy by the government outlined in terms of legislative proposals.

### **KEY WORDS AND DEFINITIONS - Executive Branch**

Core executive	Collective term for the key players in making government policy- PM, Cabinet, committees, CO and senior civil service
Primus Inter Pares	Notion that the PM is only the 'First among equals' among cabinet members
Collective cabinet responsibility	All members in the cabinet support the decisions made in public even if they disagree
Inner cabinet (Kitchen cabinet)	A smaller, more formal group of senior ministers who meet outside of regular full cabinet meetings—Tony Blair 'sofa cabinet'
Special Advisers	Key figures hand-picked by the PM- Alastair Campbell (Blair) Dominick Cummings (Johnson)- ear of the PM and play a major part in shaping policy
Individual responsibility	Each minister is personally responsible for actions and outcomes in their departments
Cabinet Office	Government department responsible for supporting the cabinet system and the PM and managing the Civil Service
Coalition government	Two or more parties forming the majority in the House of Commons to govern
Patronage	Powers that the PM has to bestow jobs and honours to people

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### **KEY WORDS AND DEFINITIONS - DEVOLUTION**

Devolution	Transfer of political power, but not sovereignty, from central government to subnational government
Primary legislative power	Ability to make laws on devolved policy area
Nationalist	Reference to NI who supports constitutional means of achieving improved rights for Catholics and the unification of Northern and southern Ireland
Unionist	Supports the continued union between Great Britain and NI
Power-sharing	Form of devolution to ensure that both communities in a divided society and represented in the executive and assent to legislation on sensitive issues
English votes for English Laws	Special procedures in the H od C for dealing with legislation that only affects England
West Lothian Question	Why should Scottish MPs vote on English only matters when English MPs can't vote on Scottish matters
Quango	Quasi-autonomous non-governmental body, unelected government body responsible for funding or regulation of certain areas
Quasi-Federal	Central government has dissolved some of it's powers to subnational governments.

## POLITICS KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: THE POLITICS OF THE UK

### **KEY WORDS AND DEFINITIONS - Participation**

Democracy	A system where power is held by 'the people'
Direct democracy	People can directly make decisions usually in a yes/no format
Representative democracy	System where the people elect a person or group of people to represent their interests and make decisions on their behalf
Pluralist democracy	A system of government where there is competition between different groups who represent popular concerns to the government of the day
Democratic deficit	Term used to show the undemocratic nature of institutions or procedures that are supposed to promote democracy
Participation crisis	Failure of the public to participate in the political process which undermines democratic legitimacy
Franchise	Right to vote
Pressure group	Organisations that have a single interest or goal but do not want to assume power
Sectional group	Pressure group which look after their own section of society– often professional– BMA
Casual group	Represent a cause or issue that does not directly affect its members, often easy to join and members share similar interests
Think tank	Group which is formed with the specific purpose of formulating and developing policy ideas
Lobbyists	Meeting with key political figures and trying to get them to support your aims
Corporations	Groups that governments consult with in order to develop practical legislation
Freedom of Information Act 2000	Made to improve transparency in public bodies as long as it does not compromise national security
Equality Act 2010	Consolidated all measures relating to gender, race, sexuality and disabilities rights a re fair and consistent
E-democracy	Any electronic or digital method that can lead to greater democracy

### **ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES AND SKILLS:**

**9 Mark Question X3—A01** Detailed knowledge of relevant political concepts, institutions and processes is demonstrated and appropriate political vocabulary. Thorough explanations and appropriate selection of accurate supporting examples demonstrate detailed understanding of relevant political concepts, institutions and processes **(6 marks)** **A02** Analysis of three clear points is structured, clearly focused on the question and confidently developed in to a coherent answer **(3marks)**

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## **KEY WORDS AND DEFINITIONS - Electoral Systems**

Legitimacy	Rightfulness: a political system is legitimate when it is based on the consent of the people. Political actions are also legitimate if they are agreed from laws and procedures
Mandate	An authoritative instruction; the doctrine of the mandate gives the party that wins a general election the authority to implement its manifesto commitments
By-election	One-off election that takes place in an individual constituency when a vacancy arises between scheduled elections
Constituency	A geographical area that elects one or more representative to a legislative assembly
Majoritarian system	An electoral winning candidate must achieve an absolute majority of votes cast in a single-member constituency
Single-member constituency	An electoral system in which the candidate with the most votes wins
District magnitude	The number of representatives elected from a particular constituency
Mixed system	A proportion of representatives are elected under a majoritarian. Plurality system and the others are elected as 'additional members' using proportional system
Proportional representation	Multi-member constituencies in which a formula is used to match the percentage of seats to the percentage of votes won
Safe seat	Seat which the incumbent party has a large majority and is usually retained after each election
Marginal seat	The incumbent party has a small majority and could be won by another party at the next election
Winner's bonus	Under FPTP the share of seats is exaggerated and boosted parliamentary majority
Adversarial politics	Governing party is confronted by an opposition party in a hostile manner
Split-ticket voting	The practice of voting for candidates from different parties in an election where an elector is permitted to cast more than one vote
Referendum	A vote on a single issue put to a public ballot by the government
Electoral reform	Changes made to an electoral system or change from one electoral system to an alternative .
Minority government	No party has an absolute majority of seats, a party tries to form a government and win support from others.
Majority government	One party has an absolute majority of seats, all ministers are members of this party
Coalition government	Two or more parties agree a deal to form a government. Ministerial positions are shared between the parties

## POLITICS KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: THE POLITICS OF THE UK

### KEY WORDS AND DEFINITIONS - Voting behaviour

Class dealignment	Where people no longer vote according to their social class
Class voting	The idea that people will vote for a party based on the economic interest of their class
Core voter	Any group of voters that will loyally vote for a party regardless of any personal interests
Floating (swing) voters	Voters who are not loyal to a party and therefore open to persuasion
Partisan dealignment	The idea that people are less committed or loyal to one particular party
Social class	A way of categorising people based on their status in society, usually by income or occupation
Social capital	The theory that politics requires cultural and moral resources to engage the people and make them feel part of society. As such, citizens have certain responsibilities and duties to make society work effectively.
Tactical voting	The process of using your vote to prevent another candidate from winning, rather than voting for your first choice candidate. Often happens in seats with a third candidate who has no realistic chance of winning
Spatial leadership	Style of leadership where the PM relies on his or her own inner circle of advisers rather than the cabinet
Apathy	Disengagement with politics leading to a decline in political activity
Opinion poll	Survey of public opinion from a sample of the population at any given moment. Often used to try and determine election results

### KEY WORDS AND DEFINITIONS - Political Parties

Mandate	The right of the governing party to pursue the policies it sets out in the election manifesto
Manifesto	Pre-election policy document in which a party sets out a series of policy pledges and legislative proposals that it plans to enact if returned to office
Salisbury doctrine	The convention that the H of L does not block or try to wreck any legislation that was promised in the manifesto of the governing party
Dominant party system	A number of parties exist but only one ever holds power
Multiparty system	Many parties compete and often a coalition government will be formed
Single party system	One party dominates and usually bans other
Two party system	Fairly equally matched parties compete for power and others have little chance of breaking their duopoly
Political spectrum	Standpoints of parties can be mapped to show the ideological position

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### KEY WORDS AND DEFINITIONS - Political Parties

Conservatism	Ideology favouring pragmatic approach whilst preserving the status quo
Monetarism	Economic theory which advocates controlling the money supply
Neo-liberalism	Ideology linked to classical liberalism, stressing the importance of the free-market , individual rights and limited government
Paternalist conservatism	Power and authority are held centrally but the state acts as a benevolent carer
Yah-boo politics (adversarial politics)	Term used by Professor SE Finer and is used to describe the antagonism between the two major UK parties
Thatcherism	Ideological approach of combining a free-market economy with more conservative social policy
Social democracy	Ideology that accepts the basic premise of capitalism while advocating a more equal distribution of wealth
Socialism	Ideology supporting equality under great government intervention
New Labour	Describing Labour under Tony Blair— less trade union role, appeal to middle-class voters
Third way	Middle ground between conventional socialism and mainstream capitalism
Triangulation	Mixing core Labour Party principles and values— learnt from Thatcherism and associated with New Labour
Social Justice	Achieved through progressive taxation with the goal of greater equality
Gang of Four	Developed after Michael Foot's defeat in 1981 to form the Social Democratic Party
Liberalism	Ideology linked with personal freedoms

## POLITICS KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: IDEOLOGIES– Liberalism and Conservatism

### KEY WORDS AND DEFINITIONS - Liberalism

#### Key thinkers

John Locke (see also Thomas Hobbes for social contract theory)	Betty Friedan
John Rawls	John Stuart Mill
T H Green	Mary Wollstonecraft

Mechanistic Theory	Linked to the writings of John Locke. Argues mankind is rational and therefore capable of devising a state that reflects mankind's needs. It was to rebuff the 'divine right of king's'
Divine right of Kings'	Argued the state reflected God's will and obedience to state and monarch was a religious duty
Egotistical individualism	Linked to early classical liberalism. Belief that human beings are drawn to the advancement of their own, selfish interests and the pursuit of happiness
Economic Liberalism	Another term for capitalism. Involves private property (Locke considered this a natural right, individualistic, and thought as being a benefit to all.
State of nature	Both Hobbes and Locke used to justify different types of political state they were proposing
Social Contract	Locke's 'deal' with the governments and the governed. Accepting state law should mean a guarantee of certain rights, if the rights are violated then so is the citizen's right to obey the state law.
Tolerance/harm principle	Twin beliefs– activities/views should be tolerated as long as they do not 'harm' the freedom of other. Both concepts are linked to individual freedom
Foundation/legal equality	Belief that every individual is born equal, with equal rights. Entitled to legal equality in a liberal state
Equality of opportunity	All should be allowed similar opportunities to develop their potential– doesn't necessarily sit alongside equality of income to differentiate between socialism
Limited government	Against arbitrary rule (monarchy) and supports a constitution which limits government
Laissez-faire capitalism	Belief in private property and 'negative liberty' - a system which allows private enterprise and capitalism with little or no interference from the state
Negative liberty	Key feature of classical liberalism, involves individuals being left alone to pursue their destiny. Any attempt to interfere with individual actions is judged an infringement of liberty
Minimal state	Classical liberal feature, minimal state is reflects the concept of negative freedom– legislation and taxation as infrequently as possible
Developmentalism Individualism	Relates to JS Mill– focus on what individuals <b>could</b> become rather than what they had become– emphasised a formal education
Positive freedom	Aspect of modern liberalism—if you leave someone alone they are inhibited rather than freed. They will need enabling to become free.
Enabling state	An enabling state is one that extends its activities to free people from restrictive economic and social problems
Social liberalism	Updated view of the historic belief in tolerance. It involves legislation that may criminalise actions that discriminate against individuals on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, disability or religious persuasion

## ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES AND SKILLS:

**One from each of the three ideologies– Liberalism, Conservatism and Socialism- 9 Mark Question X3—A01** Detailed knowledge of relevant political concepts, institutions and processes is demonstrated and appropriate political vocabulary. Thorough explanations and appropriate selection of accurate supporting examples demonstrate detailed understanding of relevant political concepts, institutions and processes **(6 marks) A02** Analysis of three clear points is structured, clearly focused on the question and confidently developed in to a coherent answer **(3marks)**

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### KEY WORDS AND DEFINITIONS - Conservatism

#### Key thinkers

Thomas Hobbes                      Edmund Burke                      Michael Oakeshott    Ayn Rand                      Robert Nozick

Change to conserve	Fundamental principle of the conservatism and distinguishes it between a reactionary. For something to be valuable to be preserved it has to be updated and maintained
Human imperfection	Old testament doctrine of original sin– flaws which make any quest for perfection misguided and disastrous
Empiricism	A preference for 'evidence' over 'theory'- emphasises what is over what should be
Normative	How arrangements 'should' be in the future– a term conservatives dislike as they stress our uncertain existence
Progressive	Both socialism and liberalism believes things will always be better in the future, conservatives are sceptical about this
Hierarchy	Equality of status and power is undesirable and humans require leadership and the majority accept their judgements
Paternalism/noblesse oblige	Denote a 'fatherly' obligation– the elite decide what is best for the rest-irrespective of what they want— <b>soft paternalism– elites listen carefully to what the non-elites want</b>
Authority	Recognised 'right' for people to make a decision– disagree over how authority should be acquired
Laissez-faire	Supported by traditional conservatives such as Burke and New Right– Nozick
Thatcherism	Description of New Right Conservatism– 1979-1990 Thatcher government mixed neo-liberal policies (privatisation and tax reduction) with neo-conservative policies of strengthen police powers, curb immigration, tax breaks and traditional family values
One-nation conservatism	Linked to Disraeli in 1870s– should prioritise national unity by attending to the needs of the poorest. Used to justify greater state intervention, higher levels of spending and taxation
Egalitarianism	Supports equality for all
Atomism	Humans seek space and autonomy– only a vague sense of society. Conservative reject this view traditionally but New Right are more atomistic

## POLITICS KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: IDEOLOGIES-

### Socialism and Feminism

#### KEY WORDS AND DEFINITIONS - Socialism

Utopian Socialism	Earliest form of socialism based on a vision of the perfect human existence
Fraternity and cooperation	Fraternity indicates that people should be generous, warm, regard humans as siblings rather than opponents
Class	Central to socialism— indicates division based on money and employment
Social justice	Legal and formal justice is not enough to guarantee equality of opportunity. Social justice— health care, education for all, minimum wage will then lead to collectivism
Collectivism/Common ownership	Alternative to capitalism and private property ownership where all goods and property is shared
Fundamentalist socialism	Earliest form of socialism (classical Marxism) as denoted by Marx and Engels, now associated with neo-Marxism, euro-communism
Dialectic	Associated with Hegel— clash of ideas and perceptions that will take place at each 'stage' of Marxism, eventually leads to a disappearing society
Historical materialism	Stages of society through history and where the clashes would occur
Class consciousness	Product of capitalism (Marx/Engels)- would eventually lead to revolution
Democratic centralism	Process developed by Lenin. Not 'democratic' but discussion would take place within the party which would embody the will of the people and therefore further debate was not necessary
Evolutionary socialism	Rejects revolutionary politics and believes socialism can be achieved peacefully and gradually through the constitutional system
Revisionist socialism	Socialism can be achieved without the destruction of capitalism and the upheaval of a revolution
Keynesian economics	Stage managing the market forces to ensure a steady growth and full employment, lead to steady rises in public spending and then greater equality

## ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES AND SKILLS:

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**25 Mark essay— FEMINISM ONLY— AO1-** Detailed and accurate knowledge and understanding of relevant political concepts, institutions and processes are used to support analysis of the issue under discussion (**5 Marks**) **A02-** Analysis is balanced and confidently developed. Synoptic links are well explained, are focussed on the question and fully supported with relevant and developed examples, well organised, coherent with a sustained analytical focus on the question (**10 Marks**)

#### KEY WORDS AND DEFINITIONS - Feminism

Sex	Refers to the biological difference, seen as inevitable, natural and unalterable
Essentialism	Contested idea- refers to the fundamental nature of the biological differences between men and women— some say this is irrelevant, others say it is essential to understanding the status of women
Gender	Cultural differences between men and women— leads to male superiority and patriarchy is not natural and lower position of women has been assigned to them
Patriarchy	Society dominated by men
Androgyny	Radical feminism— all have both male and female characteristics— people should be free to choose sexual identity and may choose to have no sex at all
Private sphere	Aspects in life which are the concern of family, friends and the individual. The state should interfere with these unless harm is being done
Public sphere	All aspects of social, political and economic life that concern the whole community
Intersectionality	Contemporary, post-modern idea that suggests women have multiple identities as well as sex and gender— these include race, sexual orientation, class and religion
Equality of opportunity	Women should be offered equal opportunity to men— mainly applies to education and employment
Otherness	Refers to the position of females in a patriarchal society to make them inferior to men
Difference and equality feminism	Perspectives on women's place in society. Difference feminists— women are different to men and in some ways superior, it should be accepted and celebrated. Equality feminist seek to eliminate difference
Cultural feminism	Accepts that women are born with different cultural characteristics as well as biological differences

#### Conservative Key thinkers

Marx & Engels  
Rosa Luxemburg  
Beatrice Webb  
Anthony Crosland  
Anthony Giddens

#### Feminist Key thinkers

Simone de Beauvoir  
Bell hooks  
Shelia Rowbotham  
Charlotte Perkins Gilmore  
Kate Millet



# POLITICS KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: THE GOVERNMENT OF THE USA

## KEY WORDS AND DEFINITIONS - The Constitution

Codified Constitution	A constitution that consists of a full and authoritative set of rules written down in a single text
Supremacy clause	Article VI– constitution is the ‘supreme law of the land’
Enumerated (or delegated) powers	Powers given to the federal government under the constitution– first three articles
Implied powers	Powers inferred to the federal government—‘Necessary and proper’ clause
Necessary and proper clause	Article I section 8– empowers Congress
Reserved powers	Powers that the federal government doesn’t have are given to the states and the people
Concurrent powers	Powers that both state and federal government have
Entrenchment	Extra legal safeguards to ensure the constitution is difficult to amend or change
Bill of rights	First 10 amendments to the constitution
Separation of powers	Theory of government whereby political power is distributed amongst the legislature, executive and the judiciary
Checks and balances	Each branch has the means to partially control the power exercised by the other branches
Federalism	Political power is divided between a national government and state government, each have areas of their own jurisdiction
Limited government	Principle that the scope of federal government should be limited to that which is necessary for the common good of the people
Popular sovereignty	Ultimate political authority rests with the people
New federalism	Returning central powers to the states
Unfunded mandate	A law requiring states to perform functions for which it receives no funding from federal government

## KEY WORDS AND DEFINITIONS - Comparative Theories

<u>Model</u>	<u>Theory</u>
Structural	Most widely adopted for comparative politics is the structural approach and focuses on institutions in the political system and the processes within them. Outcomes are determined by these structures and they create the relationship between the governed and the government, between employees and the employers, party members and the party or between pressure groups and their members. As a consequence the lives of the individuals and groups within a society are largely determined by their position within a structure
Rational	Approach focuses on individuals. It assumes that individuals act in a rational, logical way to maximise their own self interest. They choose what is rationally best for them hence ‘rational choice’. This presumes that each individual has their own set of political goals –be they social, economic, cultural, environmental and will make decisions based on the best way to achieve these goal
Cultural	Approach focuses on ideas- the political, social, economic and religious ideas in each nation. Culture is a collective and shared amongst the community. There are pitfalls with this idea- majorities often share ideas but there will be a number of sub-cultures that are more difficult to identify. The 1990s in America were often referred to as the ‘culture wars’ – pornography, homosexuality, right to life, prayer in schools and these themes are re-emerging where Americans are angrily disagreeing about what constitutes American culture.

## ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES AND SKILLS:

**9 Mark Question X3 One will be a comparative theories question—AO1** Detailed knowledge of relevant political concepts, institutions and processes is demonstrated and appropriate political vocabulary. Thorough explanations and appropriate selection of accurate supporting examples demonstrate detailed understanding of relevant political concepts, institutions and processes **(6 marks)** **AO2** Analysis of three clear points is structured, clearly focused on the question and confidently developed in to a coherent answer **(3marks)**

**25 Mark Extract– AO1-** Detailed and accurate knowledge and understanding of relevant political concepts, institutions and processes are used to support analysis of the issue **(5 marks)** **AO2-** Analysis of the extract is balanced and confidently developed. Comparisons are well explained, are focussed on the question and fully supported with relevant and developed examples. Well structured and a sustained analytical focus **(10 marks)** **AO3-** Evaluation of the concepts is well substantiated conclusions that are consistent with the preceding discussion. Relevant perspectives and/or the status of the extract are successfully evaluated in the process of constructing arguments **(10 Marks)**

**25 Mark essay– Comparative US/UK choice of one from two– AO1-**Detailed and accurate knowledge and understanding of relevant political concepts, institutions and processes are used to support analysis of the issue under discussion **(5 Marks)** **AO2-** Analysis is balanced and confidently developed. Synoptic links are well explained, are focussed on the question and fully supported with relevant and developed examples , well organised, coherent with a sustained analytical focus on the question **(10 Marks)** **AO3-** Evaluation leads to well substantiated conclusions that are consistent with the preceding discussion. Relevant perspectives are successfully evaluated in the process of constructing arguments **(10 Marks)**

## KEY WORDS AND DEFINITIONS - Congress

Congressional district	A geographical subdivision of state represented by a member of the H Of R
Standing committees	Permanent, policy specialist committee of Congress playing lead roles in legislation and investigation
Seniority rule	A ‘rule’ that the chair of a congressional committee is the member of the majority party with the longest continuous service
Unanimous consent agreement	An agreement in either the House or the Senate, made with no objection
Filibuster	A device by which one or more senators can delay action on a bill or any other matter by debating it at length
Pocket veto	Power exercised by the president whereby bills that are not signed are lost
Oversight	Congressional review and investigation of the activities of the executive branch of government
Divided government	Different political parties control the executive branch and at least one chamber of Congress
Representation	Legislators represent their constituents
Pork Barrel	Term used to fund local projects tagged onto congressional bills
Gridlock	Failure to get action on policy proposals and legislation in Congress. Gridlock is exacerbated by a divided government and partisanship
Partisanship	Members of one party regularly group together to oppose members of another party
Bipartisanship	Cooperation between the two major parties to achieve legislative goals
Congressional caucuses	Collection of members of either major party elected to the House or Senate
Impeachment	Accusation of a serving federal officer which is investigated by the House and then trialled by the Senate

# POLITICS KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: THE GOVERNMENT OF THE USA

## KEY WORDS AND DEFINITIONS - The Executive Branch

Commander-in-chief	Power that constitutionally makes the president head of the armed forces
Cabinet	Advisory group selected by the president to aid them in making decisions and coordinating the work of federal government
Executive office of the president (EXOP)	Umbrella term for the top agencies in the white house that assist the president in carry out their responsibilities
White House Office	The personal office of the president within EXOP containing staff who facilitate communication with Congress, department and agency heads, press and the public
Office of management and budget	Within EXOP but deals with budget requests, legislative initiatives, and proposed rules and regulations
National security council	Part of EXOP– official forum for deliberating on national security and foreign policy
Executive order	An official document issued by the executive branch with the effect of law, president is directing federal officials to take certain actions
Signing statement	A statement issued by the president on signing a bill which challenges specific provisions of the bill on constitutional grounds
Recess appointment	A temporary appointment of a federal official made by the president to fill a vacancy while the senate is in recess
Executive agreement	An agreement reached between the president and a foreign nation on matters that do not require a formal treaty
Imperial presidency	A presidency characterised by the misuse of presidential powers, especially in foreign policy– and with high handedness in dealing with Congress
Imperilled presidency	Term coined by Ford– refers to a presidency characterised by ineffectiveness and weakness, resulting from congressional over-assertiveness
State of the Union address	An annual speech made by the president to a joint session of Congress, setting out his proposed legislative agenda for the coming years
Presidential veto	President’s power under Article II of the constitution to return a bill to congress unsigned, along with reasons for his objections

Model	Theory
Structural	Most widely adopted for comparative politics is the structural approach and focuses on institutions in the political system and the processes within them. Outcomes are determined by these structures and they create the relationship between the governed and the government, between employees and the employers, party members and the party or between pressure groups and their members. As a consequence the lives of the individuals and groups within a society are largely determined by their position within a structure
Rational	Approach focuses on individuals. It assumes that individuals act in a rational, logical way to maximise their own self interest. They choose what is rationally best for them hence ‘rational choice’. This presumes that each individual has their own set of political goals –be they social, economic, cultural, environmental and will make decisions based on the best way to achieve these goal
Cultural	Approach focuses on ideas- the political, social, economic and religious ideas in each nation. Culture is a collective and shared amongst the community. There are pitfalls with this idea- majorities often share ideas but there will be a number of sub-cultures that are more difficult to identify. The 1990s in America were often referred to as the ‘culture wars’ – pornography, homosexuality, right to life, prayer in schools and these themes are re-emerging where Americans are angrily disagreeing about what constitutes American culture.

## ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES AND SKILLS:

**9 Mark Question X3 One will be a comparative theories question—AO1** Detailed knowledge of relevant political concepts, institutions and processes is demonstrated and appropriate political vocabulary. Thorough explanations and appropriate selection of accurate supporting examples demonstrate detailed understanding of relevant political concepts, institutions and processes **(6 marks)** **AO2** Analysis of three clear points is structured, clearly focused on the question and confidently developed in to a coherent answer **(3marks)**

**25 Mark Extract– AO1-** Detailed and accurate knowledge and understanding of relevant political concepts, institutions and processes are used to support analysis of the issue **(5 marks)** **AO2-** Analysis of the extract is balanced and confidently developed. Comparisons are well explained, are focussed on the question and fully supported with relevant and developed examples. Well structured and a sustained analytical focus **(10 marks)** **AO3-** Evaluation of the concepts is well substantiated conclusions that are consistent with the preceding discussion. Relevant perspectives and/or the status of the extract are successfully evaluated in the process of constructing arguments **(10 Marks)**

**25 Mark essay– Comparative US/UK choice of one from two– AO1-**Detailed and accurate knowledge and understanding of relevant political concepts, institutions and processes are used to support analysis of the issue under discussion **(5 Marks)** **AO2-** Analysis is balanced and confidently developed. Synoptic links are well explained, are focussed on the question and fully supported with relevant and developed examples , well organised, coherent with a sustained analytical focus on the question **(10 Marks)** **AO3-** Evaluation leads to well substantiated conclusions that are consistent with the preceding discussion. Relevant perspectives are successfully evaluated in the process of constructing arguments **(10 Marks)**

## KEY WORDS AND DEFINITIONS - The Supreme Court & Race Relations

Strict constructionist	Justice who interprets the constitution strictly of literally and tends to stress the retention of power by individual states
Loose constructionist	Justice who interprets the constitution less literally and tends to stress the broad grants of power to the federal government
Originalist	Justice who interprets the constitution in line with the meaning or intent of the framers at the time of enactment
Living constitution	The constitution is considered a dynamic, living document, interpretation of which should be take account of the contemporary views of society
Judicial review	Power of the Supreme Court to declare Acts of Congress, State and executive actions as unconstitutional
Civil Rights	Positive Acts of government designed to protect persons against arbitrary or discriminatory treatment by government or individuals
Equal protection clause	Clause in the 14th amendment requiring states to guarantee equal rights and protection to all citizens
Judicial activism	Approach to judicial decision making which holds that judges should use their position to promote desirable social ends
Judicial restraint	Approach to judicial decision making which holds that judges should defer to the legislative and executive branches and precedent establish on previous supreme court decision
Stare decisis	A legal principle that judges should look to past precedents as a guide wherever possible (let the decision stand)
Busing	Mandated movement of school children to create mixed race schools
Quotas	Government programme to place people in higher education, employment etc from disadvantaged backgrounds
Affirmative action	Giving minority groups a head start in employment or higher education



# POLITICS KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: THE POLITICS OF THE USA

## KEY WORDS AND DEFINITIONS - Elections & Direct Democracy

Invisible primary	Period between candidates declaring an intention to run for presidency and the first primary or caucuses
Presidential primary	State-based election to choose a party's candidate for the presidency, It shows support for candidates among ordinary voter
Presidential caucuses	A series of state-based series of meetings to choose a party's candidate for presidency. They attract unrepresentative and low turnouts
Super Tuesday	A Tuesday in February or early March when a number of states coincide their presidential primaries or caucuses to try to gain influence
Front loading	States schedule their presidential primaries or caucuses earlier in the nomination cycle to attempt to increase its importance
Close primary	A primary in which only registered party members can vote in that party's primary
Open primary	Any registered voter can vote in either party's primary
Proportional primaries	Presidential primaries in which delegates are awarded to the candidates in proportion to the votes they get
Winner-takes-all primaries	Permitted only by the Republicans– whoever gets the most primary votes wins all the state delegates
Incumbent	A person that currently holds an office
McGovern-Fraser Commission	Commission established in 1968 by the Democrat party to recommend reforms to the presidential nominating process
Super-delegates	People who are appointed automatically as uncommitted delegates to the Democratic national party convention by virtue of being a senior party official or an elected politician
Balance ticket	Pairing of the president and vice president to attract support for different reasons
National Party Convention	Meeting held every four years by the two major parties to select presidential and vice presidential candidates and agree a party platform
Brokered convention	A national party convention in which no candidate gets enough delegates to have an absolute majority
Soft money	Money donated to political parties instead of candidates to avoid campaign finance spending limits
Political Action Committee (PAC)	A political committee that raises limited amounts of money and spends these contributions for the express purpose of electing or defeating candidates
Super PAC	A political committee that makes independent expenditure but does not make contributions to candidates
October Surprise	An event occurring late in the presidential campaign to the disadvantage of one candidate, leaving the candidate with little or no time to recover before election day
Electoral college	Institution established by the Founding Fathers to indirectly elect the president and vice president. The electors cast their ballot in the state capital
Rogue (faithless) electors	An elector in the Electoral College who casts their ballot for a candidate other than the one who won the popular vote in their states
Midterm elections	Elections for the whole of the H of R and 1/3 of Senators which happens 1/2 way through a presidential term
Locality rule	State law that requires members of the H of R to reside in the congressional district they represent
Coattails effect	The effect when a popular candidate at the top of the ticket carries candidates for lower offices into office
Split-ticket voting	Voting for candidates of two or more parties for different offices at the same election

## ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES AND SKILLS:

**9 Mark Question X3 One will be a comparative theories question—A01** Detailed knowledge of relevant political concepts, institutions and processes is demonstrated and appropriate political vocabulary. Thorough explanations and appropriate selection of accurate supporting examples demonstrate detailed understanding of relevant political concepts, institutions and processes **(6 marks)** **A02** Analysis of three clear points is structured, clearly focused on the question and confidently developed in to a coherent answer **(3marks)**

**25 Mark Extract– A01-** Detailed and accurate knowledge and understanding of relevant political concepts, institutions and processes are used to support analysis of the issue **(5 marks)** **A02-** Analysis of the extract is balanced and confidently developed. Comparisons are well explained, are focussed on the question and fully supported with relevant and developed examples. Well structured and a sustained analytical focus **(10 marks)** **A03-** Evaluation of the concepts is well substantiated conclusions that are consistent with the preceding discussion. Relevant perspectives and/or the status of the extract are successfully evaluated in the process of constructing arguments **(10 Marks)**

**25 Mark essay– Comparative US/UK choice of one from two– A01-** Detailed and accurate knowledge and understanding of relevant political concepts, institutions and processes are used to support analysis of the issue under discussion **(5 Marks)** **A02-** Analysis is balanced and confidently developed. Synoptic links are well explained, are focussed on the question and fully supported with relevant and developed examples , well organised, coherent with a sustained analytical focus on the question **(10 Marks)** **A03-** Evaluation leads to well substantiated conclusions that are consistent with the preceding discussion. Relevant perspectives are successfully evaluated in the process of constructing arguments **(10 Marks)**

## KEY WORDS AND DEFINITIONS - Parties and Pressure Groups

Ideology	A collectively held set of ideas and beliefs
Christian right (religious right)	Conservative Christian groups, closely linked to protestant evangelicals, seeking cultural and social changes, favouring family values, pro-life, parental rights and prayer in public schools
Gender gap	The gap between the support given to a candidate by women and the support given to the same candidate by men
Reagan democrats	White working class voters, living in the Northeast, Midwest, blue collar– had traditionally voted democrat but support Reagan and the Republican 1980 & 1984
Two-party system	Party system in which two parties regularly win the vast majority of votes, capture nearly all of the seats in the legislature and alternatively control the executive
Pressure group	An organised interest group in which members hold similar beliefs and actively pursue ways to influence government
Pluralism	A theory that political power does not rest simply with the electorate or the governing elite, but is distributed among groups representing widely different interests
Elitism	A theory that political power rests with a small group who gain power through wealth, family status or intellectual superiority
Professional group	A pressure group organised to promote the interest of the profession or business
Single-interest/policy group	Pressure group created in response to a specific issue in order to promote policies that the group desires concerning that issue
Revolving door syndrome	The practice by which former members of Congress (or the executive) take up well paid jobs with Washington-based firms, using their expertise and contacts to lobby their previous institution
Iron triangle	A strong relationship between pressure groups, the relevant congressional committees and the relevant government departments which attempts to achieve mutually beneficial policy outcomes