

# A note from the teacher...

Hello to any students who have picked Politics for A-level. I'm sorry that we can't meet in person to go through the taster lesson in person. I have included this resource to show you the type of learning we will do in class from September. Throughout there are various questions for you to answer. Please type /write these on an A4 piece of paper and send them to my email address. You also have a summer research task on slide 34. That is a project that if spread out can take at least 2 weeks with thorough research. You may wish to present your overall findings from this lesson together in a booklet form. Please send all work to [cdonnelly@forgevalley.Sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:cdonnelly@forgevalley.Sheffield.sch.uk).

Take care, keep safe, and I look forward to seeing you in September

Mr Donnelly

# Should a politician's public life matter to voters?

**FREE METRO**  
MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2019 THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR FREE NEWSPAPER

**THE MOTHER OF ALL ROAD TRIPS** ESCAPE Page 23

**CALIFORNIA US 66**

TODDLER SAVED AFTER HOUR IN BLAZING HOT CAR Page 7 TWO INJURED IN HOMOPHOBIC KNIFE ASSAULT Page 9

**PLUS**

- TRUMP TO BRING IN NEW IRAN SANCTIONS Page 6
- SIXTY SECONDS WITH JUNGLE STAR EMILY Page 16
- ENGLAND IN LAST EIGHT AFTER HOSTILE CLASH SPORT Back Page

**COME CLEAN, BORIS**

HUNT CHALLENGES RIVAL OVER 999 CALLOUT TO LOVER'S FLAT  
by DANIEL BINNS

JEREMY HUNT has added to pressure on Boris Johnson to come clean about the row that brought police to the door of his girlfriend's flat. The foreign secretary said his rival in the two-hour race to become Conservative leader must be prepared to confront criticism if he wants the keys to No.10. Cabinet minister Liam Fox and Conservative granular Malcolm Rifkind also called for answers after Mr Johnson reportedly refused to discuss his altercation with Carrie Symonds when asked about it at a briefing in Birmingham. Mr Hunt said they began yesterday. 3

Shush-sings: Boris Johnson covers his mouth at Birmingham event and [insert] Jeremy Hunt

Continued on Page 4

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Vitality HEALTH INSURANCE

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Michael Gove: Cocaine use "was a crime and a mistake"

Michael Gove admits he was lucky to avoid jail over cocaine use

# G O V E R N M E N T A N D P O L I T I C S I N B R I T A I N

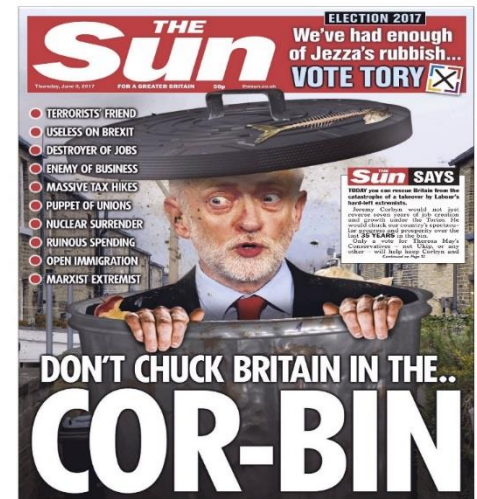
Title: Y11 Government and Politics Taster Lesson

Date – Thursday, 20 May 2021

The media has the biggest impact on voter intentions- do you agree?



The Sun newspaper, owned by Rupert Murdoch has never been on the losing side of an election. It is the largest daily newspaper in the UK. What does it tell us about media influence on elections?



# What is Politics

- Power
- Processes
- Parties
- Participation



## Why should we study it?



# Just Politics

By the time you study A-Level, this subject will just be called Politics.

It will be made up of four parts:

1. **UK Government** – You will study the institutions of UK Government e.g Parliament, The Executive and the Constitution
2. **UK Politics** – You will study political behaviour e.g Voting Behaviour, Pressure Groups and Voting Systems
3. **Political Ideologies** – You will study elements of political thought e.g Conservatism, Liberalism and Socialism
4. **US and Comparative Politics** – You will study US Government and Politics and compare it to that of the UK

AS - Parts 1 and 2

A-Level – Parts 1,2,3 and 4

# UK Politics (Mr Sharrocks)

# UK Government (Mr Donnelly)



How is the course set out?

In the 1<sup>st</sup> year you have two modules:

1. UK Politics
2. UK Government

*You will have a mock assessment in the summer or you can apply to do the AS-Level qualification. The AS will be 1 paper on each module*



How is the course set out?

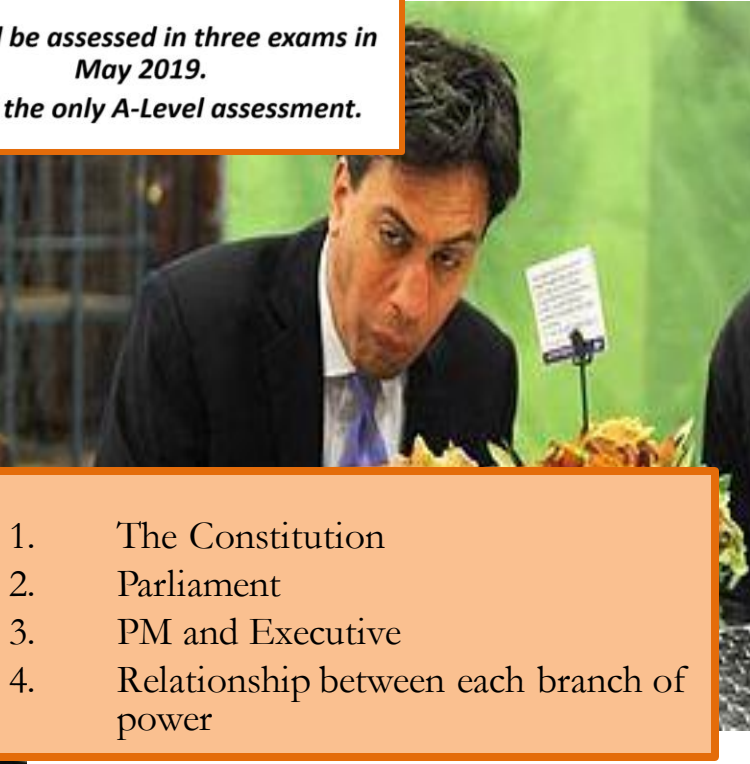
In the 2nd year you have two modules:

1. Political Ideas
2. Comparative Government

*You will be assessed in three exams in May 2019.*

*This is the only A-Level assessment.*

- 
- 
1. Democracy and participation
  2. Political Parties
  3. Electoral Systems
  4. Voting Behaviour and the Media

- 
1. The Constitution
  2. Parliament
  3. PM and Executive
  4. Relationship between each branch of power



## A Level Comparative Politics The UK and The USA

### Unit One & Two – Political Ideas



**capitalism**

(described by capitalists)



**capitalism**

(described by socialists)

- **Conservatism**
- **Liberalism**
- **Socialism**
- **Multiculturalism**

**What do you think?**

**What do others think?**

**That's Unit One & Two**



**socialism**

(described by socialists)



**socialism**

(described by capitalists)

# Exam Papers

## AS Level

Two Papers:

UK Government - 1 Hour and 45 Minutes

UK Politics – 1 Hour and 45 Minutes

## A Level

Three Papers:

UK Government + Ideologies – 2 Hours

UK Politics + Ideologies – 2 Hours

US Government and Politics – 2 Hours

Before we start our lesson today, does anyone have any questions?

# Recent Politics

**September 2014** – A referendum was held on whether Scotland should become an independent country. 55% of Scots voted to remain in the UK.

**May 2015** – David Cameron's Conservatives won a majority in the General Election. One of their manifesto promises was to hold a referendum on whether Britain should remain part of the EU

**June 2016** – In the EU Referendum 52% of Britons voted to leave the European Union

**July 2016** – Theresa May replaced David Cameron as Prime Minister after he resigned.

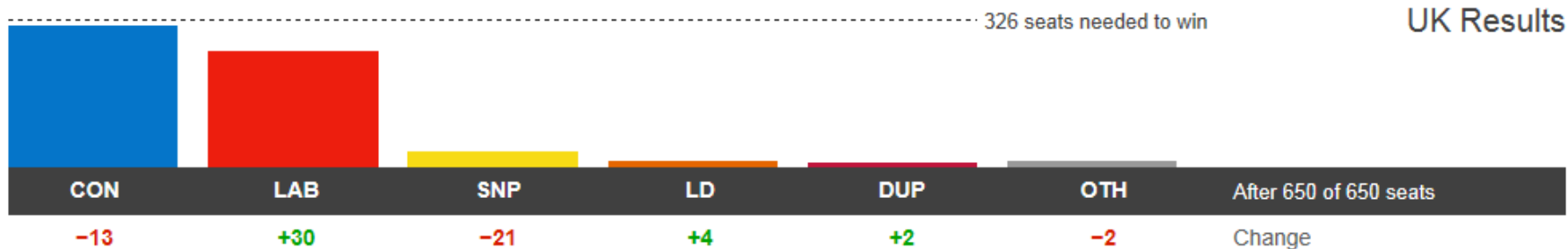
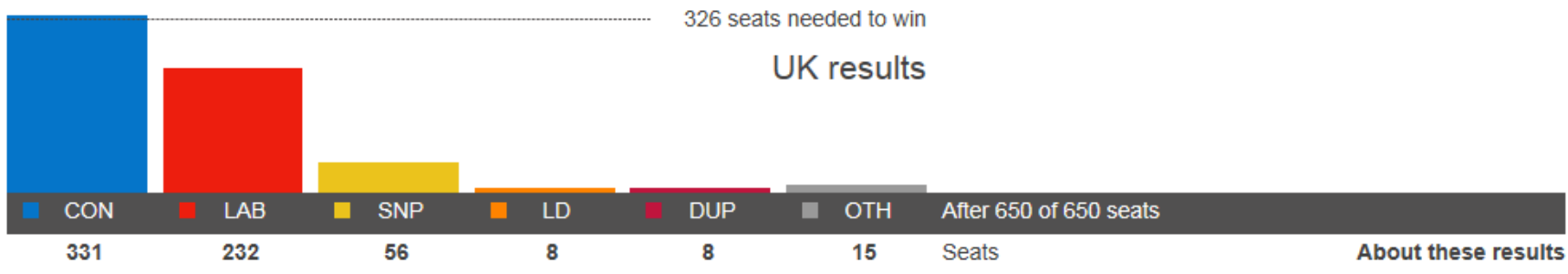
Then, in April 2017, Theresa May decided that she did not have a big enough majority to be sure of getting her Brexit plans through Parliament.

She sensed the Labour Party were weak, and chose to have a new election to win a huge majority...

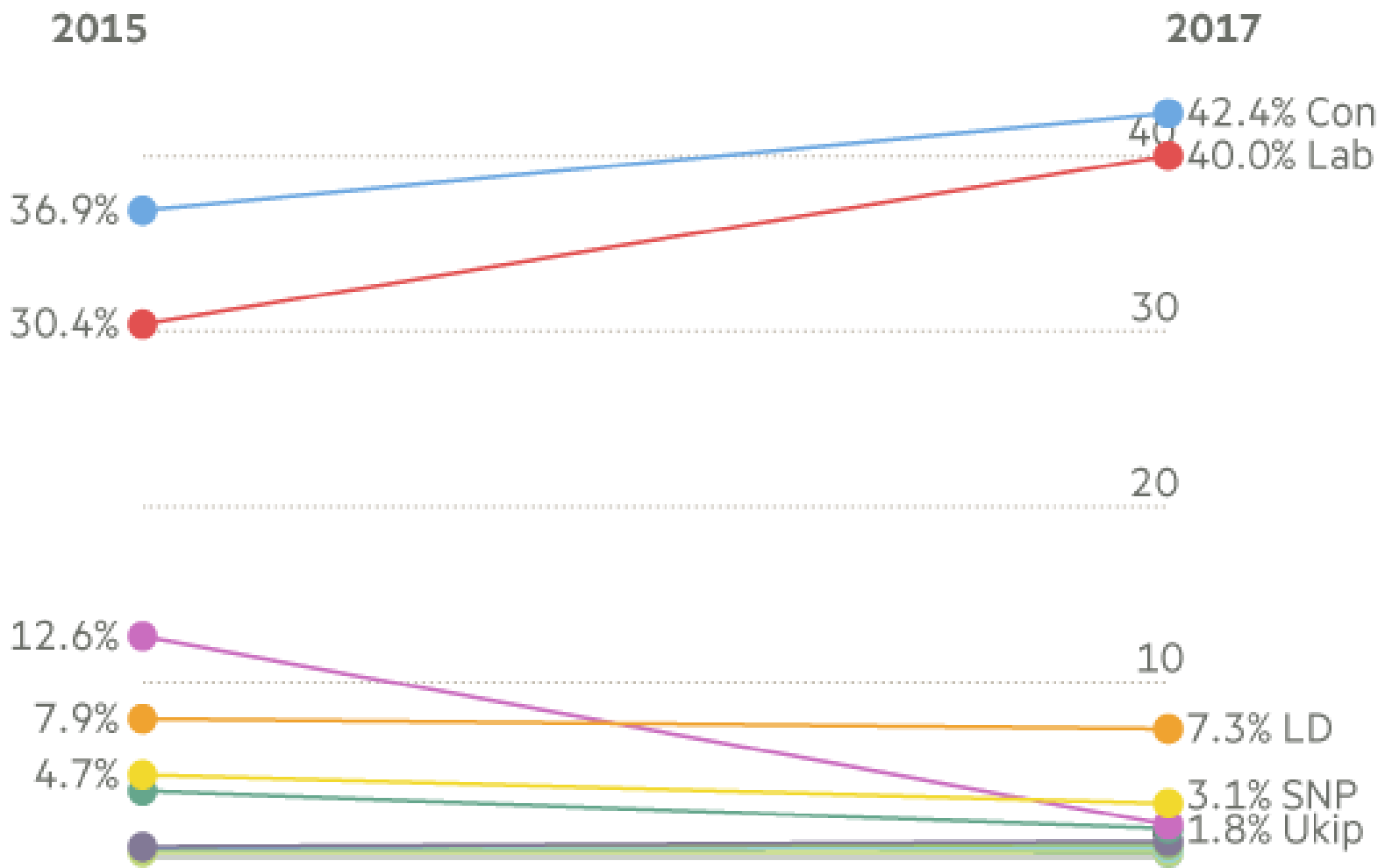
# 2015 v 2017 Election Results

 ELECTION 2015

 Share



# Change in vote share from the last general election



Source: PA

# What is happening now?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EbFhlfjJep>

0

## **A Level Comparative Politics The UK and the USA**



### **Unit Three Comparative Politics USA**

- **The US Constitution and federalism,**
- **US Congress,**
- **US presidency,**
- **US Supreme Court and civil rights,**
- **Democracy and participation,**
- **Comparative theories (comparison of UK and USA politics)**

**How did Donald get the job?**

**Find out in Unit 3**

# FROM THE SOURCE

## VOTES AT 16

### VOTES AT 16

Read the SOURCE below and then answer the questions that follow

#### the SOURCE

In the UK, the minimum voting age is 18, except in Scotland, where 16- and 17-year-olds have been given the right to vote in local and Scottish parliamentary elections. By and large, 16-year-olds haven't yet entered the world of home ownership, employment, tax or pensions but these economic issues are often at the forefront of election campaigns. The main argument against lowering the voting age is that a lack of experience in these matters prevents young people from making a considered judgement at the ballot box.

Opponents also point to the fact that 18- to 24-year-olds have the lowest turnout of any age group in elections, reflecting an apparent lack of interest in politics. These critics question whether an even younger generation would be any different. And there are concerns that teenagers who do want to cast their votes would be impressionable and easily influenced by radical politics, or would not fully think things through and would blindly vote for the same party as their parents.

But calls to lower the voting age come from a range of sources – adults as well as teenagers themselves, backed up by youth organisations, pressure groups and politicians. 16 and 17 year olds in the Isle of Man, Jersey, Guernsey, Brazil and Austria already have the vote. They can also vote in some elections in Germany, Malta and Norway. Evidence from the Scottish independence referendum, substantiated by research from Austria and Norway, shows – aided by the encouragement of families and schools – 16 and 17 year-olds have higher rates of turnout than 18 to 24 year-olds.

For supporters, it's about giving young people a say in matters that directly affect them, such as tuition fees. It's also thought that lowering the limit will encourage civic-mindedness at an earlier age and establish an interest in the political system, which will be continued throughout a person's life. Scotland's positive experience of including 16- and 17-year-olds in the 2014 independence referendum led to the lowering of the voting age for local and Holyrood elections.

A study by the University of Edinburgh during the referendum found that some teenagers were initially doubtful of their own abilities to make the right decision, but that this led them to actively seek out information to help inform their judgement. In some cases, teenagers even influenced their parents' voting intentions with their new-found knowledge.

But as there are no immediate plans for the UK government to debate lowering the voting age for general elections, it is unlikely that all 16-year-olds will get the chance to put that to the test any time soon.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/zbthk7> and <https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/campaign/votes-at-16/>



Read the article

Highlight arguments for and against giving 16 year olds the vote

Chose the strongest arguments from each side and fill in your scales

Which way do the arguments point? Yes or no?

3. Select 3 arguments from each side and add them to the balanced debate see-saw below.

#### WEAKER ARGUMENTS

- 1
- 2
- 3

#### STRONGER ARGUMENTS

- 1
- 2
- 3







# As and A Level Government & Politics

I'd always support my country, whether it was right or wrong.

No one chooses his or her country of birth, so it's foolish to be proud of it.

Controlling inflation is more important than controlling unemployment

It is regrettable that many personal fortunes are made by people who simply manipulate money and contribute nothing to their society.

Those with the ability to pay should have access to higher standards of medical care

Taxpayers should not be expected to prop up any theatres or museums that cannot survive on a commercial basis.

3. Select 3 arguments from each side and add them to the balanced debate see-saw below.

**WEAKER ARGUMENTS**

1

2

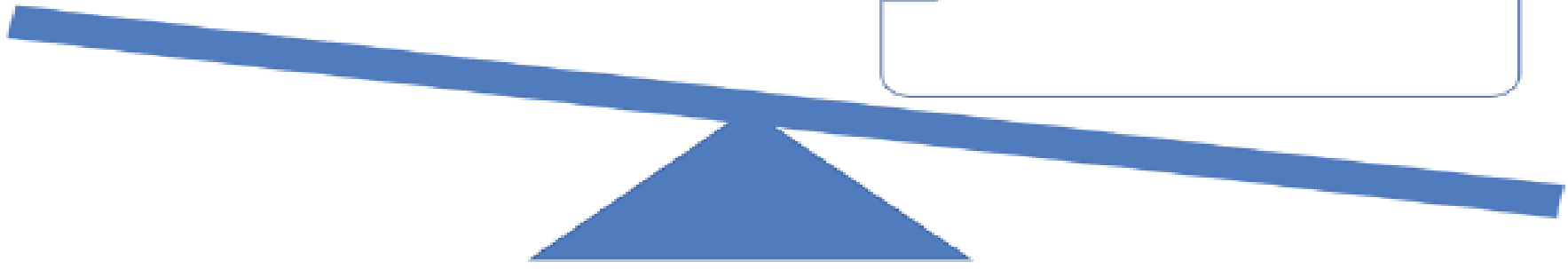
3

**STRONGER ARGUMENTS**

1

2

3





# Who would you vote for?

When Parties are campaigning for the elections they publish a manifesto.

These are essentially things that they promise to do if they are elected to be the government.

Today, you are going to look at the manifesto promises of the parties, and decide who you will vote for.

The parties are:



Green Party

# Who would you vote for?

You are going to look at the different parties manifesto for the following issues:

- The NHS
- Brexit
- Schools and Education
- Foreign and Defence Policy
- Immigration

You need to decide which party you want to vote for. However, you are not going to know which party is which. They have been changed to simply be:

- The Yellow Party
- The Purple Party
- The Red Party
- The Blue Party
- The Green Party

You have to make your choice. For each issue, which party appeals to you?

# Which party is actually which?

The Yellow Party are actually...



# Conservatives

# Which party is actually which?

The 'Green Party' are actually



# Which party is actually which?

Red Party are actually...

Liberal  
Democrats

The logo of the Liberal Democrats, which is a stylized yellow bird with its wings spread, positioned to the right of the text.



# Which party is actually which?

The Purple Party are actually...



# Which party is actually which?

Blue Party are actually...



# Green Party

# What would you call the following?

- Holding a door open for someone coming behind you (no matter if they are a man or a woman).
- Giving up your seat for someone is elderly, disabled or pregnant on a bus or train.
- When you are in a public place, you don't swear
- If someone offers to buy you a McDonald's, you don't ask for a large

What would you call these?

Are any of them laws? Do they have to be followed?

All of these things are **social conventions**. They are things that people do because there is a general sense that it is right or proper. They do not have to do them.

This is opposed to laws. Laws are an enforceable agreement with a defined penalty for a failure to do so.

In front of you are going to be a number of statements about the British Government and Parliament.

I will like you to sort them into two piles. Laws and Conventions.

# Law or Convention – What did you think?

MP's are not allowed to wear armour in Parliament.

The Queen appoints the leader of any majority party in Parliament to become Prime Minister.

A member of the Royal Family cannot marry a Catholic.

One cannot cause a Nuclear Explosion.

The Queen will sign into law any act agreed by the Houses of Parliament.

An MP cannot die in the House of Commons

The Prime Minister resides at Number 10 Downing Street

Anyone who knowingly has the plague cannot flag down a taxi or try and ride on a bus

You cannot eat Mute Swan unless you're a member of the Royal Family

There is a job in the UK called 'Prime Minister'

The Prime Minister must be a member of the House of Commons

A person shall not enter the hull of the Titanic

Within the city walls of York you can murder a Scotsman if he is carrying a bow and arrow

The Queen will act on the advice of her Ministers

The House of Commons is in charge of deciding how money is spent

A General Election in the UK must be held every Five Years

MP's are not allowed to wear armour in parliament.

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# The Uniqueness of the British Political System

So we have a political system where:

There is a specific law says that an MP cannot die in Parliament

**But**

There is no law that says that the Queen must appoint a certain Prime Minister

There is a specific law that says that you cannot go in a taxi if you have the plague

**But**

The position of Prime Minister doesn't legally exist

There is a specific law that says person shall not enter the hull of the Titanic

**But**

There is no law that's says the Queen cannot do whatever she wants!

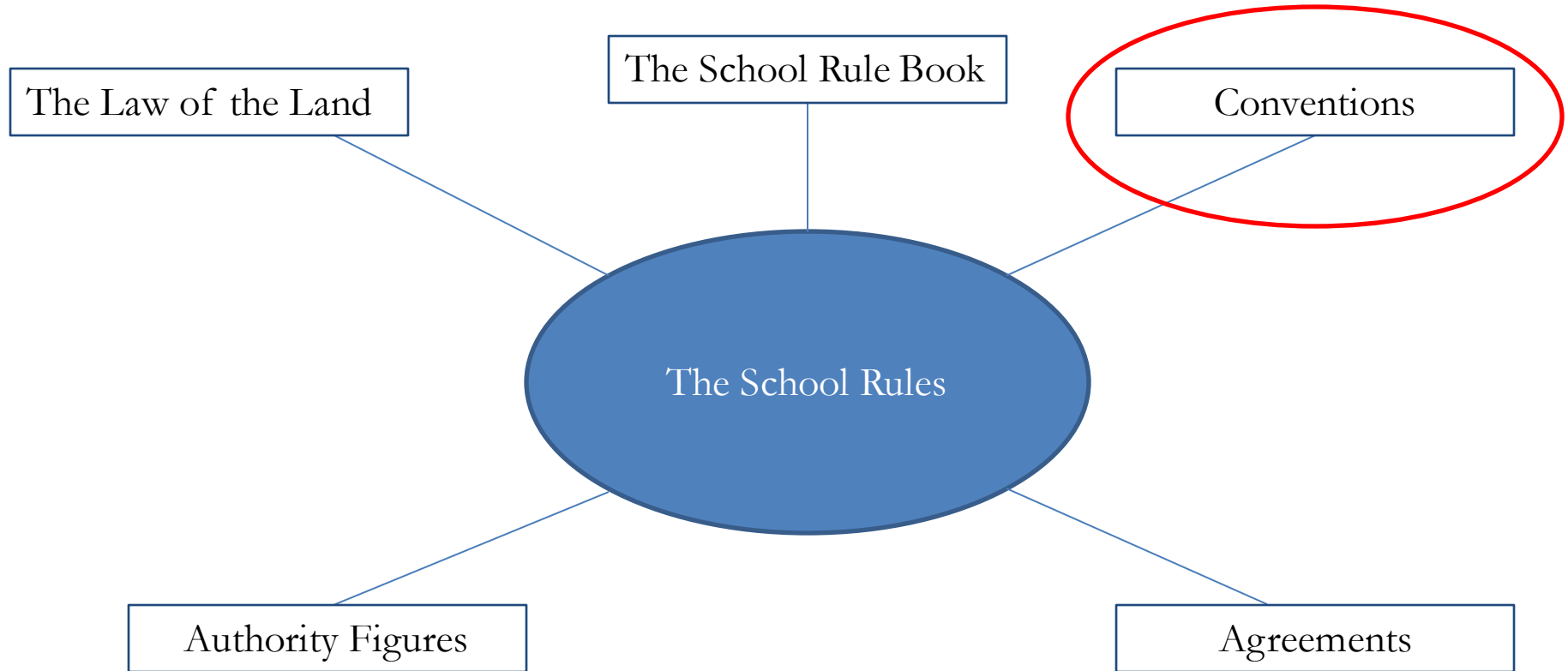
No other political system in the world is based on convention like the UK is.

However, the UK is the oldest and arguably the oldest, most flexible and most secure political system in the world.

The term for the rules that define how a government runs is called a **constitution**. Each country has one.

# Rules – How Organisations Work

With the people around you, discuss what the school rules are based on. How do you know what they are?



# Rules – How Organisations Work

How many of you have read the School Rules in Planner?

Do you still understand the School Rules?

This shows us that rules don't have to be established in one place to be understood and followed. Just as the British constitution is not in one place, even though it is with some degree of efficiency.

So, Britain's constitution is called 'uncodified' or 'unwritten' this is because it is not kept all in one place. The British constitution is made up of a number of different sources.

**If you want to find out about the other sources, you will have to study Politics at A-Level...**



# Government & Politics A Level

Edexcel Government & Politics Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Politics (8PL0)

Edexcel Government & Politics Level 3 Advanced GCE in Politics (9PL0)

## Aims of the course

- To give all students a firm understanding of how our country operates on a political level.
- To give our students an insight into the issues surrounding our and the USA's political system. Its strength and flaws.
- To give our students an understanding of their rights and responsibilities, where they came from and how and why they should be protected.
- To engage our students in the democratic process, by interacting with the political system and the people in it. In order to prepare them to be engaged and knowledgeable citizens of the UK.

## Career opportunities:

A Level Government & Politics is a traditional academic subject which is well respected by Universities and employers. Politics students are expected to analyse data and opinion, to critically evaluate such data and opinion in order to form their own judgments. As such they develop a wide range of sought after skills that can be applied to a broad range of career and degree choices.

E.G.

Role within government Member of Parliament,  
Political Assistant Civil Service Diplomatic service  
Political Journalist Public affairs consultant  
Career in human rights and charities Law  
Entry to higher education

## Course content: AS level

### Unit One- UK Politics

- Democracy and participation
- Political parties
- Electoral systems
- Voting behaviour & the media

### Unit Two – UK Government

- The Constitution
- Parliament
- Prime Minister & the executive
- Relationships between different branches

## A level

### Unit One UK politics

As above +

Core political ideas

- Conservatism
- Liberalism
- Socialism

### Unit Two UK Government

As above +

Non-Core political ideas

- Multiculturalism

### Unit Three Comparative Politics USA

- The US Constitution and federalism,
- US Congress,
- US presidency,
- US Supreme Court and civil rights,
- Democracy and participation,
- Comparative theories (comparison of UK and USA politics)

## Assessment:

AS

Both Units

1 hour 45-minute written paper 50% of total mark

A Level

All units

2 hours written paper 33.3% of total mark

## Politics Summer Research Task

Create a fact file on the following UK parties

- Labour
- Conservatives
- Liberal Democrats
- SNP
- Sinn Féin
- Plaid Cymru
- Brexit Party
- Green Party
- DUP

Include a short summary of their:

- Origin
- Main aims
- Typical support base
- Position on Brexit
- Significant electoral successes