

# TBSRJMUN XXI

## Margaret Thatcher's Parliament of the UK



TBSRJMUN XXI

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## LETTER TO DELEGATES

Dear Delegates,

It is the chairs' honour, Gabi and Manu, to welcome you to Margaret Thatcher's Parliament Committee of the UK in TBSRJMUN XXI! We truly hope that after this conference you will become passionate, or at least inquire about, the historical figure that she was and the controversial takes that she had during her government. We are aiming for delegates to embrace their position in the intertwined social and political topics of the 1980s in Britain, and potentially change Britain as a power in the year to come.

The first topic is addressing the Miners' Strike, which is also seen as the 'death of industrial Britain'. National strikes had already happened in the 1970s with the organisation the National Union of Mineworkers, but the National Strike of 1984-85 mobilised the entire country. On one hand, miners fought for fair payment and the functioning of their pits, as they lacked other employment opportunities. On the other hand, a conservative and capitalist government, under Margaret Thatcher, wanted to keep industries profitable while getting public support for government policies. Delegates will be trying to solve the strike to the best of their ability, perhaps changing the course of actions in 1985, with the closure of pits, as Scargill's - leader of NUM and most influential during the strike - predictions about pit closure plans are proven correct in years to come.

Our other topic of discussion will be of the National Curriculum in 1988, as it was also the target of great controversy for causing an unprecedented political centralisation of education in the United Kingdom. Delegates must ensure that the degree of local authority and decision making is fair to the people of the country, as well as guarantee opportunities for student education. Topic A won't have any impact on Topic B, and delegates will remain the same. Keep in mind the Labour and Conservative parties firmly disagreed on most reforms carried by Thatcher's government.

Delegates, don't hesitate to contact us if you wish to chat or have any questions regarding procedures, topics, or feedback! We look forward to seeing what you will bring to this historical parliament committee.

Sincerely,

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## Committee Description

The "Model Parliament", the first official Parliament of England, met in Westminster in 1295. Almost all subsequent English Parliaments, and after 1707 all British Parliaments, met at the Palace. It is composed of the House of Commons and the House of Lords, and they examine what the Government is doing, make new laws, hold the power to set taxes and debate the issues of the day. During an election, which happens every 5 years, each constituent selects one candidate to be their MP, and nearly all of them represent one political party. The party which has the most elected MPs becomes what is considered "the Government", and this Party's leader becomes the Prime Minister, which is the head of government. The unelected party is known as the opposition (like the Labour Party during Thatcher) and they also have a leader, called the "Leader of the Opposition".

For the purpose of our committee, we will hold only the House of Commons of the UK, and delegates will represent Members of Parliament (MPs). The committee will follow UK Parliament rules but is set specifically from 1984 to 1988, which are the Thatcher administration years.

Delegates will be expected to represent their areas of origin and political party in debate, for the purpose of creating social and economic equitable laws that could change the future of the United Kingdom.

## Procedural Changes

The chairs will represent the Speaker of the House, which is the person that moderates parliamentary meetings, so they shall be addressed as "*Speaker(s)*" instead of Chair or Dais to be as accurate as possible, and the committee is "*The House*". The use of complete titles such as "*The Right Honourable Gentleman/Lady/Member*" shall be used to refer to fellow delegates. Given that delegates are representing MPs, first and second pronouns are expected to be used in speech. Regarding resolutions, we will be drafting a "*Bill*", and if passed, it will be called an Act of Parliament. Bills and Legislation set out the proposals for new laws and plans to change existing laws, and are presented for debate before Parliament. Therefore, bills can be written in regular MUN style of resolutions for the sake of the flow of the committee.



*Miners lobbying the TUC*

photo by [Dave Sinclair](#)

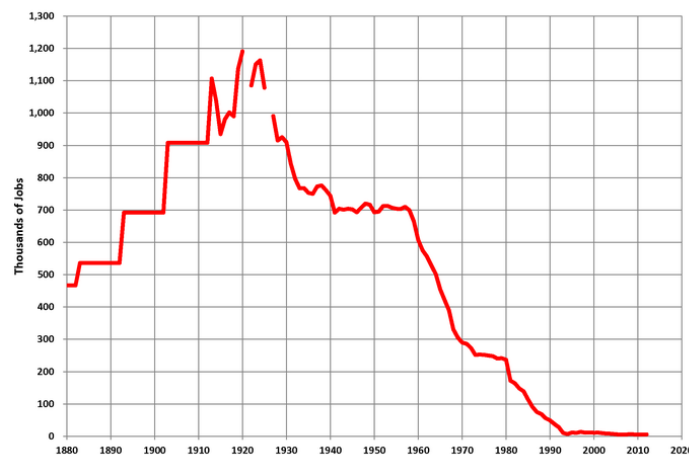
## Topic A:

# Addressing the industrial disputes of the Miners Strike of 1984

# Background Information

## Introduction

'Close a pit, kill a community', was the slogan adopted not long into the Miners Strike of 1984. The strike occurred as operating colliers had dropped from 1 million in the 20th century to only 173 operating in 1984 in the United Kingdom. That caused a huge drop in employment for coal, which was a trend seen across different countries as well.



Coal mining employment in the UK, 1880–2012 ([DECC data](#))

The mining of coal was managed by National Coal Board (NCB), as the industry was nationalised by Clement Attlee's Labour government in 1947. The industry was restructured between 1958 and 1967 in cooperation with labour unions, with a halving of the workforce, with initiatives to provide alternative employment by the government. Despite the overall economy slowing down, these gaps were stabilised between 1968 and 1977 with the support of unions. The mining industry was effectively a closed shop, which meant that only people in unions were in fact employed in the industry.

In 1982 and 1983, the loss per tonne in operation was about £3.05, and international market prices for coal were about 25% cheaper than those charged by the NCB. By 1984, the remaining of the richest coal was more difficult to reach, so



workers in mining became less efficient due to the increase in production automation and mechanisation.

When Margaret Thatcher oversaw the problem beginning in 1979, she accelerated a contraction and closure of collieries which was strongly opposed by unions. After the war, one of her concerns was that closures for industries could only occur when agreed by its workers, who would receive economic security and reassurance from the government. Yet, consensus did not apply in the case for the miners, which was an enforced closure due to the redundancy of workers, but had severely limited alternatives for employment. She believed these had to be closed to increase the efficiency of the economy, and would depend more on imported coal, oil, gas and nuclear. In 1981, the government announced the closure of more than 20 pits, but a threat of a national strike forced them to back down, as coal stocks would only last 6 weeks. Thatcher realised she needed at least a six-month supply of coal to win a strike. Members of the Union rejected the idea of the strike by accepting a near 10% raise in their pay. Those proposed for closures were analysed case-by-case, and the NCB cut employment by 41,000, and redundancy pay was highly increased in 1981 and 1983, most being for men over 55 years of age. Thatcher appointed Ian McGregor for the National Coal Board in 1983, who was known for making the steel industry one of the most efficient in the country by halving its workforce. This scared miners who expected to have similar job cuts.

The NCB announced that 20 collieries would close and 20,000 jobs would be lost on March 6th of 1984, agreeing that the 1974 strike was obsolete and that this would help in reducing government expenses. Communities across Northern England, Scotland, and Wales, would lose their main source of income. Arthur Scargill, leader of NUM, claimed that the government planned on closing 70 more, but that was denied. Thatcher had prepared to avoid a crisis by stockpiling coal, converting some power stations to burn heavy fuel oil, and recruiting fleets of road hauliers to transport coal in case sympathetic railwaymen went on strike to support the miners.

### **National Union of Mineworkers (NUM)**

The National Union of Mineworkers, referred to as NUM, came to be in 1945, after the big nationalisation of the industry in 1947. Closures in large-scale collieries happened in the 1960s, which moved miners from run-down coalfields (Scotland, Wales, Lancashire, the north-east of England) to Yorkshire and the Midlands coalfields. NUM acted against employment cuts, with an unofficial strike in 1969, which elected more people to leadership of the union; one official in 1972 and 1974, which led to the Three-Day-Week, limiting the consumption of electricity to three consecutive days each week. The Three-Day-Week was one of Heath's measures to conserve electricity but was a complete disaster and showed the power of the union as it brought Heath's government down.

NUM also had regional representation: Scotland, South Wales and Kent were the most militant and had some communist officials, whereas the Midlands were much less involved. Arthur Scargill, the leader of the Union and the strike, voiced his political view opposing Thatcher. He said: "The policies of this government are clear – to destroy the coal industry and the NUM" and wrote in the NUM journal *The Miner*: "MacGregor[...]70-year-old multi-millionaire import, who massacred half the steel workforce in less than three years, is almost certainly brought in to wield the axe on pits. It's now or never for Britain's mineworkers. This is the final chance – while we still have the strength – to save our industry". Ian MacGregor was appointed by Thatcher to run the Coal Board in March 1983 - and was determined to fight NUM on PM's demand - as he had previously succeeded with the Steel Industry to make it profitable. In a speech at a NUM conference in Perth on 4 July 1983, Scargill called for an extra-parliamentary action through speeches and against the Conservative government and multiple strikes. He also claimed that even the unprofitable pits were not uneconomic, so that pits should only be closed because of geological exhaustion or safety.

"We shall not be constitutionalised out of a strike...Area by area will decide and there will be a domino effect", said Arthur Scargill, as NUM failed to have a national strike ballot, so it was ruled illegal in September of 1984. Therefore, miners in areas like Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire kept working and were protected by the

police from aggressive picketing. The strike was almost universally observed in South Wales, Yorkshire, Scotland, North East England and Kent, but there was less support across the Midlands and in North Wales. Nottinghamshire became a target for aggressive and sometimes violent picketing as Scargill's pickets tried to stop local miners from working

### Battle of Orgreave



The Battle of Orgreave led to 95 people being charged with riot and violent disorders but their cases were dropped amid questions about reliability of police evidence.

Photograph: [REX Shutterstock](#)

The June 1984 battle was one of the most violent clashes in British industrial history. Police, courts, and media were all mobilised to defeat the miners, which broke out in Orgreave in an attempt to prevent lorries from going into and out of its coking plant. 71 picketers were charged with riot and 24 with violent disorder, riot being punishable by life imprisonment. The Union planned 5,000 pickets for a mass picketing to prevent access to Orgreave, so the police sent 6,000 officers from eighteen different forces at Orgreave to prevent what had happened in 1972, with 30,000 picketers. Official reports state that during the confrontation 93 arrests were made, with 51 pickets and 72 policemen injured, but the public has pressured that police files should be made public. BBC's coverage of the day's events differed sharply from that of ITV in how it presented the violence and apportioned blame for it, giving rise to accusations of political bias against the miners. Headlines about

violence were through the news, The National Board relied completely on the police to solve their problems, by implementing the criminal law, rather than seeking the civil remedies under the existing civil law.

## Current Situation

The number of strikebreakers, sometimes referred to pejoratively as scabs, increased from the start of January of 1984, as the strikers struggled to pay for food as union pay ran out. Now, it is up to the UK parliament to decide how to address the strike, when both sides are very unwilling to back down. Scargill called a national strike that would last until the 4th of March 1985 and 26.1 million working days were lost. Not only the unhappy miners need to be handled, but also the speech posed by Arthur Scargill that claimed only the pits that had no mineable coal left would be closed, influencing NUM (or most of the) workers.

The government needed to administer how to get public support, how to possibly moralise or demoralise the strike and miners, the use of the police, and handling trade unions. Thatcher was considered prepared for this battle as she had appointed Ian MacGregor and Walter Marshall as Chairman for The National Coal Board in March of 1983. Wage agreements are being checked so that less people would join the strike, as well as the Social Security Act which decreed that: in the event of a strike, strikers and their families would or would not receive the urgent needs payment and pounds would or would not be deducted from their benefits to cover for the strike pay they were theoretically receiving from their unions.

Policy Unit members, which the Prime Minister appoints for policy advice and potentially as her private allies, flooded Downing Street with clear economic incentives in running down British coal. Therefore, they were instrumental in determining government policy concerning all aspects of the strike, including preparation, policing, the law courts, financial concerns and the portrayal of the strike in the media. The campaign by Thatcher's Policy Unit could strongly impact the British trade union movement, referring to predictions of the Ridley Report.

## Major Bloc Positions

### Margaret Thatcher

On 19 July 1984, Thatcher said in the House of Commons that she would not give in to the Miners Strike as it would be surrendering the ethics of parliamentary democracy to the rule of the mob. She referred to union leaders as "the enemy within", but not all miners, and that they did not represent British people's values.

### Ian Gilmour

Ian Gilmour, a left of centre Conservative, sees that the government handled the miners' strike and the threats posed by it 'brilliantly'. Gilmour, believing firmly in 'one nation state' policies, was critical of much of Thatcher's tenure in office and so it is significant that he praised the government's handling of the miners' strike.

### Nicholas Ridley

Appointed as Secretary of State for Transport in 1983, Ridley proved to be a key appointment with regards to addressing the strike as he oversaw the stock-piling of coal in advance of the strike. It was also a wise decision as Ridley, like Thatcherites, believed in the power of market forces and so wanted to see the defeat of the trade unions. Following Ridley's advice the government strengthened the police and stockpiled coal at power stations. This proved to be vital during the strike as it enabled the government to maintain the production of power, diminishing the strike's national effect in comparison to previous strikes. The Ridley Report, written by Nicholas Ridley in 1977, nationalised industries in the UK in the aftermath of the Heath government's being brought down by the 1973–74 coal strike. It suggested revoking benefits from those who were dependent on strikers and the government incorporated this into their strategy through Section 2, clause 6 of the 1980 Social Security Act.

## **Neil Kinnock**

Kinnock was elected Leader of Opposition during most of the Thatcher administration, including the 1987 general election, in which the Labour party had enough seats for Kinnock to remain in parliament. He fought the party's left wing, especially the Militant tendency, and he opposed NUM leader Arthur Scargill's methods in the 1984–1985 miners' strike and implied that Scargill had lied to the striking miners. He strongly supported a national ballot to bring the miners' interests forward.

## **Michael Foot**

In exchange for union cooperation on the control of wages and incorporating improved social welfare, Labour promised action on prices and a 'social wage'. A National Enterprise Board and compulsory planning agreements with private industry were created. The aim was to expand the frontiers of state control. The Minister of Labour, Michael Foot, settled the miners' strike of Heath's administration and went on to represent workers' interests in parliament during Thatcher.

## **Michael Heseltine**

Heseltine's responsibilities included Energy, as the separate Energy ministry was abolished. He said there was no longer a market for coal to try and justify their actions, though his ideas weren't as reliable as his ambition was to get into No 10 (Downing Street) as Prime Minister (which did not happen). Many of the mines in Nottinghamshire that had continued working during the 1984–1985 strike were to close. Although this policy was seen by the Nottinghamshire miners as a betrayal, there was hardly any organised resistance to the programme.

## Timeline of Events

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>January 1945</b>     | The National Union of Miners is created.   |
| <b>1947</b>             | Nationalisation of the coal industry by Clement Attlee's Labour government, managed by the National Coal Board (NCB).  |
| <b>1972</b>             | A severe energy shortage is caused by NUM's successful national strike.  |
| <b>1974</b>             | <b>Three-day week:</b> commercial users of electricity were limited to three specified consecutive days' consumption each week and prohibited from working longer hours on those days. |
| <b>March 1, 1984</b>    | National Coal Board (NCB) announces closure of Cortonwood pit in Yorkshire – miners at the pit walk out  |
| <b>March 15, 1984</b>   | David Jones, miner aged 23, killed while picketing in Ollerton, Nottinghamshire.   |
| <b>May 14, 1984</b>     | Some 40,000 striking miners march in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.   |
| <b>May 30, 1984</b>     | Scargill was arrested at Orgreave. More than 80 other miners arrested and 62 injured   |
| <b>December 5, 1984</b> | Ian MacGregor announces plans to privatise pits  |
| <b>December 7, 1984</b> | TUC says it will not take action in support of NUM   |



## Definition of Key Terms

### ❖ **House of Commons**

The House of Commons is the democratically elected house of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, responsible for making laws and checking the work of Government.

### ❖ **Thatcherism**

Thatcherism was originally built upon four components: commitment to free enterprise; British nationalism; a plan to strengthen the state by improving efficiency; and a belief in traditional Victorian values especially hard work and civic responsibility.

### ❖ **Picketing**

Picketing is a form of protest in which people (called pickets or picketers) congregate outside a place of work or location where an event is taking place.

### ❖ **NUM**

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) is a trade union for coal miners in Great Britain, formed in 1945 from the Miners' Federation of Great Britain (MFGB). The NUM took part in three national miners' strikes, in 1972, 1974 and 1984–85.

### ❖ **NCB**

The National Coal Board (NCB) was the statutory corporation created to run the nationalised coal mining industry in the United Kingdom. Set up under the Coal Industry Nationalisation Act 1946, it took over the United Kingdom's collieries on "vesting day", 1 January 1947. In 1987, the NCB was renamed the British Coal Corporation, and its assets were subsequently privatised.

❖ **Downing Street**

The official residence and the office of the British Prime Minister.

## Further Research

1. Netflix (The Crown Season 3, Episode 9):  
<https://www.netflix.com/search?q=the%20crown&jbv=80025678>
2. Youtube (Neil Kinnock interview - Coal Miners - 1984):  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSlodZm038s>
3. The National Archives (The Miners Strike and the Social Contract):  
<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/cabinetpapers/themes/miners-strike-social-contract.htm>
4. OpenEdition Journals (The BBC and the miners' strike of 1984/85: coverage of the "Battle of Orgreave"):  
<https://journals.openedition.org/mimmoc/10371?lang=en>

## Guiding Questions

- ❖ How should the Strike be resolved?
- ❖ Should the government get involved, and how so?
- ❖ Should there be a punishment for the strikers?
- ❖ Should there be a raise in wages?
- ❖ How is the Social Security Act being followed or not? Should it be modified?
- ❖ How would the government get public support on a decision? How would there be a use of legality and the media?
- ❖ What was the role of the media? Should the government regulate it?
- ❖ How did Scargill and Thatcher confront each other? Did Scargill play into her hands and strategies?
- ❖ How should the public get involved? What about national ballots?

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Battle of Orgreave: more unreleased police files uncovered. (2018). Retrieved 3 August 2023, from <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/mar/01/battle-of-orgreave-more-unreleased-police-files-uncovered>



# Education Reform Act 1988

*Education Reform Act 1988*

photo by [Education-UK.org](http://Education-UK.org)

## **Topic B:**

### **Debating the National Curriculum Adopted after the Education Reform Act in 1988**

# Background Information

## Introduction

The Education Reform Act of 1988 was an act to amend the law regarding education in the UK. In general, the goal was to make schools more competitive and to test students' knowledge. The implementation of the GCSE's, one of the most prestigious academic qualifications that evaluates students in a range of subjects, which European schools use to this day, was only one of the reforms. One of the achievements of this new system was an easier way to evaluate which schools better prepared their students and which did not. A standardised exam showed both parents and the government what needed changing in the market.

The New Right ideology, which is the belief that capitalism is what brings economic success, brought forward the concept of "marketisation", the perceived knowledge of educational institutions as a market. The league table was the system where schools would be ranked based on the students' performance in the SATs, GCSEs, and A levels. Everyone would have access to those results, therefore ensuring that parents could make the decision of where to send their kids to study, having the knowledge of what schools were ranked the best. Public institutions would have government funding and those who had little to no students would either close or have their management team altered. However, private institutions would still be funded by the student fees, working the same way as the public ones in terms of competitiveness. The main goal with the tables was for schools to raise their standards so that it would attract more students.

The way that the Thatcher government did that was by introducing the National Curriculum. It applied to both England and Wales. Every school was obligated by the system to teach the same subject content at the same level from the age of 7 to 16 beginning in 1988. Another key term when looking at the topic is Open Enrollment. Parents would make a list of where they wanted to send their kids and would also select a first choice. The issue with this was that some schools had a way too high demand that they did not have the capacity for, in which case they were allowed to

select students based on a few criteria. Prioritising those who had siblings already enrolled was one of the strategies. Ultimately, there were created "specialist schools" which were allowed to choose 10% of their students based on certain characteristics, both intellectual and physical. There were also "faith schools" who could make the choice based on a pupils faith.

### **Changes Brought Forth:**

Before the 1980s when the Education Reform Act had yet to be implemented, the Local Education Authorities were responsible for the allocation of students to their local schools. When the parents of the students were allowed to decide what school to send their children and when the management of the school was allowed to do as they wished with the budget, the LEA found themselves with little responsibility and power over the management of education. When the LEA managed the budget, they would often send money to the schools who were struggling so that they could improve their marketing and attract more students, although it all changed after the reform. Now whereas successful schools thrived, failing ones were being extinguished.

There were also some minor changes made by Margaret Thatcher's government such as the revoking of the 1976 Education Act, adopted on the 22nd of November, which allowed the Secretary of State to ask local education authorities to start designing non selective secondary education.



## Current Situation

Up to 1988, it was a widely known fact that Britain had the most decentralised education system in Europe. LEA had authority over school subjects and teachers had freedom to teach whatever they saw fit in their classrooms. The Education Reform Act of 1988 changed all of that. There was now a National Curriculum which schools should abide by.

There are many controversies over the National Curriculum and primarily the lack of freedom it gives teachers. There were now very specific things teachers should teach. The criteria was very specific and did not allow for much if any change. The Secretary of State gained enormous power over the curriculum and assessment through two bodies, the National Curriculum Council and the School Examinations and Assessment Council. This strict control over the school syllabus led to increased controversy, as teachers considered it over-bureaucratic, while the Conservative Party considered it too indulgent to teachers.

There is also a public feeling that minorities have not been adequately represented and given the same opportunities under this system. One of the most debated arguments is that it does not represent a multi-cultural and multi-racial society and is extremely eurocentric. One example of this bias would be the importance given to certain languages compared to others. The preference in christianism over any other religion also strengthens the argument of exclusion. The dependence of school funding on exam performance and the school league table directly disadvantages struggling schools, which are often in underrepresented communities. Furthermore, the system pushes teachers and heads to become increasingly focused on exam preparation and performance rather than effective teaching, leading to what the National Association of Head Teachers considers “the erosion of the culture of learning”.

Further concerns come from how the new system will be implemented and what effect it will have on students who are already enrolled in schools. Some psychologists are also distressed in regards to how the multiple exams will affect

students' mental health. Even though physical punishments have been prohibited from the school system, experts have suggested that the mental toll these extensive exams take on children could be similarly harmful. Charles Hanndy, an Irish philosopher, once said, "instead of a National Curriculum for education, what is really needed is an individual curriculum for every child".

Currently, the Labour Party is showing great concern over the future of education in both England and Wales. Since the government does now have total control over the allocation of fundings, many institutions find themselves with the possibility of closing under the new rules.

Parliament members are now responsible for discussing ways to improve (or maintain) this legislation, passing resolutions that adapt the National Curriculum and tackle these serious concerns. Effectively, the Education Reform Act must be reviewed by parliament to ensure it addresses all fundamental parts of a student's education and is up to par with the expectations held for children.

## Major Bloc Positions

### **Kenneth Baker**

He started serving as the Secretary of State for Education in 1986, and is responsible for the introduction of the Education Reform Act of 1988. Initially, he served as the Minister for Information Technology in the Department of Trade and Industry. Entering the cabinet as the Secretary of State for the Environment in 1985, he was later moved to his current position. As one of the initiators of the National Curriculum, Kenneth Baker is part of the Conservative Party and a member of parliament under Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

### **Margaret Thatcher**

When Thatcher became Prime Minister in 1979, the school system was essentially the same since the first World War. When she was an education secretary, she did not make any significant changes to the system. Her views on what the National Curriculum should look like were a lot more narrow than the end result designed by Baker. If it was up to her, the curriculum would offer only the basics of English, Maths and Science.

### **James Callaghan**

As the Prime Minister in 1976, he gave a speech at Ruskin College that became known as the "Great Debate". The speech was called "revolutionary" at the time, majorly due to the questions raised about the purpose of education in England and rather the system was properly designed to meet all the goals and values he thought important. He is part of the Labour Party.

**Neil Kinnock**

As the leader of the Labour Party, the Conservative Party's opposition, he obviously had strong opinions about what should be done in regards to a matter so essential for the growth of a population as education. He acknowledged the fact that the Labour Party had not done enough for the system in the past few years, however, did not believe that some of the clauses of the Education Reform Act of 1988 were addressing minorities as much as he deemed necessary.

## Timeline of Events

- July 26, 1979** The 1979 Education Act was approved and one of its most significant changes to the previous one implemented in 1976 was that it repealed sections 1 - 3.
- November, 1979** Issuing of the DES Circular 14/77 (Welsh Office Circular 185/77) that was meant to gather information from local education authorities regarding curriculum matters.
- December, 1979** The HMI published a survey with the intention of evaluating primary and secondary education, the efficiency of schools and their responsibilities to the nation's needs.
- April 3, 1980** The 1980 Education Act was predominantly known for initiating the system that allowed public money to be awarded to kids to attend private institutions, giving parents more control over where their children would be studying and took away LEA's responsibility of giving schools meals for students.
- March 1981** A new school curriculum was proposed after the information and data gathered by the DES, HMI and Welsh Office indicated that some changes were necessary and updates had to be made.
- May 13, 1983** The 1983 Education Act's most prominent change to the others was that the Secretary of State was now allowed to make universities, and further education institutions were allowed to raise the fee for foreign students.
- November 7, 1986** Corporal punishment was abolished and local education authorities had to publish their curriculum policies. Governors also had to publish annual reports.

**July 29, 1988**

The 1988 Education Act, known to most as one of the most significant since 1944, major changes were to the National Curriculum, admission of students to schools, management of institutions, grant-maintained schools, and abolition of the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA)

**December 24, 1988**

A National Curriculum report was released.

## Definition of Key Terms

❖ **GCSE**

General Certificate of Secondary Education, qualification that is highly valued by schools, colleges and employers.

❖ **The New right ideology**

A philosophy that promotes a free market economy, increased deregulation and privatisation.

❖ **League table**

It is a ranking of schools based on the results it achieved in external assessments such as the GCSE.

❖ **A-Levels**

Advanced level qualifications are subject based qualifications usually studied over a period of two years.

❖ **National Curriculum**

A set of subjects, standards and criteria used by schools so that learners can all cover the same topics and learn the same things.

❖ **Open enrollment**

A policy that allows students to choose in the school of their choice given its one of the options.

## Further Research

1. Education Reform Act 1988, Chapter 40:

[https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1988/40/pdfs/ukpga\\_19880040\\_en.pdf](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1988/40/pdfs/ukpga_19880040_en.pdf)

2. Education Act 1979 , Chapter 49:

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## Guiding Questions

- ❖ Should the Education Reform Act be enforced throughout the UK?
- ❖ How should the Education Reform Act be reviewed by parliament so that it addresses all fundamental parts of a student's education?
- ❖ How could different minorities and parties have a say in the National Curriculum?
- ❖ How flexible should the National Curriculum be?

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