

7SSPN231 – 2025/26 – Seminar 6

Work in pairs. Feel free to look at slides, lecture notes, Wikipedia, etc. if useful.

- 1) Individually, write down a short explanation of what is meant by “incomes policy” and what are in your views its advantages and shortcomings (max 2 pages, less is also fine). Overall, do you think that incomes policy played a positive or a negative role in the 1960s and 1970s in the UK?

Then, in pairs, discuss what you have written, and especially your views on the pros and cons of incomes policy, and whether it was a good or a bad thing overall.

- 2) Read pages 439 to 446 from “The Chancellors” by Edmund Dell (attached in the next page), about the 1979 decision not to join the Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM) of the European Monetary System (EMS). Discuss (in pairs) the potential advantages and disadvantages of joining the ERM. Overall, did you think it was a good decision for the UK to stay out?