

Research exercise:

What are the policies and values of the major political parties?

References:

1. AS textbooks
2. The Conservative and Labour web sites.
3. Guardianunlimited.co.uk website (archive) for the period leading up to the last election.

Instructions:

- You need to find out about the key policies of the Labour and Conservative Parties. These policy areas include the economy, education, health and welfare; the environment, transport, foreign policy and defence
- You should also consider the changing ideological positions of parties and ideological divisions within parties.
- You must use at least two sources.
- The information must be up to date
- You must first take notes from these sources
- Then you must arrange the results in a table and you should make 18 copies of it for the rest of the class
- You will be asked to present and fully explain a section to the rest of the class, either on a Party or comparing a particular policy area across the two main parties
- This work will take approx 6 hours to do properly; you will have a mixture of class and homework time to do this.

The work must be completed and ready to present/handout on:

Tuesday 8th November

Groups


- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Labour: (Key policies and divisions within the party) | Dan, Alex and Isabell |
| 2. Conservative: (Key policies and divisions within the party) | Lara, Dylan and Poppy |
| 3. The economy and taxation: (Labour vs. Con-Lib) | Emma, Harry S and Charlie |
| 4. Education: (Labour vs. Con-Lib) | Paige and Raj |
| 5. Health and Welfare: (Labour vs. Con-Lib) | Anne-Marie and Tom |
| 6. The environment and transport: (Labour vs. Con-Lib) | Hayley and Taylor |
| 7. European, Foreign policy and defence: (Labour vs. Con-Lib) | Abigail and Harry W |
| 8. The Coalition agreement and how that reflects
Conservative and Liberal Democrat policies and ideologies | George, Oliver & Fleur |

		off.				
					<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A five per cent pay cut for Ministers followed by a five-year freeze, and a 10 per cent reduction in the number of MPs	
					<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce welfare dependency	

LABOUR

Economy/taxation

CONSERVATIVE

CORE BELIEFS		Current Labour Policy 2010 manifesto	CORE BELIEFS		Current Conservative Policy 2010 manifesto	Coalition government
Old Labour (1900-1970s)	New Labour (Blair era)		Thatcherite	Paternalistic Tory (one nation conservatism)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A strong welfare state 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Still believe in a strong welfare state 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Halve budget deficit within four years through a mixture of spending restraint and tax increases, mainly for the higher paid. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free market economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disliked change Keynesian economy (mixture of state and private businesses) for many years typically during Butskellism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bringing forward the date at which the state pension age starts to rise to 66, although it will not be sooner than 2016 for men and 2020 for women 	<p>This happened</p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nationalis e everything 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Laissez faire' economics <p><i>small government</i></p> <p>↓</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No increase basic or top rate of income tax in the next parliament Promise not to extend VAT to food, children's clothes, books, newspapers and public transport fares. The manifesto, however, leaves open the possibility of raising the level of VAT. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasis on privatisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suspicion of individualism so this explains the reason for state influence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stopping tax credits to families with incomes over £50,000 Capping the biggest public sector pensions above £50,000 Stop Family allowance if income > £50,000 	<p>Deficit reduction – Economic recovery most pressing issue facing Britain. Reduced by less spending rather than increased taxes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Left wing economic policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Left wing ideas, but right wing economics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A commitment to an internationally-agreed levy on banks. UK banks in which the government holds a controlling stake will be broken up and sold 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laissez – Faire economics : Limited government involvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cutting spending on Child Trust Funds for all but the poorest third of families and families with disabled children 	

Main parties on education

Conservatives

Traditional views would include:

Pro grammar and independent schools

Strong discipline within school

Difference between universities and polytechnics

Thatcher's reign

Shifted from primary to secondary/higher

Raised school leaving age to 16

Introduced the national curriculum; does not affect independent schools

Increased the amount of bursaries for people to get places at registered independent schools

Government offered Assisted Places

Schools have to accept maximum amount of people possible

State schools can opt out of LEA

Schools decide on their budget

Pupils have to have one written report given to them

Parents can represent as governors

Public HM inspections

Parents can choose where child goes

Budget according to pupils

For higher education:

University/polytechnic fees were free

However Thatcher did bridge the gap

Major abolished polytechnic completely

Cameron

Since Thatcher Cameron has shifted the party to a more central view.

Showed his opposition to grammar schools

Wanted to introduce 'free' schools and academies

Free schools are:

Academies: top state schools

Teach first: putting best graduates into schools as teachers

Increase more super-heads who turn around failing schools

Introduce English baccalaureate

Bursaries for maths and science degrees

Establishing a simple reading test at the age of six

However still many traditional views

Scrapped EMA

Rose tuition Fees

Proposed 24hr detention rule to be abolished

More discipline needed.

Cut benefits of child who bunks?

Liberals

Pupil premium idea-more money to poorest backgrounds

Scrap tuition fees for full and part-time students

Replace the National Curriculum with the more flexible Minimum Curriculum Entitlement

Reform pay structure so that good teachers can stay

Creating a General Diploma that combines GCSEs, A-levels and vocational qualifications

Have bursary schemes for graduates

Labour

1979

- Equality of opportunity
- Reduce class size to 30 max
- Provide more day care placements
- Education and training for 16-19 yr olds
- 16 onwards being entitled for financial support of needed
- Increase opportunities for lower and working class people to have high education placements
- Workers to be given more time off to study
- Expand the grant system for universities
- Support the adult literacy scheme to ensure its continuation

1983:

- Provide more nursery needs
- Better primary school facilities
- Encourage higher standard of higher learning
- Maintain a broad and cultural curriculum
- Encourage better achievements at school
- Provide better qualified teachers
- Abolish corporal punishment
- Re-establish schools meals and milk services
- Withdraw charitable status from privet schools
- Abolish the assisted places scheme local authority buying
- Charge a VAT on the fees paid for privet schools
- For 16-17 yr olds introduce a student-traineeship with a tertiary sector
- Secure higher education places for 18s and over
- Give first year adult learners financial support
- Establish a proper legal basis for adult education
- Prepare young people to take up jobs upon leaving schools

1997:

- Cut classes to 30
- Less than 30 for 5-7
- Access to computer technology
- Lifelong learning through new university for industry
- More spending on education as the cost of unemployment falls
- Zero tolerance of underperformance
- New focus on standards of primary schools
- Better use of technology in schools
- Increase powers and responsibilities of parents

2010:

- " Excellence in education: every child the chance to fulfil their potential"
- One to one tuition to every child falling behind in school. (primary)
- Free school meals for kids (primary)
- Teach first scheme
- Specialist Mandarin teacher training course for teachers so every child has access to another language, through the use of constructive activities.
- 1,000 secondary schools to be part of federations, every pupil to take single science and a modern foreign language and to be given a personal tutor.
- Keep young people learning until 18
- Keep EMA
- Traffic light grading system
- 75% of 18-30 to gain a degree
- Parents with special needs children to have a better and wider range of schools to choose from
- 4,000 additional teachers to have dyslexia training
- Free nursery to 2 yr olds, 3-4 yr olds have 15 hrs of flexible day care (free)
- Advanced apprenticeships to be advanced creating up to 70,000 places a yr

Conservative Party Factions and Policy

One Nation Conservatives

The basis of One-Nation Conservatism is a belief in social cohesion, and its adherents support social institutions that maintain harmony between different interest groups, classes, and—more recently—different races or religions. These institutions have typically included the welfare state, the BBC, and local government. One Nation Conservatives often invoke Edmund Burke and his emphasis on civil society ("little platoons") [or now 'big society'] as the foundations of society, as well as his opposition to radical politics of all hues.

Free-Market Conservatives (Thatcherites)

The second main grouping in the Conservative party is the "free market" or Thatcherite wing of economic liberals who achieved dominance after the election of Margaret Thatcher as party leader in 1975. Their goal was to reduce the role of the government in the economy and to this end they supported cuts in direct taxation, the privatisation of nationalised industries and a reduction in the size and scope of the welfare state. Many are also Eurosceptic, perceiving most EU regulations as interference in the free market and/or a threat to British sovereignty. Thatcherites also tend to be Atlanticist, dating back to the close friendship between Thatcher and US President Ronald Reagan.

Traditionalist Conservatives

The name stems from its support for three English social institutions: the Church of England, the unitary British state and the family. To this end, they emphasise the country's Anglican heritage, oppose any transfer of power away from the United Kingdom—either downwards to the nations and regions or upwards to the European Union—and seek to place greater emphasis on traditional family structures to repair what they see as a broken society in the UK. They are strong advocates of marriage and believe the Conservative Party should back the institution with tax breaks and have opposed Labour's alleged assault on both traditional family structures and 'fatherhood'. Most oppose high levels of immigration and support the lowering of the current 24 week abortion limit.

Cameron's 'Compassionate Conservatism'?

Recently, the term has been used to describe the policies and image associated with the United Kingdom's Conservative Party, under the current Prime Minister David Cameron. Due to Cameron's leadership, many concerns such as Environmentalism and Social Justice, which had hitherto been associated with social democratic, liberal and environmental movements, have been more particularly focused on by British Conservatism and sharply accentuated as a part of its ideological narrative and public policy image. This has occurred in concert with a playing down of traditional Tory opposition to immigration and European integration, and support for Grammar schools and lower taxes.

The U.K. form of compassionate conservatism is less explicitly associated with Christianity than its U.S. cousin, although it has incorporated a concern for social and family breakdown into the Cameronian emphasis on Social Justice, informed by groups such as the Conservative Christian Fellowship, and the Centre for Social Justice headed by the Catholic MP and former Tory Leader, Iain Duncan Smith. The research by the latter, such as its reports 'Breakdown Britain' and 'Breakthrough Britain' has coincided with noted policy commitments by the Conservative Party to provide incentives for marriage, and proposals to discourage divorce and extra-marital cohabitation as a means of encouraging social stability.

Exercises:

From the above *and your research on party policies*:

1. What would you say is the focus of each type of Conservatism?
2. What are the key differences between these strands of Conservatism?
3. Are there any links between all these strands of Conservatism?
4. How does Cameron's Conservatism fit in with the other strands?

Extension work:

Make a case that either Cameron's Conservatism is either (i) a major break from Thatcherism or (ii) very similar, just expressed in a different way (iii) your own argument on the key similarities and differences.

laissez faire ← Con. low taxes. small govt. ← lack of action ← negative freedom → all responsibility for making decisions
 doing something ← positive → creating opportunity to make decisions

Key ideological positions of and divisions within The Labour and The Conservative Parties

Instructions: Write the number / letter in the bottom row in the most appropriate boxes above:

One-nation Conservatives / traditional Conservatives (paternalistic) 8, 10, 13, 11, 6, 4	'Old' Labour workers' rights; Keynesian; B, A, D, E, H, K, J, G
Free-market Conservatives (Thatcherites) 1, 12, 3, 14, 7, 9, 15, 2	'New' Labour ('third way') laissez faire N, M, L, I, F, C
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Emphasis on small government and deregulation 2. A belief in social cohesion 3. Individualism and choice 4. Maintain harmony between different interest groups, classes, and—more recently—different races or religions 5. Reduction in size and scope of the welfare state 6. Support for the welfare state 7. Atlanticist and Eurosceptic 8. Support for civil / big society 9. Privatization of industry 10. Support the Church of England 11. Strong belief in the unitary state 12. Support of the family and marriage 13. Traditional views on moral issues 14. Belief in the free market 15. Direct taxes should be kept as low as possible to allow individual and business freedom 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Belief in an efficient welfare state B. Support for trade-unions C. 'modern' D. Increasing workers' rights E. Emphasis on tax-and-spend (Keynesian) economics govt interference F. Free market economics G. Belief in nationalised industry H. Government regulation and intervention in the economy I. Appeal to the middle classes J. Strong backing for the welfare state (cradle-to-grave) K. Equality of outcome L. Emphasis on community rather than unionism M. Equality of opportunity N. Tolerance and respect for each other

Labour Party

Sources:

<http://www.labour-party.org.uk/manifestos/1974/Feb/1974-feb-labour-manifesto.shtml>

<http://www.labour.org.uk/>

History:

The Labour Party was set up in the 1900s by the trade unionists to represent the views of the working class. The Party's main views were to nationalise the important aspects of society and the economy (such as water, electricity and power).

Divisions in the Labour Party:

- New Labour (Tony Blair) 1997, landslide victory into power, more central values.
- Trade Unionists (working class members) are the main fund raisers for the Party, tend to want nationalisation of main aspects of society (rail, water, electricity etc).

Labour Party Manifesto 1974	Labour Party Manifesto 2010
<p>Coal industry given new status and security.</p> <p>Maximum public advantage from Britain's own resources.</p> <p>Use the world's resources in the long-term public interest of both developing and developed nations.</p> <p>Reject any kind of international agreement which means we accept increased unemployment.</p> <p>Introduce a new scheme of help for the disabled.</p> <p>Bring immediate help to existing pensioners, widows, the sick and the unemployed by increasing pensions and other benefits to £10 for the single person/£16 for the married couple.</p> <p>Annual increase relative to the average earnings increase.</p> <p>Child allowances for every child, paid to the mother.</p> <p>Introduce strict price control on key services and commodities (food, etc).</p> <p>Introduce an annual Wealth Tax on the rich.</p> <p>Eliminate discrimination on the grounds of colour.</p> <p>Women must have an equal status in education, training, employment, social security, national insurance, taxation, and family law.</p>	<p>Economy:</p> <p>Value for money in the markets, eliminating wastage and finding efficient ways of saving.</p> <p>Cut back office costs, get rid of unnecessary quangos and sharply reduce consultancy fees and marketing costs.</p> <p>Secure growth by supporting the economy and more than halving deficit by 2014 through growth, fair taxes + cuts to lower priority spending.</p> <p>Creating UK Finance for Growth: 4 billion pounds to provide capital for growing businesses.</p> <p>National Minimum Wage rises in line with average earnings.</p> <p>Health:</p> <p>Guarantees for patients: cancer test results within one week of referral; a maximum 18 weeks' wait for treatment, or the offer of going private.</p> <p>The right to choose a GP in your area open at evenings and weekends.</p> <p>Preventative healthcare through routine check-ups for the over 40s.</p>

Create the powerful legal machinery necessary to enforce our anti-discrimination laws.

Strengthen international organisations that promote of human rights, the rule of law, and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Eliminate poverty wherever it exists in Britain, and commit ourselves to a substantial increase in our contribution to fight poverty abroad.

Achieve far greater economic equality, in income, wealth and living standards.

Increase social equality: give far greater importance to full employment, housing, education and social benefits.

Education:

Every young person guaranteed education or training until 18 with 75% going on to higher education or completing an advanced apprenticeship or technician level training by the age of 30.

Give parents the power to bring in new school leadership teams through mergers and takeovers, with up to 1,000 secondary schools part of an accredited schools group by 2015.

Tax:

A new Toddler Tax Credit of £4 per week from 2012.

More help for parents to balance work and family life with a 'Father's Month' of flexible paid leave.

Environment:

Making greener living easier and fairer through 'pay as you save' home insulation.

Achieve around 40% low-carbon electricity by 2020.

Creating 400000 new green jobs by 2015.

Transport:

Build a high-speed rail line linking North and South.

Support a third runway for Heathrow.

Ensure there are 100,000 electric vehicle charging points.

Immigration:

English tests will be made compulsory for public sector migrant workers.

Public sector employees who have contact with the public to possess "an appropriate level of English".

Business:

Build security and stability through international links: combat terrorism and extremism; prevent/resolve conflict; tackle climate change.