

	Coalition	Conservatives	Liberal Democrats	Labour
Defence Policy	Maintain nuclear deterrent, but scrutinise renewal of Trident for value for money. Cut Ministry of Defence costs by at least a quarter. Ensure service personnel get more rest and provide support for ex-personnel to go to university. More support for veterans' mental health needs. Review rules on awarding medals.	<p>The Conservative Party has said that there will be four aims for British defence procurement: provide best possible equipment at best possible price; streamline procurement to ensure the speedy delivery of equipment to front line; increase exports and provide predictability to the defence industry.</p> <p>In their 2010 manifesto, they also pledged extra benefits for serving and ex-personnel relating to rest and recuperation, support for study, extra support for veteran mental health needs; allowances for armed forces personnel serving in Afghanistan; ensure that injured personnel are treated in dedicated military wards and ensure that the limited resources available are spent where they are most needed and tackle years of overspending.</p>	<p>Liberal Democrats would make the welfare of the men and women of our armed forces a priority. They would speed up forces family housing renovation; ensure all personnel had no less than the basic pay of starting salaries of the emergency services; spend taxpayers money more effectively on equipping our armed forces properly; greater cooperation with our NATO and EU partners.</p> <p>Liberal Democrats do not believe that the UK can afford the billions of pounds the Government wants to spend on a like-for-like replacement of the Trident nuclear weapons system. Full-scale Trident is a cold war system that we no longer need nor can afford - less expensive alternatives should be considered</p>	<p>Labour believes that Britain should act as a force for good in the world as well as ensuring the safety and security of its own citizens. To face new threats, Britain must maintain strong, balanced, flexible and deployable armed forces. Labour will continue to work through strong partnerships and alliances to successfully meet the challenges of the 21st century. NATO remains the cornerstone of Britain's defence and security policy, and are leading efforts to enhance Europe's military capabilities for humanitarian and crisis management operations where NATO as a whole is not engaged. Tackling threats to our security from terrorism and weapons of mass destruction are vital parts of a strategy to protect British citizens and to help build a fairer, more prosperous world for all.</p>
Foreign Policy	Establish a National Security Council and launch a Strategic Defence & Security Review. Bring together all Departments of Government in pursuit of national objectives. Use our national strengths and advantages to build strong bilateral relationships for the UK. Encourage the Foreign & Commonwealth Office to be more ambitious in articulating and leading Britain's efforts overseas.	The Conservatives have generally supported an Atlanticist approach to foreign relations favouring ties with the US, Canada, Australia and Japan. They have generally support a diverse range of international alliances varying from NATO, the Commonwealth of Nations and the EU. They typically support a pro free-trade foreign policy within the mainstream of international affairs.	They support multilateral foreign policy, opposing British participation in the War in Iraq and supporting the withdrawal of troops from the country	<p>Use Britain's international reach to build security and stability – combating terrorism and extremism, curbing proliferation, preventing and resolving conflict.</p> <p>Reform the UN, International Financial Institutions, the G8 and G20, and NATO to adapt to the new global challenges.</p>

	<p>Give due weight to Britain's membership of the European Union and other multilateral institutions, including NATO, the United Nations and the Commonwealth. Seek "special relationship" with India and closer engagement with China, while "standing firm" over human rights. Maintain "strong, close and frank relationship" with US. Support permanent seats for Japan, India, Brazil - along with African representation - on UN Security Council.</p>			
European Policy	<p>UK not to join, or prepare to join, euro during this parliament. No further transfer of sovereignty over next parliament. Any future treaty transferring powers must be subject to UK referendum. Look at creating UK Sovereignty Bill. Press for European Parliament to meet only in Brussels - currently sits some of time in Strasbourg. UK will not take part in setting up European Public Prosecutor. Backing for further EU enlargement.</p>	<p>The Government believes that Britain should play a leading role in an enlarged European Union, but that no further areas of power should be transferred to Brussels without a referendum. This approach strikes the right balance between constructive engagement with the EU to deal with the issues that affect us all, and protecting our national sovereignty.</p>	<p>The Liberal Democrats are the most pro-European Union of the three main parties in the UK. Would work towards the right conditions for joining the euro and then call referendum; back EU constitution, saying it will make clear the limits on Brussels powers.</p>	<p>In general is pro Europe however some of those on the far left oppose the EU as they see many of the members to be elected and not democratic. EU in general is more sympathetic to Labour policies than Conservative policies. Want adoption of proposed EU constitution after referendum; support joining the single currency if five economic tests show it is in UK interests; UK should be at "heart" of Europe. Lead the agenda for a European Union that delivers jobs, prosperity and global influence.</p>

National Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urgent review of control orders • Seek more "no torture" guarantees from abroad. (Liberals) • Foreign terror suspects can be deported. (Conservative) • Full review of sentencing policy and explore alternatives to prison for mentally ill or drug offenders. • Extend anonymity to defendants in rape cases. (Liberal and Tory)
Immigration and Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual limit on number of non-EU economic migrants. (Conservative) • New measures to minimise student visa abuse. • Extend right to request flexible working to all employees. • Fair pay review in public sector. (Liberal) • To introduce a freedom bill. (Tory/Liberals) • Scrape ID card scheme and register. • Changes to the DNA database, restore rights of non-violent protest. (Liberals)
Energy, Climate and the Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pledge to reform energy markets. (Liberal) • Annual energy statement to parliament. • Encourage councils to pay people to recycle. • A free vote to repealing the hunting Act. (Conservative) • An offshore electricity grid.
Defence, Security and foreign affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pledge to maintain Britain's Nuclear deterrent. (Conservative) • Reduce Ministry of Defence running costs by 25%. • Maintain a strong and frank relationship with the USA. (Conservative) • The UK will play a "positive" role in the EU. (Liberal) • Boost defence exports. (Conservative)
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop the centrally-dictated closure of A&E/Maternity wards. (Liberal) • Introduce directly elected members of primary care trust boards. • Renegotiate the GP contract but give more power the GP's. (Conservative)
Social Care & Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a commission on long term care. • Break down barriers between health and social care funding. (Liberal) • Help the elderly live at home for longer

	<p>through house adaptations. (Liberal)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reform access to work programme.
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents, teachers and charities to be encouraged to set up their own schools. (Joint Conservative/Liberal decision) • Emphasis on old-fashioned discipline – strict uniform code and rules. • A pupil Premium for disadvantaged children. (Liberals) • Inspections to be targeted on failing schools, an effort to get more science and math teachers. • A rise on Student University Fees. (Conservative)
Sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promise to ensure “safe and successful” Olympic games. • Use cash in dormant betting accounts to boost grassroots sport. (Conservative) • Encourage reform of football governance rules.
Communities, local government and Social action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abolition of regional house building targets, returning decisions on where and how homes are built. • A freeze on Council Tax “for at least one year”. (Joint Liberal/Tories decision)
Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free entry to national museums and galleries. • Increase Lottery distributors – ie. The Arts Council and Heritage Lottery Fund.(Liberals) • Cut red tape to encourage more live music.

New Labour	Old Labour	Conservatives
To consider current issues, including investment in and reform of the National Health Service, developing the quality of service and patient experience in the NHS, improving public health and reforming social care.	1945-By good food and good homes, much avoidable ill-health can be prevented. In addition the best health services should be available free for all. Money must no longer be the passport to the best treatment.	End all existing welfare to work programmes and create a single welfare to work programme to help all unemployed people get back into work
The Government's strategy to combat poverty, especially child poverty, relates closely to a welfare-to-work strategy (This is designed to help unemployed people get off state benefits and back into employment) but is not identical to it. The separation of a tax credit for raising parental incomes (the Child Tax Credit) from a tax credit providing a work incentive (the Working Tax Credit) is a helpful step	Labour will work specially for the care of Britain's mothers and their children - children's allowances and school medical and feeding services, better maternity and child welfare services.	Support the National Minimum Wage because of the protection it gives low income workers and the incentives to work it provides Investigate how to simplify the benefit system in order to improve incentives to work.
Because health was run down by lack of investment and low levels of efficiency so to counter this problem; higher taxation from labour to try and grow economically.	1983-Give greater emphasis to prevention, both within the health and personal social services. We will come forward with proposals to help prevent accidents and disease, including action on advertising.	Support would-be entrepreneurs through a new programme - Work for Yourself - which will give the unemployed access to business mentors and start-up loans Increase investment in the NHS year after year.
The welfare state is to be protected. It should be under control of the state.	Introduce a crash programme of employment and training, with new job subsidies and allowances.	Cut the cost of NHS administration by £4.5 billion and reinvesting this money to support doctors and nurses on the front line

Benefits should be used as an incentive to work. Welfare benefits are vital because they compensate for disadvantage and redistribute income from rich to poor	Raise child benefits by £2 a week, and give special help to one-parent families and families with disabled dependants.	Give every patient the power to choose any healthcare provider that meets NHS standards, within NHS prices
The Disabled Persons Act is intended to help employers and employees understand their rights and obligations promote certainty and reduce disputes to ensure that people with disabilities can enjoy and exercise their rights at work.	Strengthen the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act so that it provides a Charter of Rights for disabled people everywhere.	Strengthen the power of doctors and nurses as patients' expert guides through the health system by enabling them to commission care on their patients' behalf.