



BBC's lecture on colonialism treats nostalgia for Agatha Christie's Britain as a thought crime



CHRISTOPHER STEVENS
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As the Chancellor sets **March 6** date for vital pre-election Budget, Mail reveals radical blueprint to take fight to Labour

HUNT PLAN TO SLASH DEATH TAX BY HALF

By **Jason Groves**
Political Editor

JEREMY Hunt is considering radical plans to cut inheritance tax in half in a bid to underline the political divide with Labour.

Slashing the hated death tax is among the leading options on the Chancellor's agenda as he puts together a March Budget – which Rishi Sunak has said will signal a 'gear shift' in cutting levies.

Downing Street yesterday played down reports that inheritance tax could be scrapped completely. But cutting the headline rate from 40p to as little as 20p is said to be a 'live option'.

Treasury insiders say Mr Hunt drew up proposals ahead of his Autumn Statement in November. The plan was shelved when the Prime Minister and Chancellor decided to opt instead for a 2p cut in the headline rate of National Insurance, which comes into force next week.

But halving inheritance tax is now understood to be a 'frontrunner' for inclusion in the Budget, which will fire the starting gun on the election campaign. The Government announced yesterday that the Budget will be held early on March 6.

This leaves open the option for Mr Sunak to go

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