

A Level History Route H: Democracies in Change



Key Terms Booklet Britain Transformed- 1918-1997

Political Landscape- 1918-1979

Democracy- rule by the people. Britain and the USA are “representative democracies” because people elect representatives to rule on their behalf.

Fascism- an ideology in which the needs and wishes of individuals are subservient to those of the state. This usually results in censorship, glorification of leaders and repression of the people.

Communism- a socio-economic system created by Karl Marx in 1848. Based on the idea of a worldwide revolution where exploited workers would rise up and seize power and the means of production- after the revolution everything would be owned by the state. There has never been a genuinely communist state.

Whigs- a group of MP's who rejected James II's right to succeed to the throne- they sympathised with the gradual reform of exclusive privilege in politics and with tolerance of religious non conformism. They were renamed the Liberal party in 1859.

Tories- a group of MP's who supported James II right to succeed to the throne in 1685 despite his open Catholicism. The Tories became closely identified with the rights and privileges of the Crown. They were renamed the Conservative party in 1834.

Capitalism- an economic system where the allocation of resources is decided more by a free market than by government planning. Resources are owned by individuals and private companies rather than by the government.

Socialism- a political and economic system that puts the needs of society as a whole above the needs of a particular group.

Trade union- an organisation formed to protect the rights of workers in particular trade or industry.

Cash for honours- when honours usually titles are granted in exchange for political donations or direct cash payments to politicians.

Chanak incident- the Turks wanted to force Greek, British and French troops out of occupied positions in Turkey. When Turkish troops marched on British positions Lloyd George and Churchill wanted war. Army generals and the public opposed it and a negotiated settlement was agreed.

First past the post (FPTP) an electoral system in which the percentage of seats allocated to a party in parliament matches the percentage of votes gained in a constituency is returned to parliament. None of the other votes cast in that constituency count for anything at all.

Proportional Representation- an electoral system in which the percentage of seats allocated to a party in parliament matches the percentage of votes gained in an election.

Protectionism- the use of import taxes (tariffs) to make goods more expensive than domestic ones.

Free Trade- the rejection of tariffs.

Creating a Welfare State

Collectivism- a political approach to problems where by individuals give up some rights to work for the state for a common purpose.

Austerity- a hard and disciplined approach.

Keynesianism- an economic theory named after economist John Maynard Keynes. He argued that government should borrow in a time of recession to stimulate growth.

White collar/ blue collar- a white collar worker performs administrative managerial or professional work, often in an office. A blue collar worker performs manual labour.

Universalist- concerned with all people rather than a particular group.

Fair Shares- equal distribution of resources.

Absolute poverty-someone living in absolute poverty does not have the fundamentals needed for survival, such as food, safe drinking water, decent shelter and sanitation.

Relative poverty- someone who does not have enough money to enjoy ordinary living patterns, customs and activities.

Poverty Trap- a situation where an increase in earned income leads to a loss of state benefits.

Gross National Product- the value of exports minus the value of imports, added to the total value of goods and services.

Democratisation – changes that promote democracy.

Society in Transition 1918-79

Satire- a form of humour used to expose and criticise people's behaviour, most often used to ridicule politicians.

Permissive- tolerant of a broad range of lifestyles

Permissive-when legislation is not compulsory.

Establishment- a group of privileged people who are perceived to hold a firm grip of power through official and unofficial channels.

Liberal Values-tolerant of freedoms and liberties in terms of sexuality, family structure and religious belief.

Franchise- the right to vote

Changing Quality of Life 1918-79

New Commonwealth- newly independent countries mostly in non-white areas in Africa and Asia as opposed to Old Commonwealth such as Australia and New Zealand.

Anti-Semitism- behaviour discriminating against Jews.

Teddy Boy- short for Edward, from the Edwardian style of boys long coats and drainpipe trousers- subculture of youth in Britain in the 1950's.

Social Capital- value gained from social networks in terms of trust and cooperation and a sense of connectedness.

Real income- takes into account the effect of inflation on what can be bought with money at a particular time.

Quango- short for quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisation- an administrative body that is not part of the government but whose members are appointed by the government.

Monopoly- the position of having no competition in a given trade or market.

Public service broadcaster- a radio or television company run to serve the public interest rather than for profit.

Skiffle- a type of music influenced by folk, blues and jazz, usually played using homemade instruments.

Social realism- an artistic style that portrays ordinary people going about their everyday lives, it often focusses on the working classes with stories of hardship and struggle.

Impact of Thatcher's governments 1979-90?

Monetarism- an economic theory that argues governments should prioritise low inflation by controlling the flow of money.

Supply-side- an economic theory that argues that governments should encourage production by removing regulation and cutting taxes.

Popular capitalism- the idea that everyone in society should have the opportunity to own property and shares in companies- it aims to create a wider spread of privately owned wealth.

Public-private partnership- a collaboration between a public sector body and a private company or companies to provide a government service or launch a private company.

Financial products- schemes and services that help consumers manage and use money. Every day examples include bank accounts, credit cards and life insurance.

Regressive- whereas under progressive taxes more money is paid as more money is earned, regressive taxes result in those with the lowest incomes having to pay more tax as a percentage of their income.

Neo-liberal- they believe that the free market is better at allocating goods and resources than the state.

Devolution- a process where some decision-making authority is given over from central government to the Scottish Parliament, the Welsh and Northern Irish Assemblies.

Central government- the space in the political spectrum that is accepted as neither left nor right-wing.

Centrist- a person who holds moderate political views.

Big beast- a term used to describe an MP who is so senior and influential that it is very difficult to keep him out of the cabinet.

Handbag- to crush a person or their ideas with a forceful verbal attack- used to describe Thatcher's ministerial style in cabinet meetings.