

# Politics Taster Day



## Year 12

### Autumn Term

#### Gov and Pol UK

Chapter 3: The Constitution (Medium)

Chapter 5: UK Parliament (larger section)

Chapter 6: UK Prime Minister/Cabinet  
(larger section)

### Spring Term

#### Gov and Pol UK

Chapter 6: UK Prime Minister/Cabinet  
continued

Conservatism (Medium)

Chapter 7: UK Judiciary (three lesson to  
go)

### Summer Term

#### Gov and Pol UK

Chapter 4: Devolution (smaller section)

Chapter 9: Democracy (smaller section)

### Autumn Term

US Constitution

US Congress

Liberalism

### Spring Term

Liberalism continued

The Presidency

Feminism

### Summer Term

The Supreme Court

# Year 13

## Autumn Term

### Gov and Pol UK

Chapter 12: Political Parties (larger section)

Chapter 10: UK Elections (medium section)

Chapter 10: UK Referendums (smaller section)

## Spring Term

Nationalism (medium section)

Chapter 9: UK Pressure Groups (medium section)

Chapter 8: UK – European (smaller section)

Revision

## Autumn Term

The Electoral Process

US Political Parties

Socialism

## Spring Term

US Pressure groups

Civil Rights

Revision

# How are you assessed?

## **Paper 1**

### What's assessed

Government and politics of the UK

### How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 77 marks
- 33⅓ % of A-level

### Questions

A mixture of medium length 'explain' and essay style questions.

## **Paper 2**

### What's assessed

- The government and politics of the USA
- Comparative politics

### How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 77 marks
- 33⅓ % of A-level

### Questions

A mixture of medium length 'explain' and essay style questions.

## **Paper 3**

### What's assessed

Political ideas

### How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 77 marks
- 33⅓ % of A-level

### Questions

A mixture of medium length 'explain' and essay style questions.

# A Presidential year

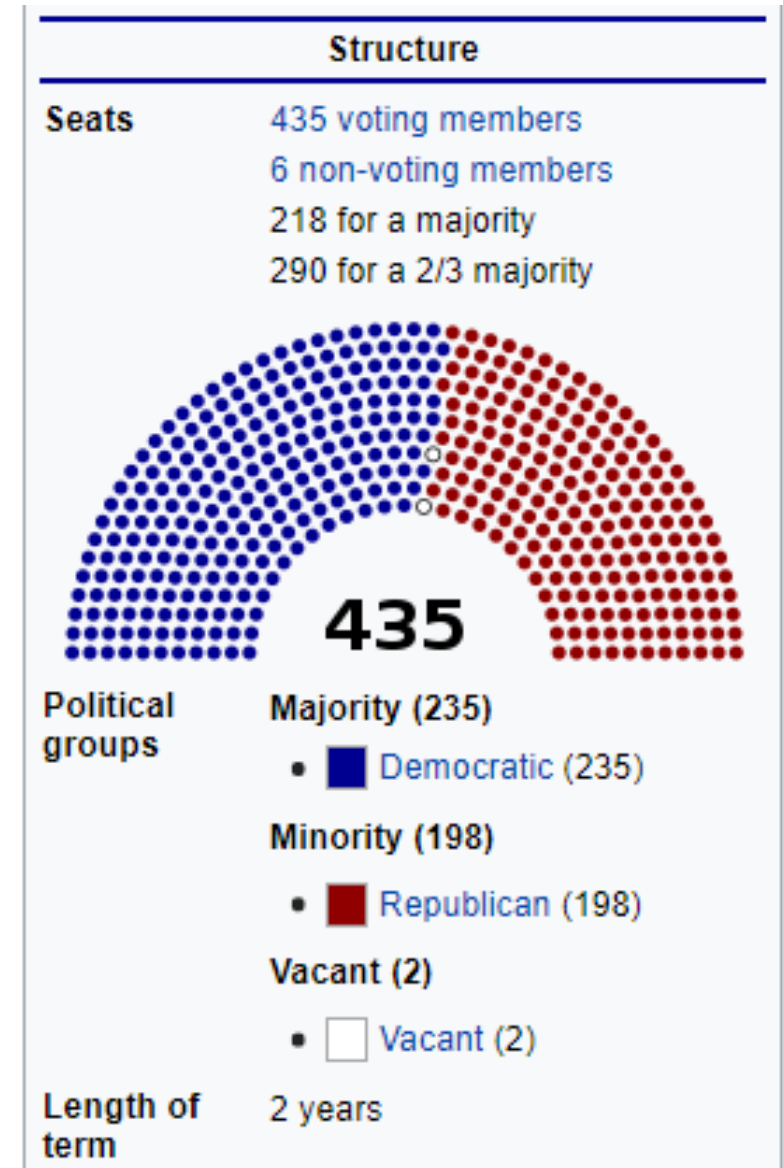
- This year is a Presidential year, meaning the Presidential seat is up for election and meaning it is an interesting year in the study of US politics
- Trump is standing as the Republican candidate, as is allowed under the US Constitution.
- Biden is standing as the Democratic candidate, Biden was Obama's VP.

# A presidential year

- So what do we need to know about a Presidential year?
  1. Each party has to decide it's candidate
  2. As the current President is Republican and has only completed one term, the decision on their candidate was easy, Trump will run again.
  3. The Democrats held a Presidential candidacy race, with Biden being the last man standing. This was hampered by the Covid 19 pandemic.
  4. Now we are in June, the campaigning for the Presidential seat begins, ahead of November elections. This include rallies and debates.

# US House of Representatives

- Voted in every 2 years, last voted in November 2018. Known as the mid-terms.
- At the last election the Democrats won the majority.
- Some Political theorists would say that this would reflect a public dissatisfaction with the Republican leadership and therefore could point to the outcome of the Presidential elections, but this was 2 years ago.

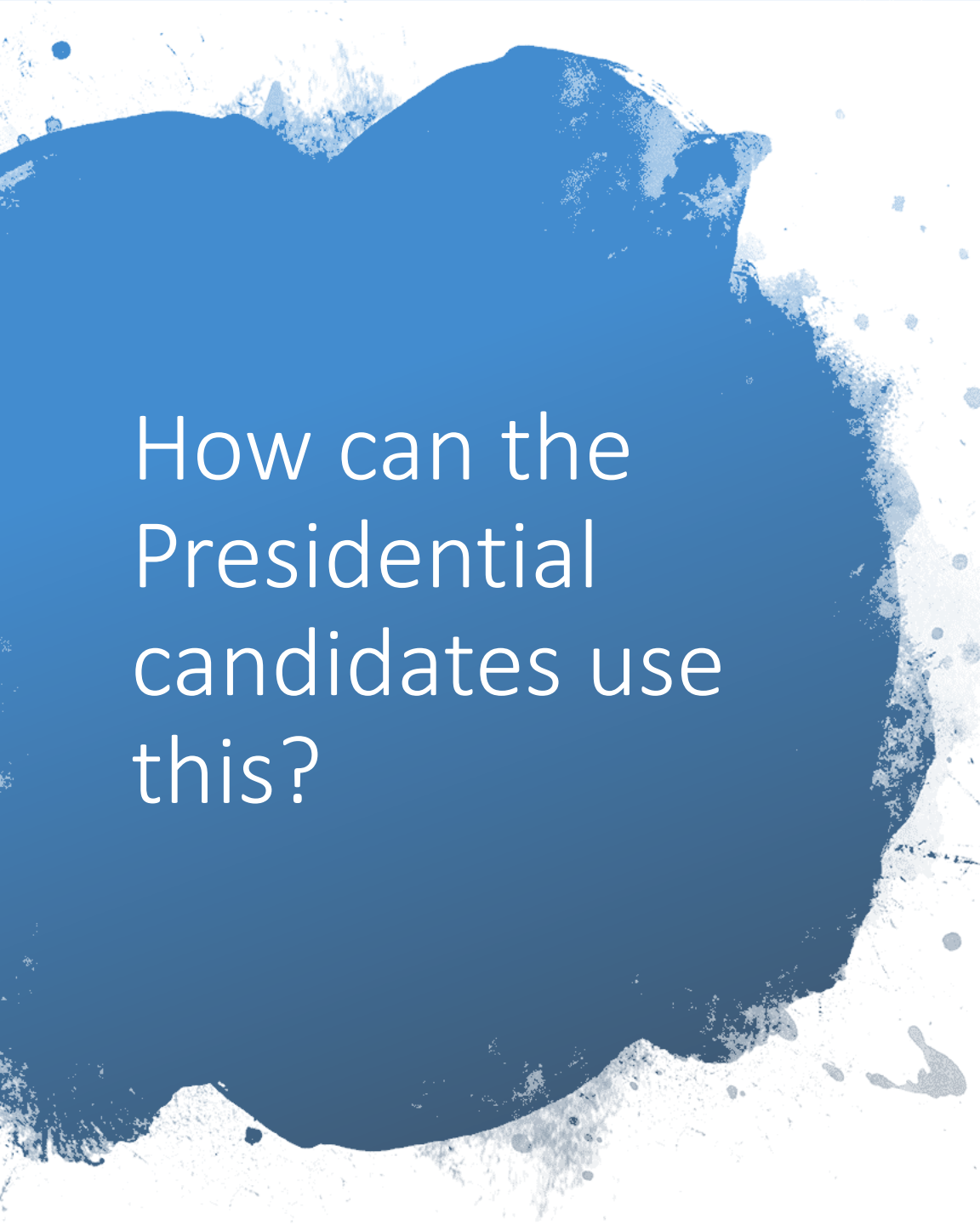




So...

- What will impact the way the US population vote?
- Current events will be key and 2020 has provided 2 key areas that have led to public scrutiny of the political leadership of the US.
- The handling of the Covid 19 pandemic
- The death of George Floyd in police custody, leading to mass protests, looting, violence and other examples of police brutality.







How can the  
Presidential  
candidates use  
this?

- All you need to do is follow both Trump and Biden on Twitter to see how they might use the current situation to their advantage.
- Trump is styling himself as the greatest President of all time, who is saving the US from the challenges of 2020.
- Biden is styling himself as the President of the people, the man who will actually listen and will make the decisions the country needs, without a consideration of the benefit to him.

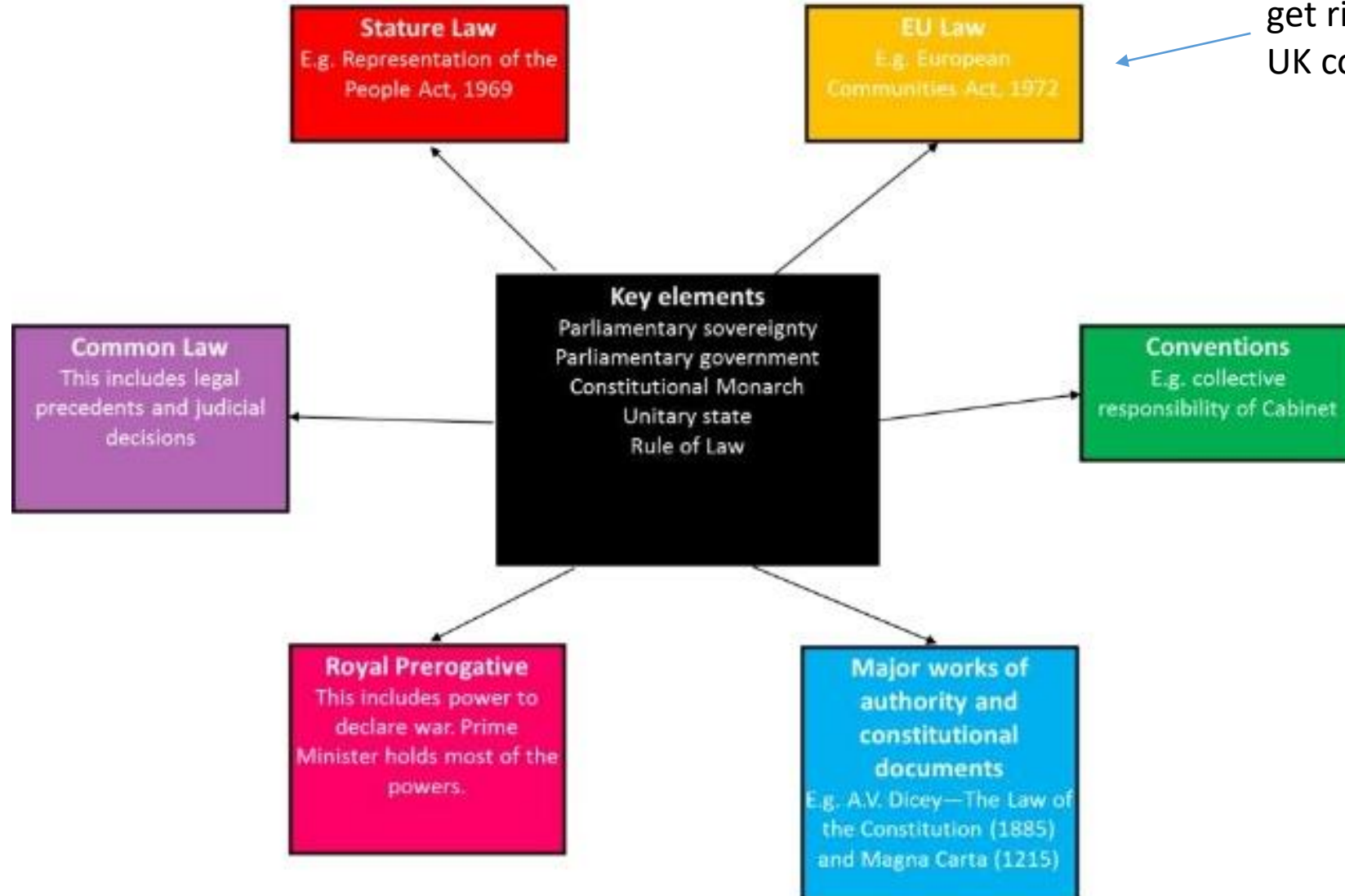
# Will Trump get a second term?

	<u>CNN/SSRS</u> 6/2/20-6/5/20	<u>IPSOS/REUTERS</u> 6/8/20-6/9/20	<u>NBC/WSJ</u> 5/28/20-6/2/20	<u>NPR/PBS/MARIST</u> 6/2/20-6/3/20	<u>IPSOS/REUTERS</u> 6/1/20-6/2/20	<u>MONMOUTH</u> <u>UNIVERSITY</u> 5/28/20-
 <b>BIDEN</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>52%</b>
 <b>TRUMP</b> (Incumbent)	<b>41%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>41%</b>

Brexit – the perfect case study for what we  
will study!



# Sources of the Constitution

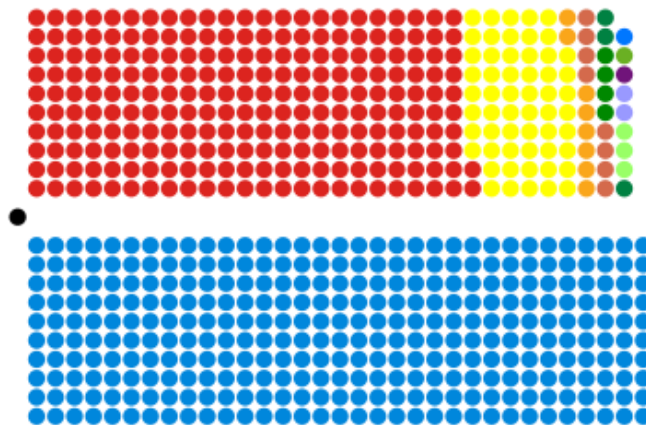


Brexit is basically trying to get rid of this part of the UK constitution.

**The executive** (Prime Minister, Cabinet and government) at the time decided to hold a referendum (ask the people to vote on a specific issue) on EU membership.



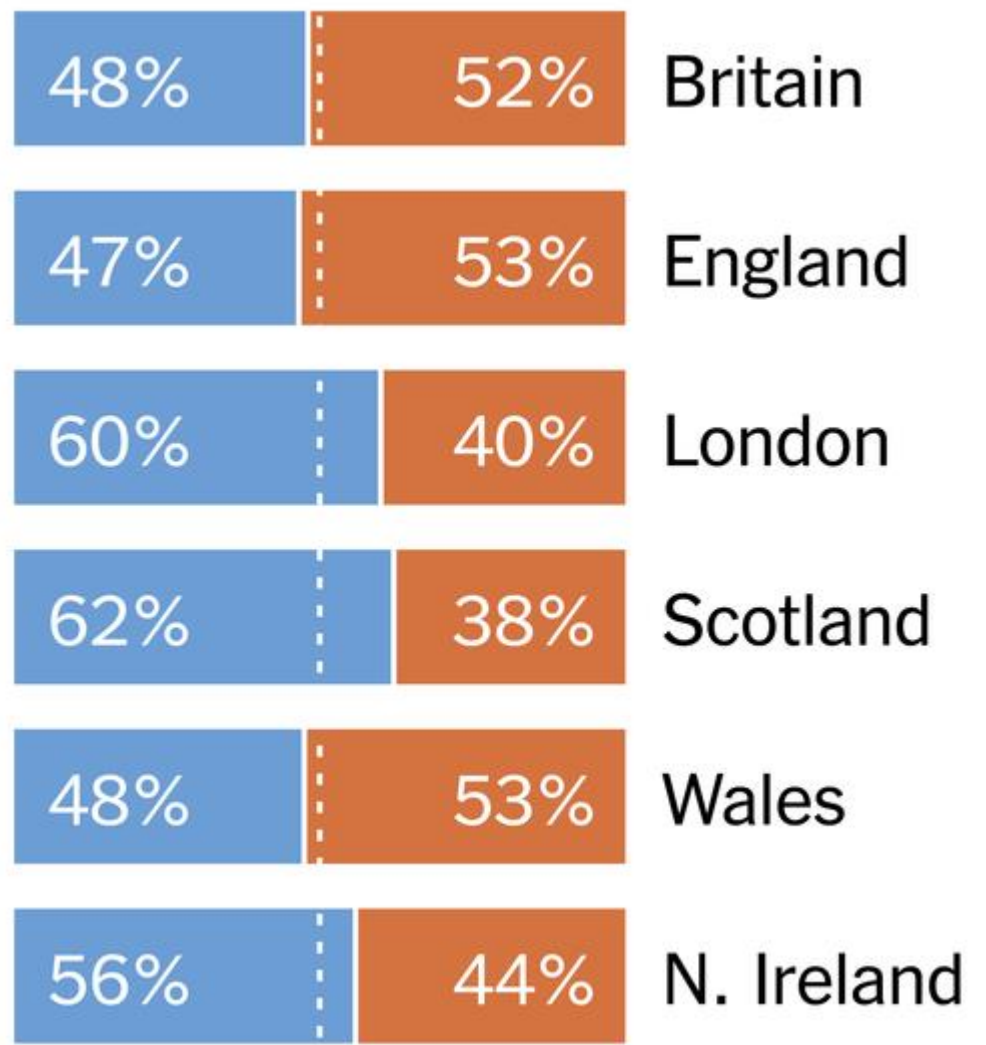
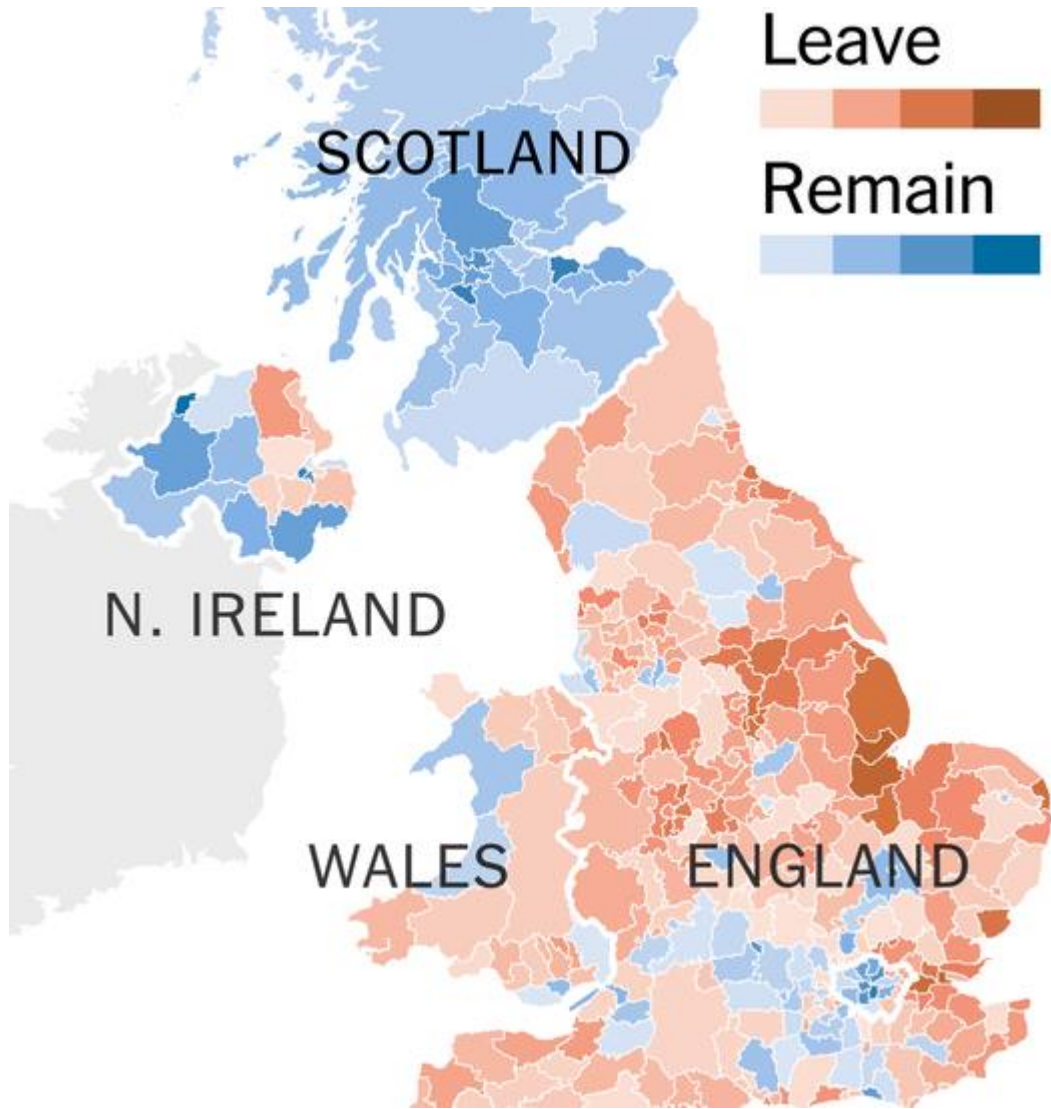
**The legislature** (Parliament) were asked whether they wanted a referendum and it passed by all MPs except the SNP voting to have the referendum.



**The Judiciary** (Supreme Court) were not involved in the discussion as there was no debate about whether the UK was breaking a law in holding the referendum



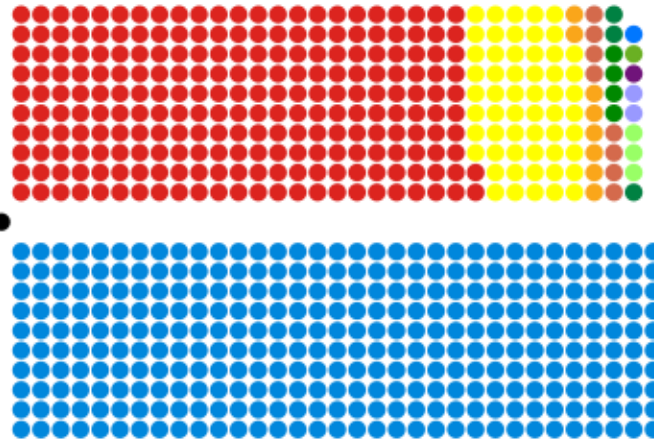
# Referendum 2016



**The executive** (Prime Minister, Cabinet and government) wanted to invoke Article 50 and bypass parliament.



**The legislature** would be totally overlooked and not be able to vote on whether the UK should begin the process of leaving the EU



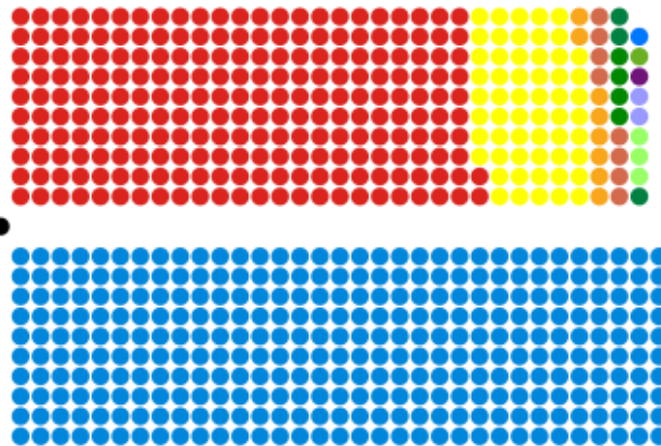
**The Judiciary** were then asked by a lady called Gina Miller to rule on whether it was unlawful for the executive to pass a law without the legislative voting on it. They ruled that Parliament must pass an Act to trigger Article 50.



**The executive** (Prime Minister, Cabinet and government) brought the bill before Parliament



**The legislature** voted by a majority of 384 votes (498 to 114) and passed the bill meaning that the UK would leave by law in March 2019



**The Judiciary** The Judiciary were not involved in the discussion this time as there was no debate about whether the UK was breaking a law in holding the referendum

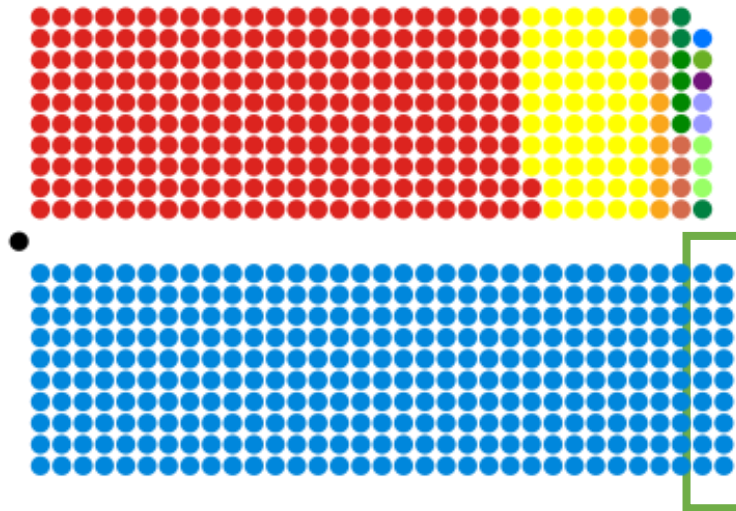




**The executive** decides to hold a General Election in June 2017 to try and strengthen their majority in parliament.



**The legislature** voted by a clear majority 522–13. Therefore an election took place on the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017



This is because there are a significant number of pro-remain Conservative MPS





**The Judiciary** The Judiciary were not involved in the discussion this time as there was no debate about whether the UK was breaking a law in holding the referendum

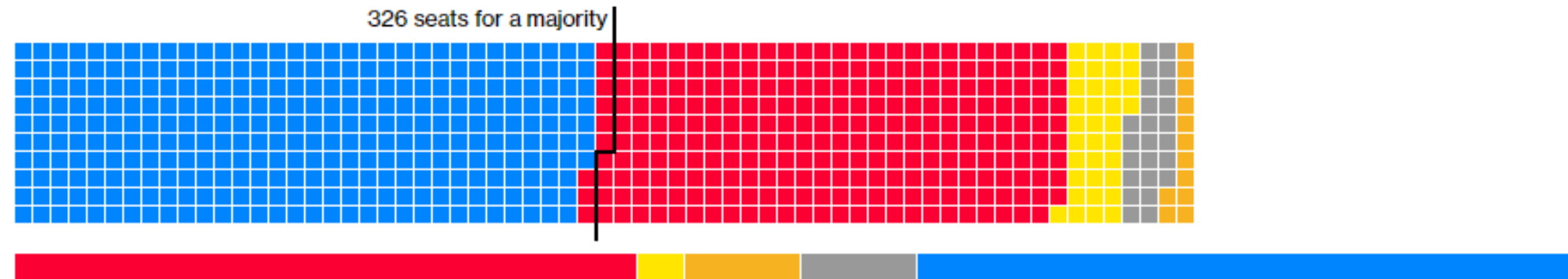


# Election result 2017

## 2017 National Results

Conservative lead by 55 seats | 650 of 650 seats declared

 <b>Labour</b> 262 seats (+32) 12,874,284 votes (40.0%)	 <b>SNP</b> 35 seats (-19) 977,568 votes (3.0%)	 <b>Liberal Democrat</b> 12 seats (+3) 2,371,762 votes (7.4%)	 <b>Other parties</b> 24 seats (-3) 2,339,678 votes (7.3%)	 <b>Conservative</b> 317 seats (-13) 13,632,932 votes (42.3%)
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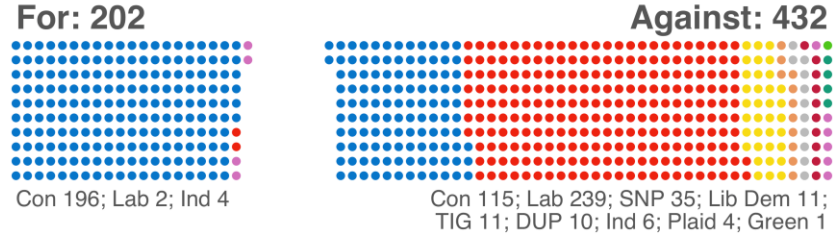
**The executive** try to pass their withdrawal agreement that the Government had negotiated with the EU.



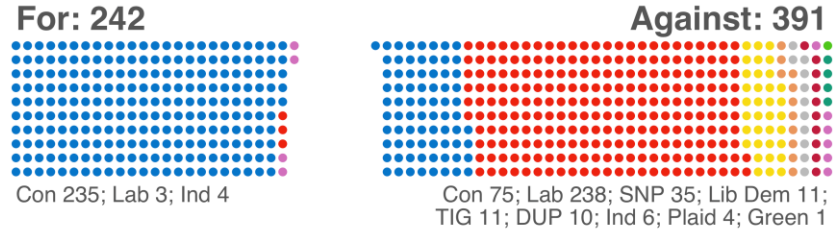
## The legislature vote

### How Theresa May's Brexit plan was rejected three times

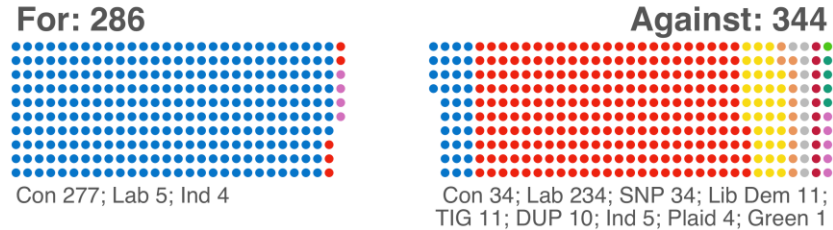
On 15 January, just a handful of independents and Labour rebels joined Conservative loyalists to vote for the deal



In the follow-up vote on 12 March, the PM reduced the deficit to 149 by winning back about 40 Conservatives



Finally in the vote on just the withdrawal agreement on 29 March the government was defeated by 58 votes



**The Judiciary** The Judiciary were not involved in the discussion this time as there was no debate about whether the UK was breaking a law in holding the referendum




**There is then a new executive** as May could not get through her deal in parliament. Johnson promises to ‘come out of the EU on October the 31<sup>st</sup> no ifs no buts...’ He also says in September he would “rather be dead in a ditch” than agree to extend Brexit.

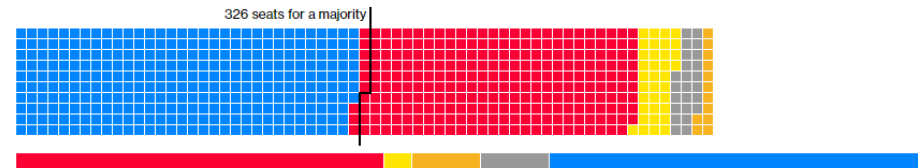


**The legislature** has all the power as the executive does not have a majority. They vote to decide to pass a law blocking a no deal Brexit on 31<sup>st</sup> October.

### 2017 National Results

Conservative lead by 55 seats | 650 of 650 seats declared

 Labour	 SNP	 Liberal Democrat	 Other parties	 Conservative
262 seats (+32)	35 seats (-19)	12 seats (+3)	24 seats (-3)	317 seats (-13)
12,874,284 votes (40.0%)	977,568 votes (3.0%)	2,371,762 votes (7.4%)	2,339,678 votes (7.3%)	13,632,932 votes (42.3%)



**The Judiciary** The Judiciary were not involved in the discussion this time as there was no debate about whether parliament had broken the law as parliament makes law and is sovereign.



**The executive** decides to prorogue parliament from 10<sup>th</sup> September to 14<sup>th</sup> October. This means that parliament is unable to sit and make law.

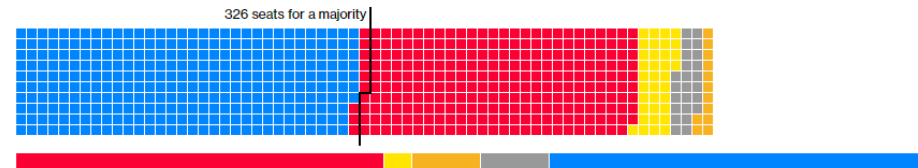
**The legislature** is rather angry at this 5 week prorogation which is the longest in history.

**The Judiciary** have to decide if the prorogation is lawful, or whether the executive have acted 'ultra vires' beyond their power. The Supreme Court decide prorogation is 'unlawful, void and of no effect'.

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The executive demand an election, which parliament must vote for, if it is to happen. Johnson is forced to ask for a three week extension to the EU.

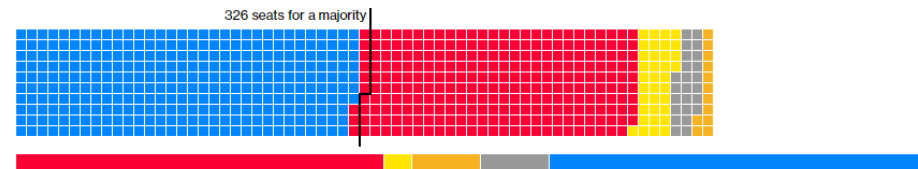
The legislature with no deal off the table agree to a December election.

The Judiciary is not involved.

### 2017 National Results

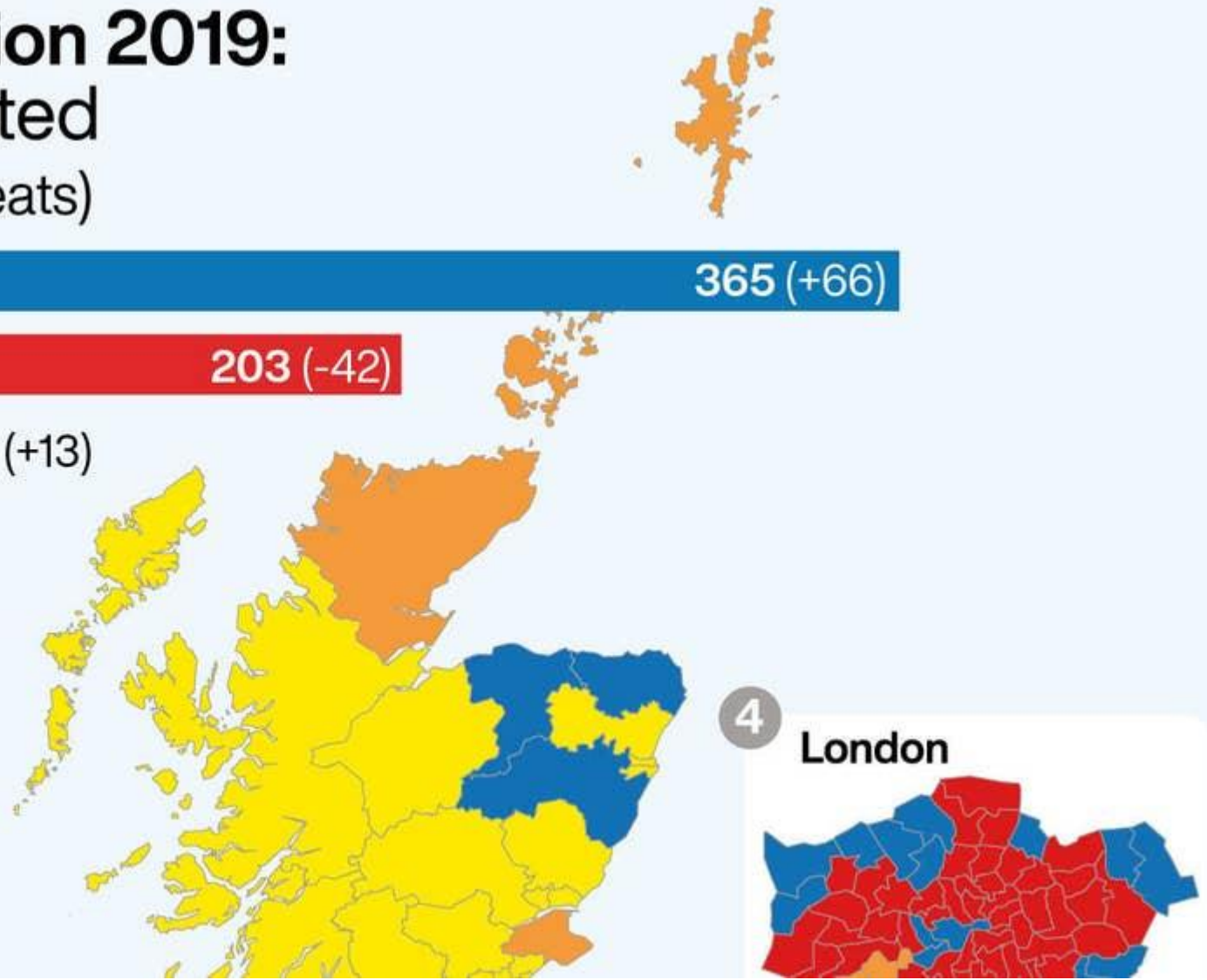
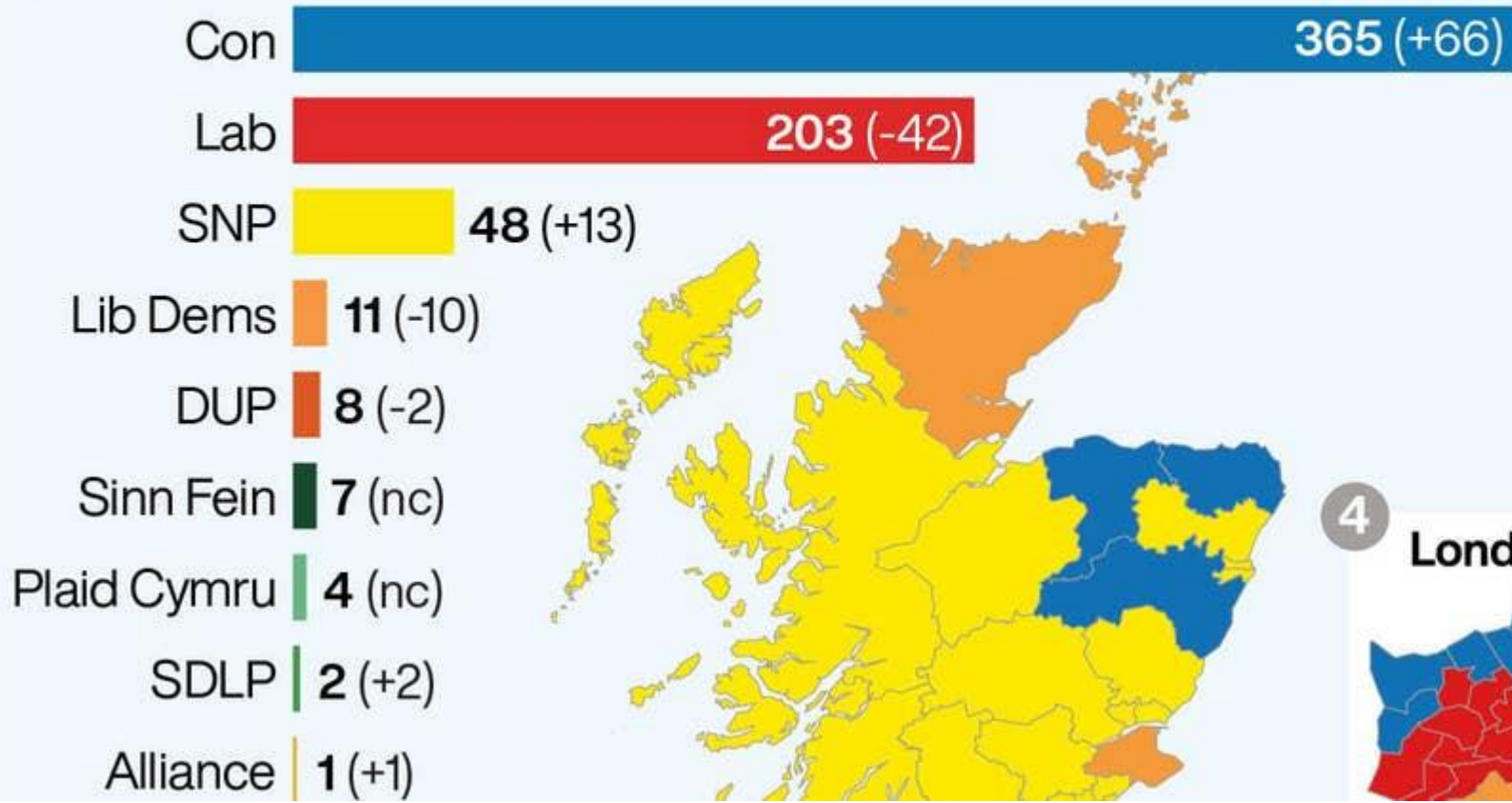
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# General Election 2019: how the UK voted

(after 650 of 650 seats)

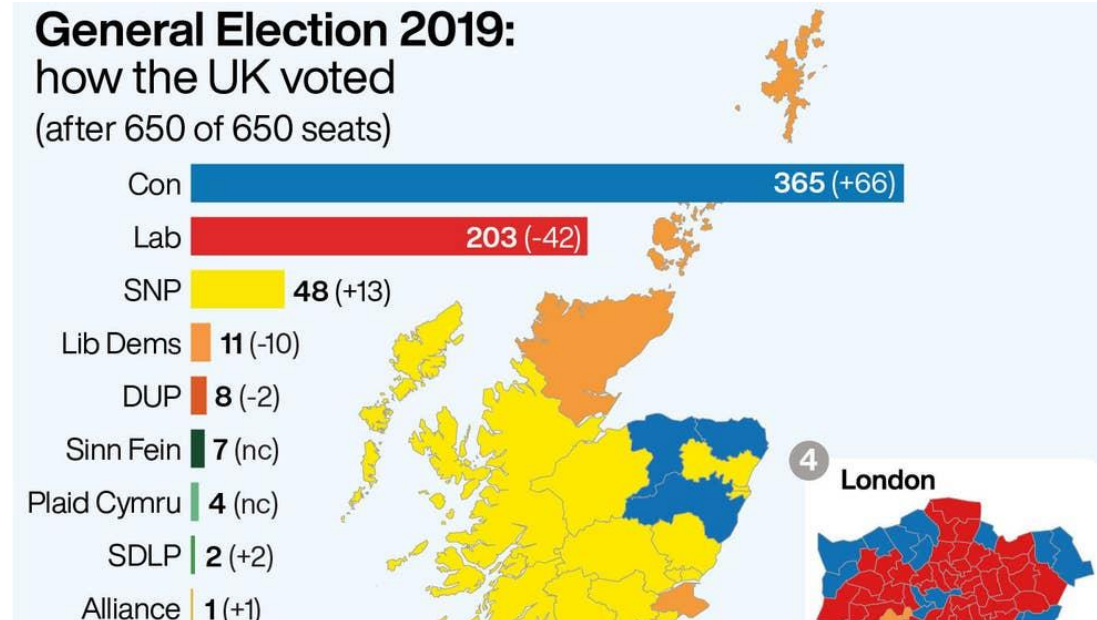


Majority of  
80!

**The executive** now with a majority of 80 is able to 'get Brexit done'. The UK officially left the EU on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020. Though we are still in the transition phase and negotiating a trade deal.

**The legislature** is now under the control of the executive, who have a majority are unlikely now to vote against the executive when it comes to Brexit. (School dinners during summer holiday!)

**The Judiciary** is not involved.





# Political Parties and Pressure Groups

## Political Parties: Definition & Purpose

### *What Is a Political Party?*

A political party is a *coalition* of people seeking to control government by *contesting elections & winning office*.

### *What Is the role & core purpose of a Political Party?*

The core of a political *party's purpose* is to

*Get their party's candidates elected to office.*



## Definition (2)

- 'A pressure group is an organisation which seeks as one of its functions to influence the formulation and implementation of public policy ...' (Grant 1989).



# Devolution



**DEVOLUTION** IS THE TRANSFER OF POLITICAL POWER FROM  
CENTRAL TO SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

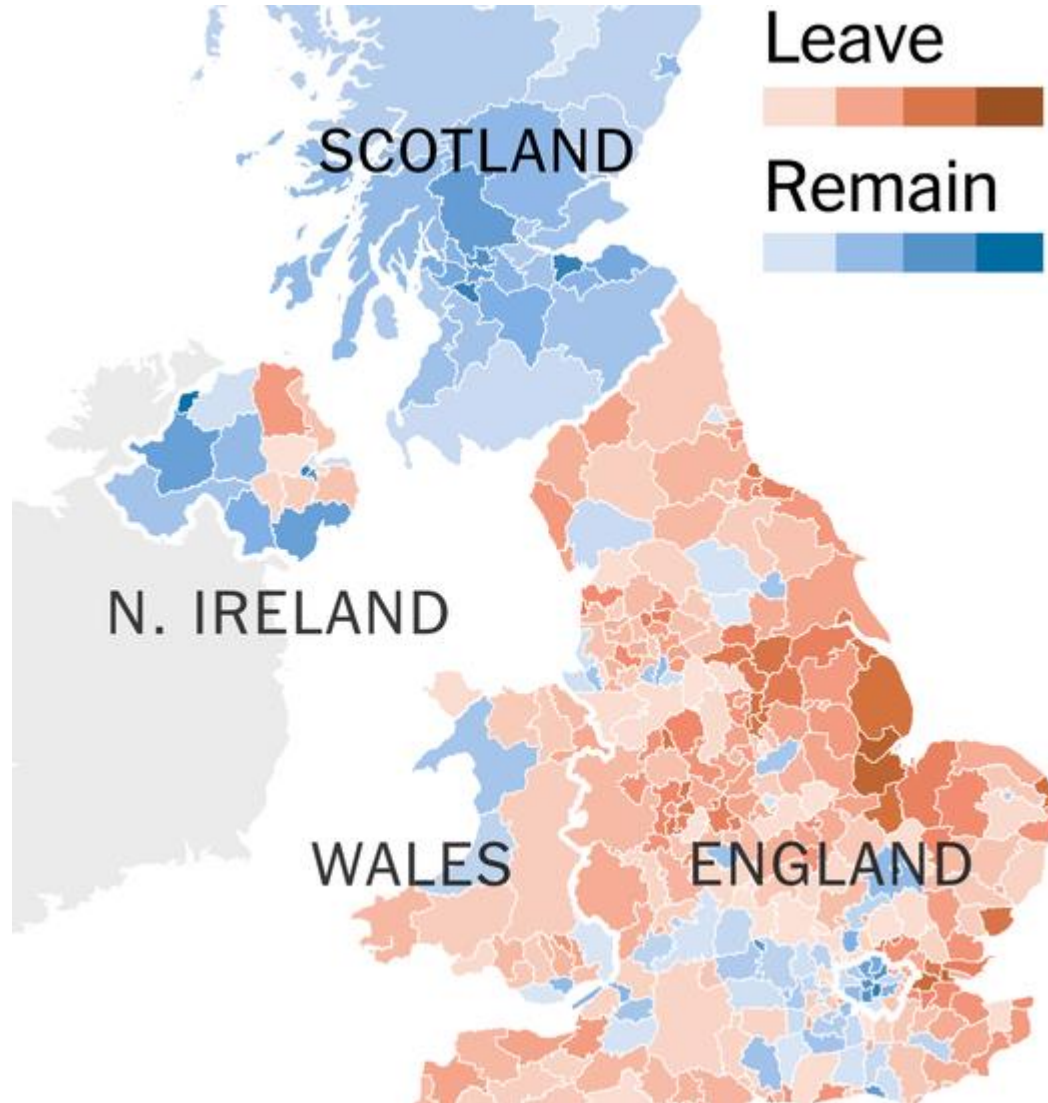


WESTMINSTER PARLIAMENT

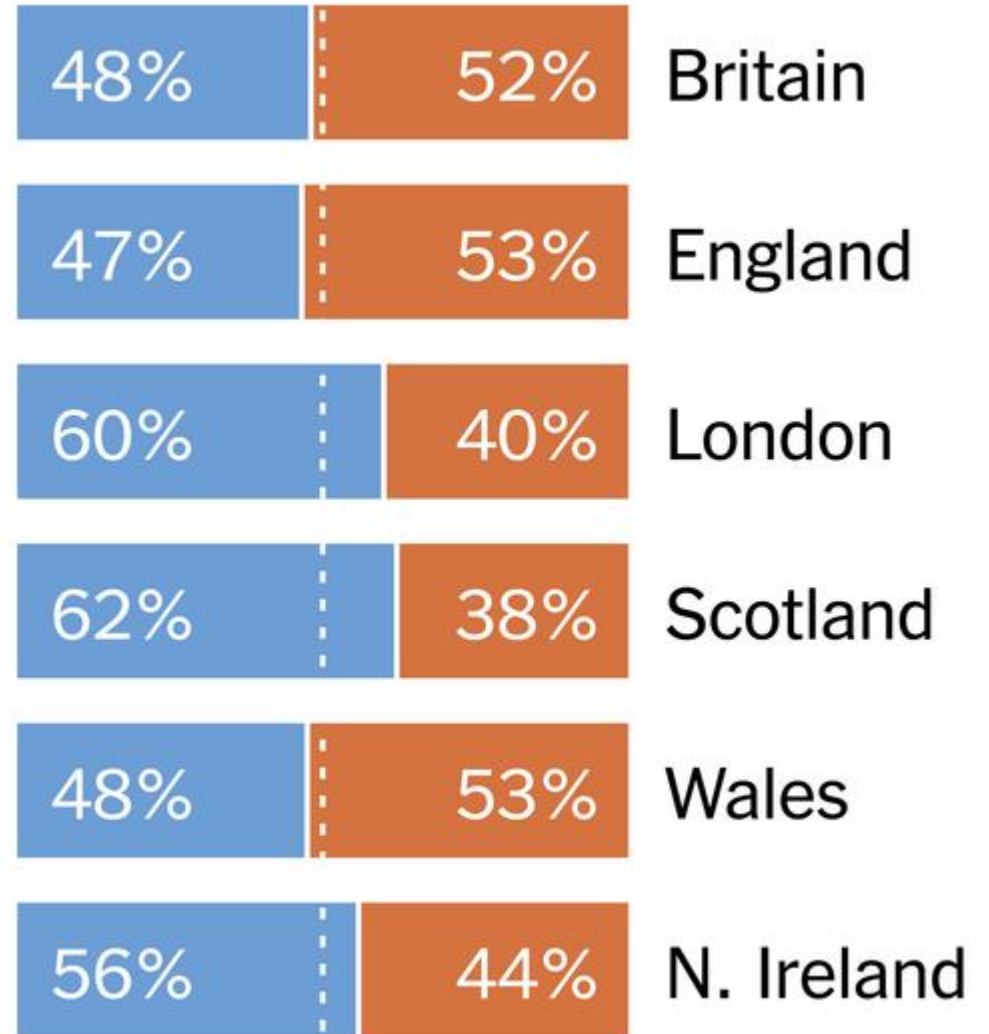


SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

# How might Brexit affect devolution?



Leave  
Remain



# Newspapers on Brexit – how much influence?



**Daily Mail**  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2016 www.dailymail.co.uk DAILY NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 65p

The Recorder: Sir Terence Etherton Worked with Tony Blair: Lord Justice Sales The Europhile: Lord Chief Justice Thomas

**Fury over 'out of touch' judges who defied 17.4m Brexit voters and could trigger constitutional crisis**

# ENEMIES OF THE PEOPLE

By James Slack Political Editor

MPS last night tore into an unelected panel of 'out of touch' judges for ruling that embittered Remain supporters in Parliament should be allowed to frustrate the overwhelming verdict of the British public.

The Lord Chief Justice and two senior colleagues were accused of putting Britain on course for a full-blown constitutional crisis by saying Brexit could not be triggered without a Remain majority vote.

The judgement by Lord Thomas - a founding member of the European Law Institute, a club of lawyers and academics aiming to 'improve' EU law - threw

into chaos Mrs May's timetable for invoking article 50 in March next year.

Senior MPs - led by an ex-justice minister - said it was an outrage that an 'inchoate alliance' of judges and embittered Remain backers could thwart the wishes of 17.4 million Leave voters. They warned that Mrs May could be forced to hold an election early next year if the courts did not back down. Leave

Turn to Page 2

Let's give our *NHS* the **£350 million** the EU takes every week

Vote Leave, take control

Photo credit: Vote Leave

# Voting behaviour

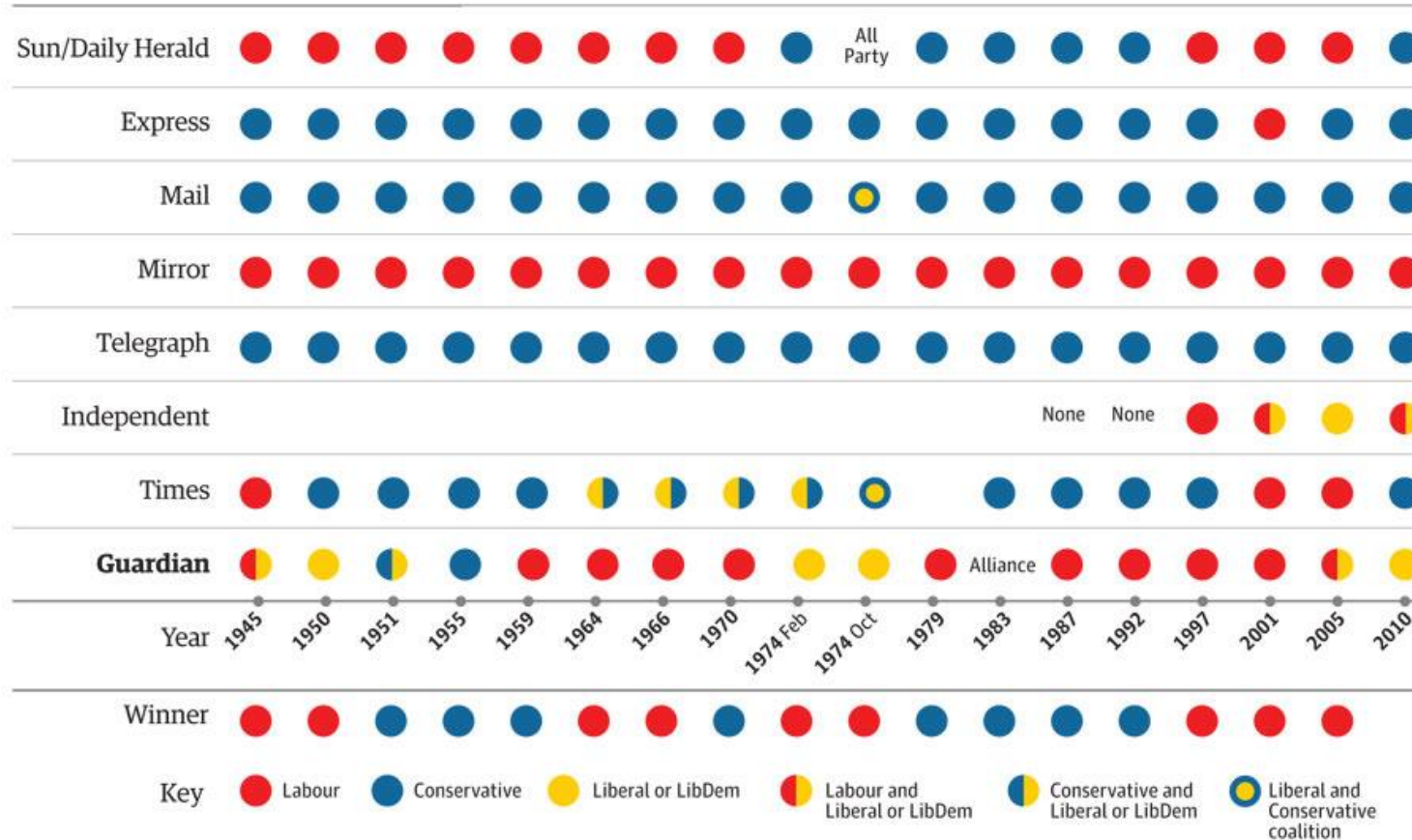
Figure 5. Leave vote by newspaper read most often



Base: all adults aged 18+ who voted in EU referendum (excluding don't knows), British Election Study (Wave 9)

# How much influence do newspapers have on elections?

Main national newspapers' support elections from 1945 - 2010

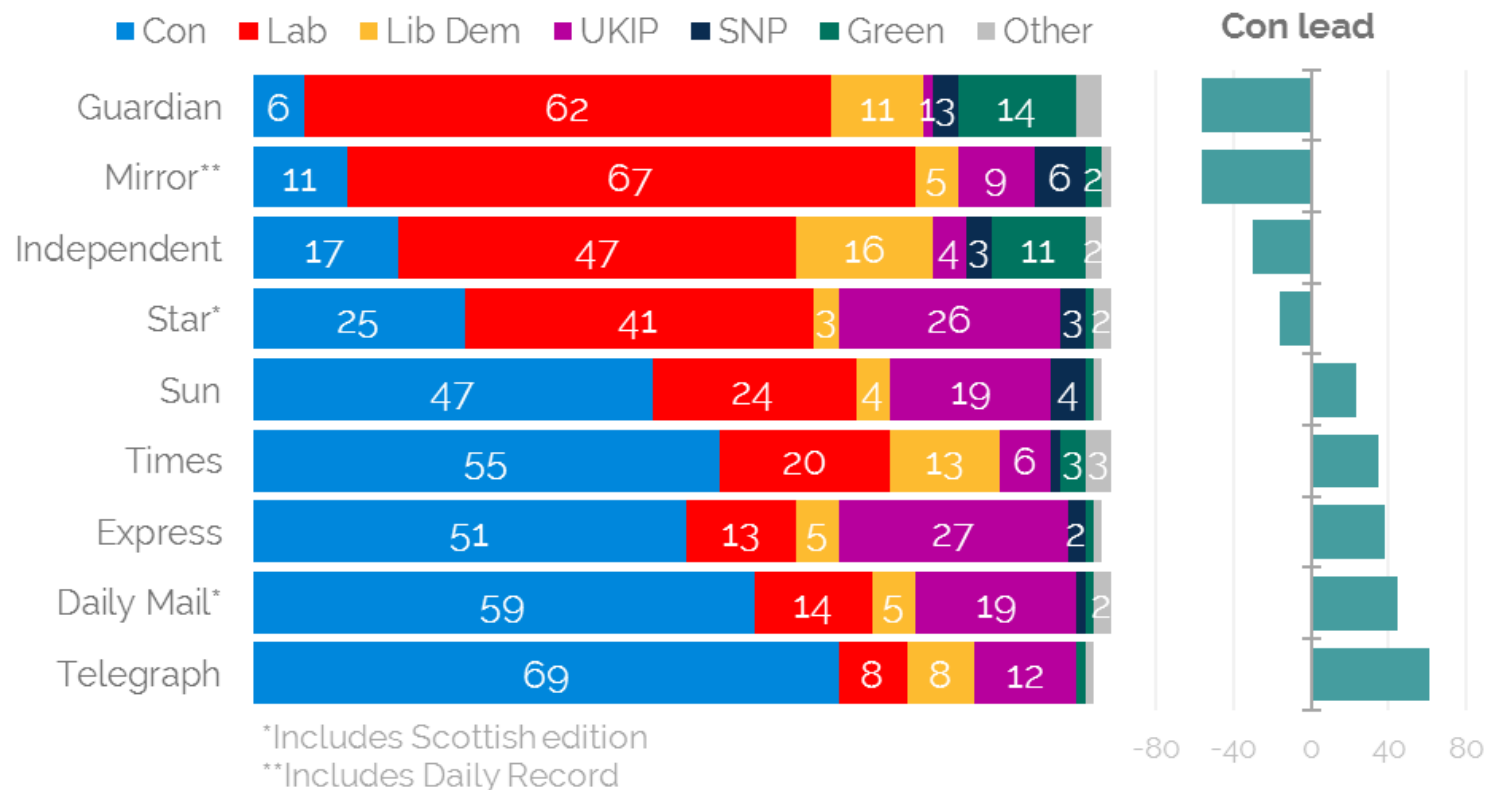


Source: Twentieth-Century British Political Facts 1900 - 2000 and British Political Facts Since 1979, David and Gareth Butler

# Voting behaviour

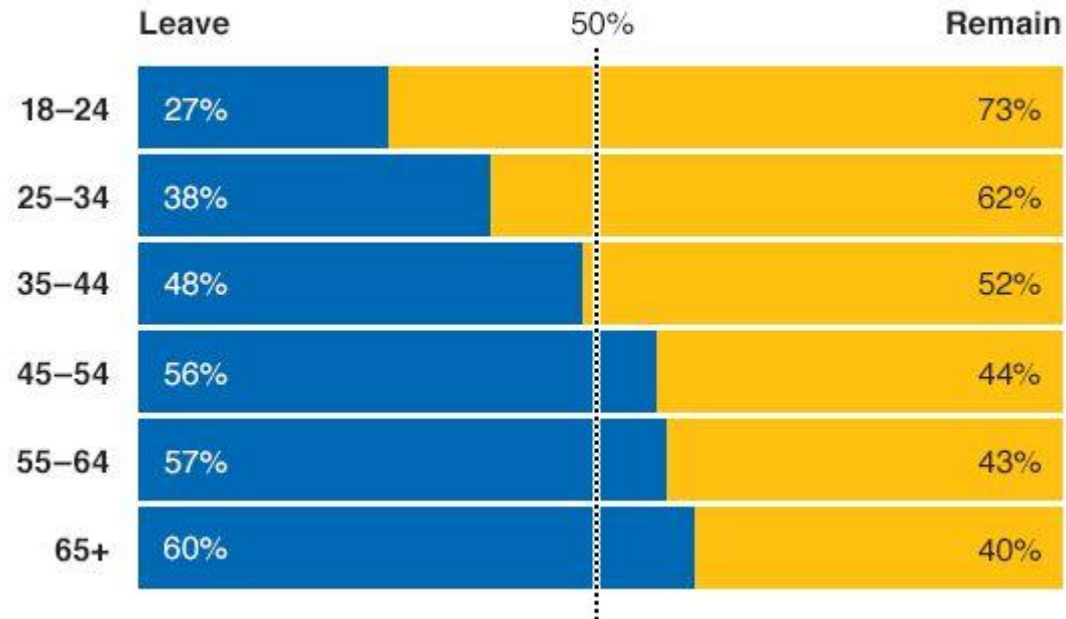
## Vote by newspaper readership

Based on a survey of 100,000 GB adults about their vote in the 2015 general election, conducted May 6th-18th, 2015.



# Voting behaviour

## How different age groups voted

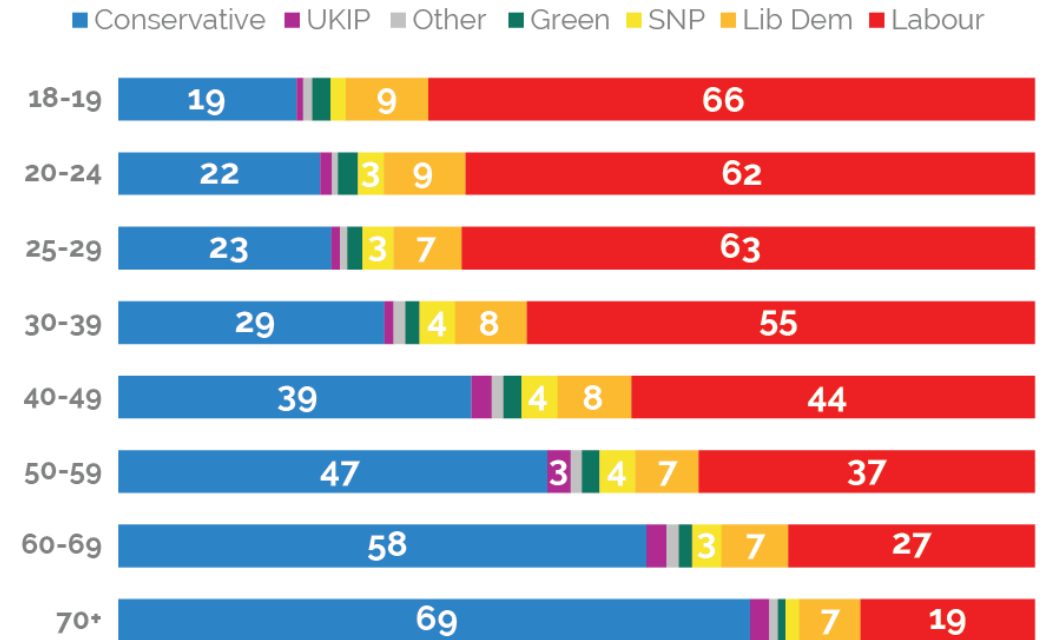


Source: Lord Ashcroft Polls

BBC

## Vote by age

Based on a survey of 52,615 GB adults about their vote in the 2017 general election



YouGov | yougov.com

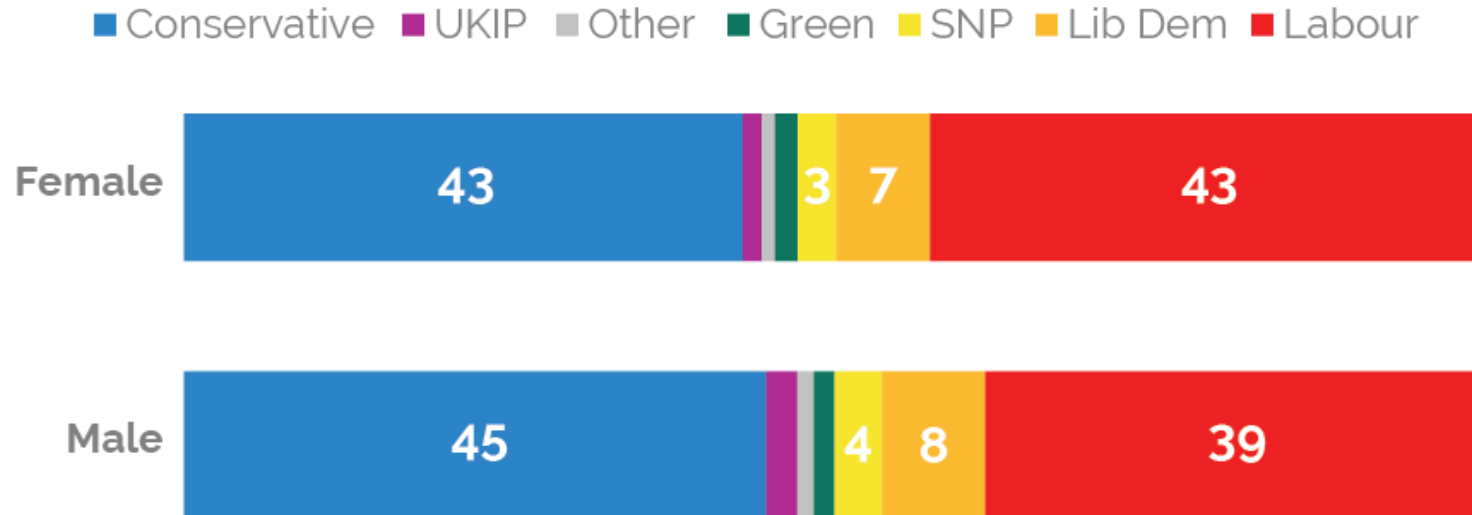
June 9-13, 2017



# Voting behaviour

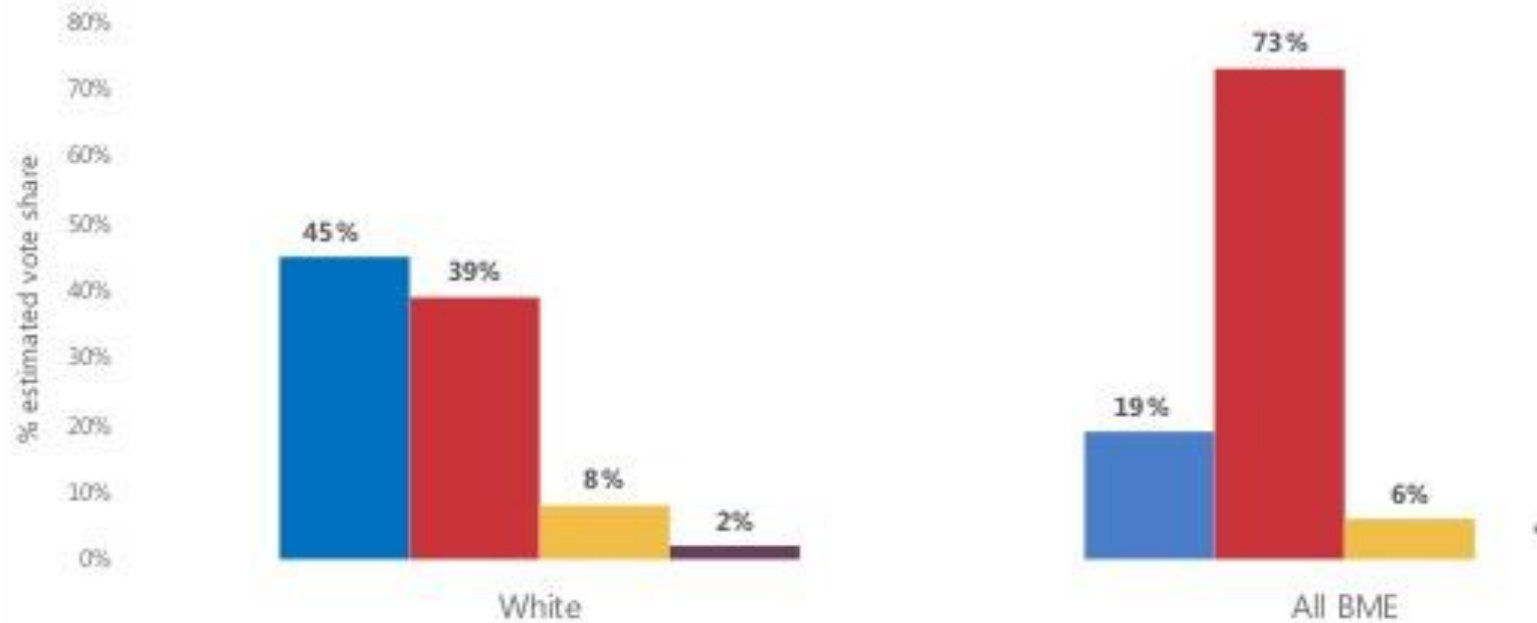
## Vote by gender

Based on a survey of 52,615 GB adults about their vote in the 2017 general election



# Voting behaviour

## How Britain voted by ethnicity – Labour keeps strong lead among BME voters



Base: 7,926 GB adults aged 16+ (52% classified as voters), interviewed telephone and online 21 April – 7 June 2017. Data has been weighted to the actual results by region and to the population profile of Great Britain.

Source: Ipsos MOR Political Monitor

 Ipsos MORI





# Political Ideologies

- The third section of the course looks at political ideologies.
- There are 3 compulsory ideologies: Conservatism, Liberalism and Socialism.
- Then there is a choice and we do Feminism and Nationalism.

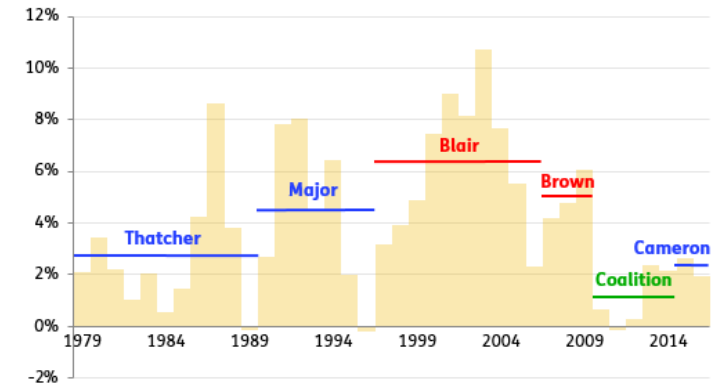
# Socialism

Nationalisation –  
common ownership



## Changes in UK public spending on health

Annual growth rate\* and government averages in real UK public spending on health, financial years beginning 1979 to 2016



\*Using the GDP deflator from the Office for Budget Responsibility

Source: Figures provided to Full Fact by the Institute for Fiscal Studies

# Conservatism

- Traditional Conservatives believe in reform where necessary. They have a respect for law and order and a conviction that the government should not interfere too much in the way people run their lives. They also believe in the importance of the protection of property and have a belief that individuals have the right to be successful. They respect tradition, in particular institutions like the Church, the House of Lords and the family, which they believe have lasted because they must have some value.
- All this has translated into general policy prescriptions involving low taxes, not too much public spending, and a belief that private companies (in pursuit of profit) are capable of performing many of the services that people need, and allowing these companies to compete will improve those services.

# Liberalism

## CLASSICAL LIBERALISM

The general umbrella of political thought that favors **individual liberty** over the power of central government.

## SOCIAL LIBERALISM

Takes from Classical Liberalism to focus on **social liberties**.

## AMERICAN CONSERVATISM

Takes from Classical Liberalism to focus on preserving **economic liberties**.

## PROGRESSIVISM

Support or advocacy for improvement of society through political reform—especially **with the help of government**.

## LIBERTARIANISM

Belief that people should be mostly free to make their own economic and social decisions, **free of government**.



# Feminism

First wave Feminism

Second wave Feminism

Liberal Feminists

Radical Feminists

Socialist Feminists

Cultural Feminists

Post-modern Feminists

Difference Feminists



# Nationalism

Nationalism is probably the most diverse of all the political ideas. In many ways it could best be described as a range of emotions based around the notions of statehood and national sovereignty.

State nationalism

Minority nationalism



# Things to read/listen to/metaphorically consume for A Level Politics UK and Ideologies...



Ideologies:  
Radio 4 – socialism, conservatism and liberalism 1 hour long programmes about the history of the ideologies in Britain



UK Supreme Court: The Highest Court in the Land - Documentary



Steve Richards:  
The Brown Years  
The Cameron Years  
Nick Clegg: The Liberal who came to power  
The Brexit prime minister  
The Corbyn Story  
The Long March of Corbyn's Labour



# Questions for different programmes

Political Thinking (There are loads to choose from so go through and pick main current politicians. Start with Rishi Sunak, Boris Johnson, Dominic Raab, Keir Starmer and Rebecca Long-Bailey.)

- 1) How did their upbringing impact on their politics?
- 2) What are their aspirations in politics or for the country?
- 3) Who are their heroes in life?

# Questions for different programmes

Ideologies: Radio 4 – socialism, conservatism and liberalism 1 hour long programmes about the history of the ideologies in Britain

- 1) What are the main principles of each ideology?
- 2) How has the ideology changed over it's history?
- 3) What main historical events may have sparked the changes?
- 4) Pick three key people in the ideologies development and the impact they had

# Questions for different programmes

Steve Richards programmes:

- 1) What challenges did the politicians featured face?
- 2) What successes have the politicians had?
- 3) What impact did they have on politics in the country? Give some examples

# Questions for different programmes

4 part Thatcher Documentary (The Thatcher) on YouTube:

1. How did her upbringing impact her politics?
2. What challenges did she face in becoming Prime Minister?
3. How did she win over public opinion on her leadership?
4. How did she control cabinet?
5. Why could it be argued her cabinet were the reasons she had to resign?

# Questions for different programmes

UK Supreme Court documentary on YouTube:

Supreme Court Documentary Questions

- 1) Why did Blair move the Supreme Court from the Lords to its on Court?
- 2) What powers do they have in relation to other lower courts?
- 3) Why do they have this power?
- 4) Why do they have the power to interpret Acts of Parliament?
- 5) Which example shows that no-one is above the rule of law and the power of the Supreme Court and how?
- 6) How does the court show transparency?
- 7) Why did the court need to make a judgement on the MPs expenses claims?
- 8) How does the Supreme Court hold parliament to account?

- 9) What has caused more cases to go to the Supreme Court in recent years?
- 10) How are they chosen?
- 11) Why are they not appointed by politicians?
- 12) Why do some people criticise the make-up of the Supreme Court? Give two
- 13) How do the judges make decisions?
- 14) What is the key thing the judges use to make their judgement?
- 15) Which case tested the judges in keeping emotion out of a decision and implementing the letter of the law and why?
- 16) How did the decision link to some of the criticisms that the Supreme Court has faced?
- 17) How does the Supreme Court work to allow a just decision is made, not just based on a small number of justices?
- 18) Why could the judgement of pre-nuptial agreements be used to criticise the Supreme Court?
- 19) Why could the Supreme Court challenge the Blair government Act under the new Terrorism Act?
- 20) Why might Brexit mean that the Supreme Court can't make a ruling like they did in 2004?
- 21) Is the non-elected Supreme Court overpowering the elected Parliament?
- 22) Why could you argue that parliament is still sovereign?