

## Paper 1: Section A: Active Citizenship

In this paper you will be using your **own project** to answer the questions. The key to success is to make sure you understand the language in the question - what do you need to focus on.

### Key language in the question: what does it mean?

**A method to take action is what you did to try to make the difference.** For example; I wrote a letter to my MP, I taught a group of year 7 students. **It is not how** you gathered information.

**Method used to research** is how you collected the information that you needed in order to take action. This will usually be about your primary research, for example questionnaires, interviews, photographs

### **Becoming informed/usefulness of your research**

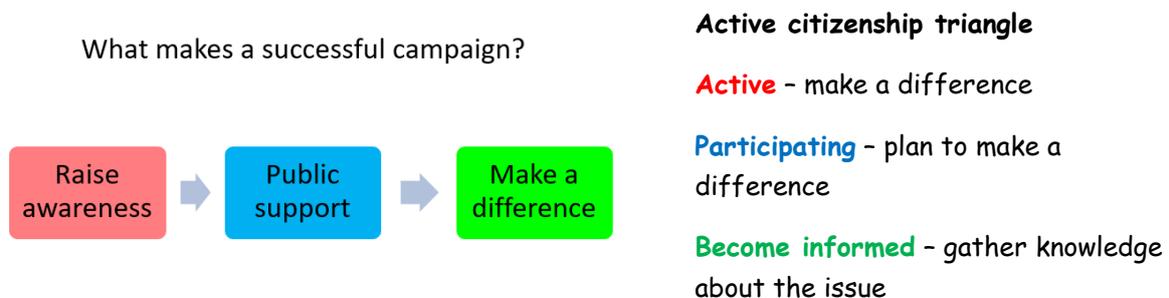
This could be linked to primary research (as above) or secondary research - the internet is where most of you went for this - which websites did you use?

### **Evaluating the success of your investigation**

Use the triangle: did you become informed? Did you make a difference?

Use the successful campaign criteria - did you raise awareness, did you gain support? Did you make a difference?

When discussing **to what extent you have been successful as an active citizen** remember to think about:



Think about these categories in relation to your project.

**Revision tip:**

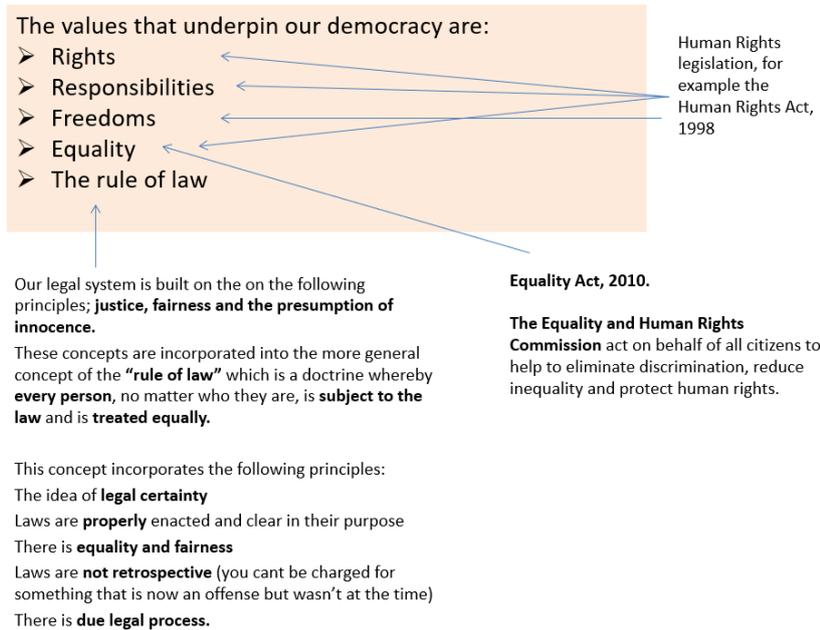
- The questions below are typical in this section of the paper.
- Think about your project - how would you answer these questions?
- Plan your answers
- Chose a couple to write a full answer and ask your teacher for feedback

2 marks	<b>Explain</b> how <b>either</b> one primary <b>or</b> one secondary source assisted in regard to your investigation.	<b>Explain one</b> way your interactions with individuals or groups outside the classroom helped you with your investigation.	<b>Explain one</b> method that you used to take action	<b>Explain one</b> feature of the action plan for your investigation
4 marks	<b>Discuss</b> which part of the whole investigation process you consider was the most successful and why.	<b>Discuss</b> which part of your investigation process was the most difficult and explain why	<b>Discuss</b> which part of the whole investigation process you consider was the most successful and why.	<b>Discuss</b> how you decided on the issue of your investigation
6 marks	<b>Summarise</b> the evidence you gathered at the research stage. Evaluate its usefulness in relation to your issue /question.	<b>Evaluate</b> the extent to which your investigation was an example of effective active citizenship.	<b>Evaluate</b> the success of the type of action that you chose.	<b>Evaluate</b> the usefulness of your primary OR secondary research in relation to your issue/question
	<b>Analyse</b> the ways in which your investigation was a good example of taking citizenship action.	<b>Analyse</b> the ways in which your research helped you to carry out your investigation	Think about the overall impact of your action. <b>Analyse</b> ways your citizenship action made a difference	<b>Analyse</b> the ways in which your investigation was a good example of taking citizenship action. Give reasons for your answer.

## Paper 1: Section B Politics and Participation

### Section 1: Our democratic system

Our democratic system is a **democracy** - which means ruled by the people.



**Representative democracy:** Citizens elect representatives who act on their behalf to make policies. They are held accountable at election time. For example the general election is held every 5 years as a result of the **Fixed Parliament Act (2011)**. If people

An elected representative is expected to represent the interests of their **constituents**, for example Scott Mann MP is representing the people who live in North Cornwall.

**Direct democracy:** Citizens have a direct input in the policy making process. Referendums are a tool of direct democracy.

**Referendum:** A vote on a single issue put to a public ballot by the government of the day. They are usually phrased as a yes/no question.

Example: UK's membership within the EU - 2016

Form 1 – Form of ballot paper  
Front of ballot paper

Referendum on the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union	
Vote only once by putting a cross <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in the box next to your choice	
Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?	
Remain a member of the European Union	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leave the European Union	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Section 2: The institutions of the British constitution.

The British constitution is **uncodified** - this means that the powers of the different institutions within the constitution are not written down in one single place.

- Which element of the British constitution is the most important? Has the most power?
- How powerful is the government? Prime Minister? Opposition?

This depends on the outcome of the general election. **Hung parliaments** result in a more powerful opposition and parliament as a whole, **strong majority** governments have a lot of power and therefore so does the PM.

Element of British institution	Notes
<b>The government</b>	Make, propose and carry out the policy and laws
<b>The Prime Minister and cabinet</b>	The PM is the head of the government. The cabinet is the senior members of the government appointed by the PM. The four most senior members are The Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Foreign Secretary, the Home Secretary and the Minister of Defence.
The executive	PM, ministers, civil servants, policy advisors who draft and implement policy after it has been agreed by the legislature.
<b>The Sovereignty of Parliament</b>	Only Parliament can pass laws or change them. This can become an issue when the government has a large majority. (2019 Conservative government has 80 seat majority). Parliament includes the House of Commons and House of Lords
<b>The Legislature</b>	Another name for Parliament - pass and amend laws.
<b>The opposition</b>	Officially the largest party not in government, in 2019 this is the Labour Party, however also includes all MPs not in government. The opposition has more leverage over the government when the government does not have a majority. For example in 2017 the Conservative Party did not have a majority so the opposition could take control of Parliament and the passing of laws - BREXIT example.
<b>Political parties</b>	Political parties are like minded groups of people who wish to win elections.
<b>The Monarch</b>	Head of State, most powers have been given to the Parliament- signs every new Act of Parliament to make it law, this is known as Royal Assent.
<b>Citizens</b>	Without citizens there would be no state so they could be the most important part of the constitution, however they may be seen as the least powerful part. Referendums do enhance the power of the citizens
<b>The judiciary</b>	The senior judges and the legal process- separation of powers means that they are completely separate to the government and so can challenge decisions made by Parliament and government ministers. E.g. Gina Miller v the Government's for unlawful prorogation (closing down) of Parliament 2019 went through the supreme court.

<b>The police</b>	Enforce the law - accountable to the Police and Crime Commissioners.
<b>The Civil Service</b>	People employed by the government to carry out the policies and advise the government. They are politically neutral and impartial and remain in post when governments change, they are also anonymous.

### Parliamentary accountability

Arguably Parliament's most important role is to hold the government to **account** - remember the MPs in Parliament are elected by the people and should be representing their constituencies. Also remember that Parliament includes the House of Lords. Parliament holds the government to account by:

- **Questions** - Prime Minister's Question Time - the leaders of opposition parties can ask a set number of questions to the PM, followed by the back bench
- **Committees** - groups of MPs who meet together to consider proposed laws - **scrutiny**
- **Debates** - Discuss government policy and current issues. The opposition parties are allowed to propose debates on certain dates, and hold emergency debates if the Speaker allows them to - for example debating No Deal Brexit.

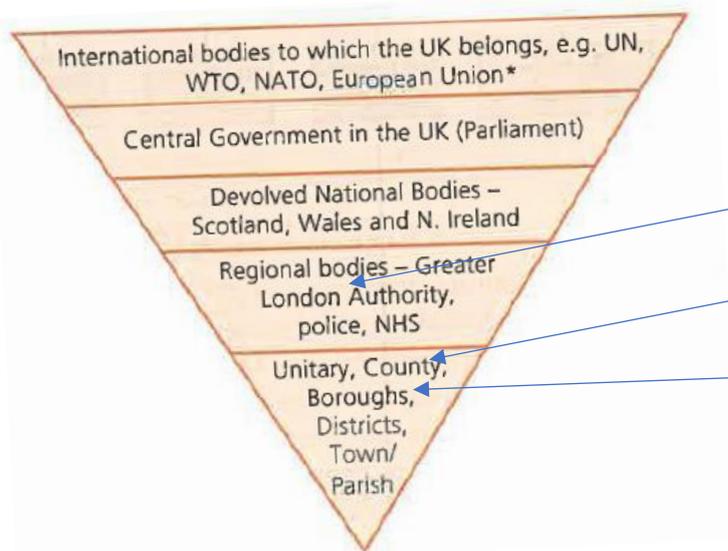
Other roles include working with their **constituencies**, holding debates, surgeries etc.

### **Ceremonial roles within Parliament:**

- **The speaker** elected by MPs chairs debates in House of Commons
- **Whip** MPs or Lords appointed by each party to ensure that their party's MPs turn out and vote for the party's wishes. They instruct them how to vote
- **Frontbench** MPs are the cabinet ministers on the government side and shadow ministers on the opposition side.
- **Backbench** Backbench MPs are ordinary MPs who do not hold other positions.
- **Black Rod** A senior officer in the House of Lords responsible for security and ceremonial events such as the State Opening of Parliament.

### Section 3: Power and different levels of government

#### Levels of Government



UK will leave the EU 31st Jan 2020

e.g. Cornwall Council is a Unitary Authority

e.g. Launceston Town Council

e.g. North Petherwin Parish Council

**Devolution** - transfers powers from the central government (UK Parliament) to different institutions for example education, health to the **Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly or Northern Ireland Assembly**

Reserved powers are powers still taken by the UK parliament for example defence and foreign policy

The role of local government (e.g. Cornwall Council): to provide services at a local level, for example education, transport, libraries, waste collection. They have to raise income through taxation e.g. council tax. The councils are elected and have a cabinet like the national government to lead departments.

### Section 4: The electoral system

#### Who can stand for election?

**Local election:** anyone 18 or over and a British Citizen - but not if you are imprisoned for more than three months.

**General election:** as above but not if you are in the police, civil servant, judges..... ie separation of powers

**Candidate selection:** each candidate has its own process but it involves an interview process, maybe a hustings event where they debate issues, the local party choose their candidates.

**Who can vote in a general election?** must be registered, 18 or over and UK citizen.

Debate over the age of voting. In the 2014 referendum on Scottish Independence the voting age was lowered to 16, many argue this should be the case as 16 year olds will be adults during the term of the government and it would increase political participation. Others use poor turnout of young people and immaturity as an argument for them not to. *What do you think?*

**Voter turnout** is the percentage of people who vote against the number who are registered to vote. In the UK voting is optional in other countries it is compulsory. Voter turnout is important because our democratic process is built on people voting for a representative. IF they do not vote then they are not taking part in this process. As age increases so does turnout, suggesting that young people have voter apathy. Turnout for the general election is usually around 66%, for the Police and Crime Commissioners election this was just 15%.

Suggestions for improving voter turnout are:

- Allowing weekend voting
- Changing polling hours
- Online/telephone voting
- Compulsory voting

*What are the arguments for and against?*

**Voter apathy** is blamed for low turnout - this is a lack of interest by citizens in the electoral and political process. However, there may be other reasons for not turning out such as not agreeing with any of the candidates/parties, the electoral system not being proportional and so your vote could be wasted, lack of difference between the parties.

### Our electoral system for Westminster: First Past the Post Electoral System

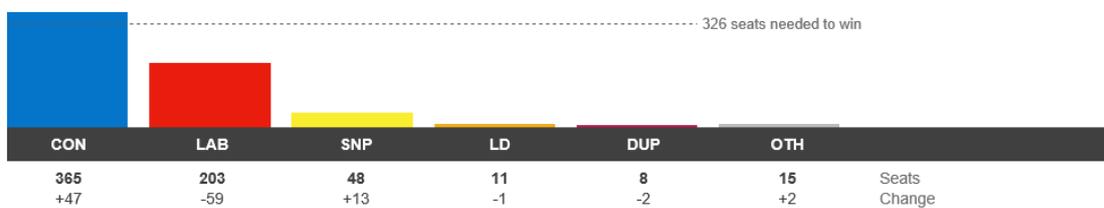
The candidate who tops the poll wins - within the constituency. Not a proportional system - this means that the number of seats does not correlate with the number of votes. There are 650 constituencies in total. The Fixed Term Parliament Act, 2011 established that the elections should happen every 5 years in May unless a 2/3 majority of MPs vote for an election, this happened in 2017 and 2019. A by-election happens when an MP resigns or dies.

### Election results 2019



#### UK results: Conservatives win majority

After 650 of 650 seats declared



	% share of vote	% share of seats
Conservatives	43.6	56
Labour	32.2	31
SNP	3.9	7
Lib Dems	11.5	1.6

This illustrates that the system is not proportional and that some parties are over or under represented in Parliament.

In 2017 there was a hung parliament with the Conservatives winning 318 seats (326 needed for a majority)

#### Different voting systems used in the UK and their advantages and disadvantages

Name of system	Example	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages
<b>Closed Party List</b>	European Parliament	One vote for a party on the list. The number of votes for the party determines how many of their members are elected	Proportional system	Voter has no choice with regards to the candidate
<b>First Past the Post (FPTP)</b>	UK Parliament	The candidate with the most votes wins. A non - system	Simple (few spoilt votes) and outcome is quick	Minority of votes can be elected, small parties under represented, wasted votes
<b>Single Transferable vote (STV)</b>	Northern Ireland Assembly	Proportional system where the electors place candidate in number order. Votes are redistributed once quotas are met.	Every vote counts	Coalition government more likely (remember power important to implement policy)
<b>Supplementary vote (SV)</b>	Police and Crime Commissioners	voters have first and second choice. Winner must receive 50% of votes. Lowest candidate has their votes redistributed	Ensure winner has the majority	Often winner relies on other's second choice

<b>Additional Member System (AMS)</b>	Scottish Parliament / Welsh Assembly	Voters have two votes, one for the candidate and one for the party list. A mixture of FPTP and top up vote to make it more proportional	Wishes of voters more closely represented	Two types of elected representatives
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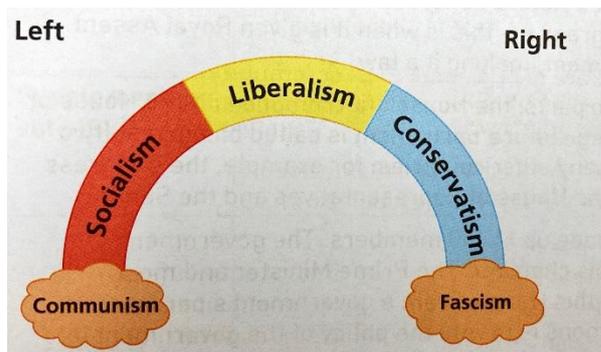
**Political Parties:**

- **Representation** - Of their membership and of society as a whole
- **Recruitment** - Parties providing people to be MPs and frontbenchers
- **Participation** - By joining a political party people are becoming actively involved in Politics
- **Governing** - By winning a general election a party will provide the country with leadership
- **Policy Formulation** - A party's ideas, through its' manifesto, will be put into operation
- **Electoral Function** - Parties put forward and support candidates at election time

*Which role do you think is the most important?*

**Political ideology** - this is the term used to describe the different values that underpin the political party/issue. The terms **left wing** and **right wing** are usually used to describe these values. In British politics, the Labour party are considered centre-left, with the Conservatives correspondingly centre-right. The Liberal Democrats occupy the centre, while UKIP are further right, and the Green party further left.

The left and right wings differ on many things, but most importantly on the **role of the state**.



The left wing believes the government should play an active role in regulating the economy and providing welfare (NHS, benefits).

## Section 5: How are public taxes raised and spent?

The government has to plan their income and their spending. **The Chancellor of the Exchequer** makes an annual statement to the House of Commons about the taxation and spending policy for the year. This is known as the **budget**.

How are the decisions made?

- Party policy - manifesto commitments from the elections
- UK economic issues - e.g. lowering unemployment and the impact these policies might have e.g. increasing free nursery provision
- Long term issues - e.g. pension ages
- Current issues - e.g. Grenfell Tower fire, 2017 has resulted in long term review of social housing.

In order to spend more the government has to decide whether to increase **taxation**, or **borrow** more money. Different people have different views about spending services. For example:

**NHS** - the state should allow a range of providers to promote competition and efficiency v the NHS should be from taxation and should be given more money each year.

**Welfare** - the state should provide a basic income to allow those in need to live a normal life v cut back on welfare to encourage people to go out to work

## Section 6: How do others govern themselves?

EU - European Parliament uses a proportional electoral system

North Korea - a dictatorship

### Summary:

The 8 mark questions are likely to around:

- The power and roles of different parts of the constitution. For example: assessing how much power the PM has, or "the government" is the most important part of the British Constitution. Evaluate this statement. The most important role of parliament is to hold the government to account.
- The strengths and weaknesses of the electoral system. For example: FPTP is the best electoral system for the Westminster elections.
- Reducing the age of voting - for and against
- Voting turnout is an issue in our current democratic system - Evaluate this statement
- The role of political parties. For example: Representation is the most important role of political parties. Evaluate this statement.
- Devolution - where does the power lie? For example: The national government has all the power in the UK. Evaluate this statement.

You must be aware of the roles and the powers, and have examples from recent events to exemplify them.

## Section 7: Revision questions for key words:

Question/key term	Answer
What does democracy mean?	Ruled by the people
Name two characteristics of a democracy	Rule of law, equality, rights and responsibilities freedom
What is a representative democracy?	Citizens are elected to represent others - e.g. MP, MEP
What is direct democracy?	All citizens take part in the decision making - e.g. 2016 EU referendum
What is meant by the rule of law?	Everyone is treated equally and fairly within the law. The law applies to everyone in the same way.
When was the Equality Act introduced?	2010
What is the Equality Act, 2010?	The Equality Act came into law to protect rights of people within the UK to promote equality and reduce discrimination
The British constitution is uncodified. What does this mean?	It is not all written down in one place, unlike the US constitution that is described as codified.
What is devolution	The transfer of power to a lesser body - e.g. the transfer of power to the Welsh Assembly.
What are the different institutions within our constitution?	the executive, the legislature, the judiciary and the monarchy.
What is the role of the executive?	PM, other ministers and members of the civil service - implement policy after it has been agreed by legislature.
What is the role of the legislature?	This is the body that makes law - includes the whole of Parliament The legislative process; parliamentary debates and deliberation of public issues and policy.
What is Parliamentary Sovereignty	The laws are only made by Parliament - including all MPs and Lords
Describe the process of making a law.	A statement in writing (a Bill) goes through different stages - scrutinised by the House of Commons and House of Lords. It is then given Royal Assent by the monarch and becomes Law
What is the role of the judiciary?	Judges and the legal process - interpret the meaning of law.
What is the role of the monarchy?	A traditional form of government, now mostly ceremonial. The monarch appoints the PM and gives Royal Assent to a bill to make it a law.
What is the role of the PM?	Leader of the political party and government, and constituency MP, spokesperson for the UK at international events/summits, appoints cabinet ministers.
Who is our PM?	Boris Johnson (2019 -)
What is the role of the civil service?	Helps government to develop policy.

What is the role of the cabinet?	21 members, e.g Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Home Secretary - key positions within government.
Who makes up Parliament?	Westminster parliament is described as bicameral, this means that there are two houses. The House of Commons and the House of Lords. the Lords sit in the house of Lords and are not elected. The MPs sit in the House of Commons and are elected.
Who is in government?	MPs who are in the ruling party. 2019 - all Conservative MPs
What is the role of the government?	To make, propose and carry out policy and laws
What is the opposition?	The largest party not in government. In 2019 The Labour Party
What is the role of the opposition?	To hold the government to account for its actions and oppose policies they disagree with.
What is the role of Members of Parliament (MPs);	Representing their constituencies, debating policy; scrutinising legislation. How parliament works: scrutinising government and making it accountable; parliamentary questions committees, debates.
Who is your MP? And which party do they represent?	Geoffrey Cox or Scott Mann, both of the Conservative Party (as of 2019 election)
What is role of the Black Rod within Parliament?	A senior office in the House of Lords responsible for security and ceremonial events such as the State Opening of Parliament.
What is the role of the Speaker?	Elected by fellow MPs, Chair debate in the House of Commons, decide who is going to speak and can bar members.
What is the role of the whip?	MPs or Lords appointed by each party to ensure that their party's MPs turn out and vote for the party's wishes. They instruct them how to vote
What is the difference between frontbench and backbench MPs?	Frontbench MPs - are the cabinet ministers on the government side and shadow ministers on the opposition side. Backbench MPs are ordinary MPs who do not hold other positions.
What is an electoral system?	The voting system used in an election.
Describe the First Past the Post Electoral System	The one who tops the poll wins - within the constituency. Not a proportional system
How many constituencies are there in the UK?	650
How often are Westminster elections held - according to law?	The Fixed Term Parliament Act, 2011 established that the elections should happen every 5 years
What are the possible outcomes in a general election?	Hung Parliament - leads to either a minority government with a confidence and supply agreement (2017) or a coalition (2010) Majority Government Another election is held
How are candidates selected to stand for election.	They go through an interview process within their party. This could include a hustings event (question time event debating against other candidates)

Who can vote in an election?	Any UK citizen over the age of 18. Convicted prisoners cannot vote.
Who can stand for election?	Any UK citizen over the age of 18. Not a member of the police, a judge or in the armed forces.
Name one other voting system used in UK elections.	Closed Party List - European Parliament Single Transferable Vote (STV) Northern Ireland Assembly Supplementary vote (SV) Police and Crime Commissioners Additional Member System (AMS) Scottish Parliament
What is meant by the term a proportional system.	The number of seats
What is a wasted vote?	A vote for a candidate who doesn't win, or a vote that is not needed for the candidate to win (they already have enough) FPTP is criticised for having lots of wasted votes.
What is voter turnout?	The percentage of people who vote against the number who are registered to vote. In the UK voting is optional in other countries it is compulsory.
Why is low turnout an issue?	People who do not vote are not voting for a representative. This undermines our democratic system of representative democracy.
What is voter apathy?	A lack of interest by citizens in the electoral and political process
Who are the two major political parties within the UK government	Conservative Party and Labour Party
Which political party would be described as right on the political spectrum?	Conservative Party
What are the sources of income for the government?	Tax: income tax, national insurance and VAT are the biggest
How do the government spend their money?	Welfare spending - spending on social services, health, education etc Debt interest