

RED



PARLIAMENT

House of Commons, 2019

KnightMUN XVII



“We could manage to survive without money changers and stockbrokers. We should find it harder to do without miners, steel workers and those who cultivate the land.”

-Aneurin Bevin, Labour politician and founder of the National Health Service (1897-1960)

Good day delegates!

First, kindly allow us to introduce ourselves. My name is Konstantine Grigoras and I will be serving as your director for this committee. I have a bachelor's degree in social science education with a minor in history and this will be my fourth and final KnightMUN committee. You may remember me from the MegaCorp. 2075 committee or the Red Stars committee in previous years and I am honored to help put together what I hope will be an amazing and edifying committee. But before I give you some information on this background guide, I would like to introduce the rest of our great team.

Alex Gañán will be serving as Assistant Director in this committee. A recent graduate of UCF with a degree in Political Science, Alex is absolutely delighted to be able to take his knowledge and expertise of British politics and bring it to the operation of our House of Commons. Alex is a KnightMUN veteran and you may recognize him from running committees such as MegaCorp. 2075 and Kaiserreich. He also currently works for Disney, where he is an active member of the worker's union there getting involved in one of Orlando's most important labor issues; the fight for a living wage among Disney workers.

Sanya Georgieva will be serving as Coordinator of the committee. She is a senior Biomedical sciences student here at UCF and plans on applying to medical school when she graduates. She spends her free time involved in on-campus organizations such as Planned Parenthood Generate Action and volunteering at a free clinic here in Orlando. She is excited to see how you all navigate using the British parliamentary procedure and what choices you will make in this committee. This will most likely be her last KnightMUN after participating for the past two years, so she thanks you for letting her be a part of another conference. She is truly excited about it and can't wait to see where you guys take it.

Anthony Bastone will be serving as the Assistant Coordinator of the committee. Anthony is also a graduate of UCF with a political science degree and is currently attaining his masters in diplomacy up in Boston University. An expert of Real Time Strategy games, Balkan politics, and Hegelian Dialectics, Anthony is excited to see how well your resolutions are constructed and how substantial they are in policy matters. --

This background guide will lead you through the basics of the committee, its procedure, historical background, and setting. It is, however, by no means exhaustive and part of your job as a delegate in this committee will be to conduct your own research and come in with a dearth of sources on the topics. This committee will be heavily focused on testing your bill crafting skills and ability to write expansive legislation and we will expect top quality work. Each bill will be submitted electronically during unmoderated caucuses and will be reviewed before they can be submitted. Lap tops will be allowed to be used only during unmoderated caucuses.

This background guide is written from the point of view of the Labour Party and so therefore has its perspective and viewpoints. Labour will be the largest party as the committee starts, however, the other parties will be vying for power. These include the Conservatives, the Scottish National Party, the Liberal-Democrats, the Greens, Plaid Cymru, Democratic Unionist Party, and the UK Independence Party. If you are assigned a position in these opposition parties, it will be your job to figure out your party's position on each of the committee topics and either align yourself or oppose yourself to Labour as necessary. Points will be rewarded on how well you represent your party's positions.

Lastly, this committee will function as a SpecGen, meaning it will be a General Assembly style with certain crisis elements intertwined. Time in the committee will advance and you will receive regular updates on what is happening in the world and how your resolutions are affecting events. What you pass in committee will have consequences in how the committee will unfold.

Good luck and happy researching!

-Director Grigoras

Introduction

“For the Many, Not the Few”

A.D. 2019

>>>>The year was 2018. The United Kingdom found itself at a critical juncture. The Queen died and in her place on the throne sits her son King Charles III. Still without an agreement, the kingdom is set to crash out of the European Union in only a few months time, with dire consequences for all aspects of society. Continuing jihadist attacks have plagued cities across Britain and have emboldened a reactive far-right that is starting to discover again how effective political violence can be. Across the pond, the U.S. President Donald Trump and his chaotic administration limps on, threatening the “special relationship” through the neglect of its ally and diplomatic incompetence. Austerity ravages Britain’s socio-economic structure as the National Health Service continues to be underfunded and under-supported and many poor citizens found it harder and harder to make ends meet.

Finally, in November of 2018, under extreme pressure from the myriad of problems facing it, Theresa May’s fragile coalitional government between the DUP and the Conservative Party collapsed, forcing an election to be scheduled in December. At last, the Labour Party, under Jeremy Corbyn, saw its chance to claim power and after a bitter and hard fought winter campaign which saw a vast alliance among the forgotten lower classes of British society, from workers to unionists, teachers to students, victory seemed within grasp. As election results came in on that cold December night, what was once seen as an impossibility became an inevitability. Jeremy Corbyn, an avowed socialist, would become Prime Minister and his Labour Party would attain the majority in Parliament. Now, as 2019 rapidly approaches and King Charles is set to open a new session of Parliament, many citizens wonder if the new Labour government is capable of facing the innumerable challenges that stand before it and whether or not it will live up to its promise of creating a Britain “for the many, not the few.”



HOW PARLIAMENT WORKS

Background

The Parliament of the United Kingdom is a bicameral legislature consisting of a lower chamber, the House of Commons, and an upper chamber, the House of Lords. Descended from the 13th century English Parliament, the British Parliament is one of the oldest institutions of its kind, and the progenitor of the Westminster-style parliamentary legislatures used in dozens of countries, many of which are former British colonies.

The first English parliaments convened beginning in the 13th century, as a means for monarchs to consult the nobility on matters of war, taxation, and public order. Early parliamentarians were landed aristocrats and church officials, on whom monarchs relied on for political support. After the passage of the Magna Carta in 1216, monarchs began to regularly assemble parliaments. By the reign of Henry III, parliament began to include knights and wealthy non-nobles in what would eventually become the House of Commons. Yet early English parliaments were not yet a permanent institution, but the increasing dependency on monarchs to legitimize their decisions through parliament would enable its ascendancy.

Although the power of parliament would wax and wane depending on the strength of any particular monarch, its entrenchment prevented the formation of absolutist-style monarchies seen on mainland Europe. Under the Tudor dynasty of the 15th century, English

parliament developed many of the precedents governing Parliament up to the present day. However, this Parliament was not a democratic institution, as only a small percentage of landowning men electing or becoming members of parliament. Nevertheless there were times where Parliament acted as a check on the power of the monarchy.

A watershed moment for Parliament came during the reign of Charles I, whose desire to exercise greater royal power conflicted with Parliament's desire to limit this power. The ensuing breakdown in relations between the monarchy and Parliament resulted in the English Civil Wars fought between 1642 and 1649, in which supporters of Parliament and Royalists vied for supremacy. The war ended in a victory for the Parliamentarians, and resulted in the execution of Charles I for crimes against Parliament and the abolishment of the monarchy. Oliver Cromwell, leader of the most powerful faction of the Parliamentarians, abolished the House of Lords and purged the House of Commons of Royalist sympathizers. During Cromwell's time as Lord Protector of England, Parliament's powers were greatly expanded. Even after the restoration of the monarchy in 1660, Parliament retained its newfound powers and place in English policymaking.

In 1707, when England and Scotland merged into a single political entity, Great Britain, so too did the English Parliament merge with the Scottish Parliament into a single British Parliament. Although more and more landowning men were becoming enfranchised, the early British Parliament still bore a great resemblance to the highly-stratified parliament of medieval England. Throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, incremental reforms saw the development of proportional constituencies and expanded voter enfranchisement. It was also during this time that the first political parties began to emerge, further shifting parliamentary power away from lords through their ability to organize votes and pool resources to get candidates elected.

Universal men's suffrage was achieved in 1918, and universal women's suffrage in 1928. Other 20th century reforms included formalizing the House of Commons' legal supremacy in 1911, the lowering of the voting age to 18 in 1969, and the introduction of fixed-term elections in 2011. Today, Parliament is the preeminent policy making body in British politics, with a wide degree over power over British constitutional law. Since its inception nearly 800 years ago, it has evolved into a more democratic, inclusionary body.

The House of Commons

The lower chamber of Parliament is the House of Commons, the setting for this committee. It consists of 650 elected Members of Parliament (MPs), elected from single-member constituencies under a first-past-the-post system. MPs in the House of Commons serve until Parliament is dissolved, which takes place 25 business days before the next scheduled election day. Unless Parliament is prematurely dissolved and elections called by the Prime Minister, Parliament will convene for a five-year term. Any kind of legislation can originate in the House of Commons, but it holds the exclusive right to introduce legislation pertaining to taxation or the state budget, known as Supply.

The Prime Minister

The Prime Minister is the head of government of the United Kingdom. They are an MP, in contemporary times the leader of the dominant party, formally appointed by the King. Prime Ministers serve at His Majesty's Pleasure, although in practice this means as long as they can maintain a Government in power and hold said Government's favor. The Prime Minister is also a member of the Privy Council, the King's formal body of advisors. As of 2019, the current Prime Minister is Jeremy Corbyn, MP for Islington North, of the Labour Party.

The Prime Minister is often described as the central figure in British politics. This is because, throughout the 20th century, more power has informally accumulated with the premiership, shifting the Prime Minister away from being a "first among equals" within Parliament, to an executive more akin to an American-styled president. Contemporary Prime Ministers exercise a great deal of power in executive decision making. Yet Prime Ministers still depend greatly on their Government's support to maintain power.

The Cabinet

The Cabinet is the primary decision-making body within Parliament. Cabinets are helmed by the Prime Minister, who appoints other MPs to senior government ministries. These ministries include defense, foreign affairs, Brexit, internal security, trade, and 16 other offices. Cabinets meet regularly to formulate state policy and secure parliamentary support for legislation. The Opposition assembles its own Shadow Cabinet, with corresponding shadow ministers for each cabinet position, in order to propose alternatives to Government policy.

The Party System

The Parliament of the United Kingdom is a multi-party system, with two dominant parties and several smaller parties present. Confidence in parliament is needed to form His Majesty's Government. This Government can be made up of a single party holding a majority of seats, or a coalition of parties in a power-sharing agreement. On occasion, a minority Government that does not hold a majority of seats on its own or through a coalition can be in power, although this is a tenuous situation, as a loss of confidence or the inability to deliver Supply can result in snap elections and a potential change in Government. His Majesty's Most Loyal Opposition is usually the second-largest party in Parliament.



The largest party in the House of Commons is the Labour Party, the left to center-left party, which presently holds a majority of seats and forms the majority Government. It came to power following the 2018 snap elections. The second largest party, and the Opposition, is the Conservative Party, the leading right wing party. Other minor parliamentary parties, in order of largest to smallest:

- The left-leaning, pro-independence Scottish National Party
- The centrist Liberal Democratic Party
- The Northern Irish, pro-British, far-right Democratic Unionist Party
- The Northern Irish, pro-Irish, left wing Sinn Fein (abstains from participation)
- The Welsh, left-leaning, pro-independence Plaid Cymru
- The left leaning, environmentalist Green Party
- Several independent MPs

The Speaker of the House of Commons

For the purposes of committee simulation, the committee chair will take on the role of Speaker of the House of Commons. In Parliament, the Speaker is elected by the House of Commons to preside over debate and proceedings. Although the Speaker is always an MP from a party in Government, it is customary for Speakers to renounce their party affiliation, as the position is considered to be non-partisan. As such, the Speaker is a non-voting Member of Parliament except in the event of a tie, in which case the Speaker will automatically vote with the Government on substantive votes.

The House of Lords

Starting off as an advisory council to the king made up of England's most powerful and important lords, it would eventually be supplanted by the House of Commons made up of non-noble "commoners." Today, its main functions are to question and challenge the work of the Government, to work with the House of Commons to shape laws, and work with committees to investigate issues. However, its unelected members, legacy of aristocratic privilege, and accusations of meddling in democratic decisions makes the House of Lords controversial in modern British society.

The Monarchy

The monarchy today serves a variety of ceremonial, cultural, and state functions conferring legitimacy to the UK government. As a constitutional monarchy, the King or Queen can only act within the prerogatives of Parliament and substantive legislative and political power rests with the House of Commons. Throughout Queen Elizabeth's reign, while a republican movement existed, the monarchy was especially seen as a sacrosanct cultural institution that grounds British society. However, with her passing and with King Charles III ascension to the throne, it remains to be seen whether this view will continue. Charles is known for his political statements, conservatism, and flirtations away from the traditional neutrality of the monarchy. Should he decide to try and tip the political scales, Parliament might once again have to reign in the monarchy, or take more radical steps.

WHAT PARLIAMENT DOES

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Given the unique nature of this committee, we will be adapting KnightMUN XVII's established parliamentary procedures with new rules inspired by the procedures of the Parliament of the United Kingdom in order to emulate the trappings of British Parliament. As such, all rules of established parliamentary procedure will be in place for this committee provided they do not contradict any special procedures outlined below. If all this is overwhelming, fear not, as we will guide you through the first sessions in its training run.

Formal and Informal Debate

In Model United Nations committees, debate takes on two distinct forms: moderated caucuses and unmoderated caucuses. For those unfamiliar with Model UN, moderated caucuses refer to structured debates in which committee delegates take turns making timed speeches facilitated by the committee chair. Moderated caucuses must have a specified topic of discussion in order to be considered by the chair. Unmoderated caucuses are temporary suspensions of parliamentary procedure, in which committee delegates are free to move around the room and speak informally.

For this committee, these will be referred to as *formal debate* and *informal debate*, respectively. We expect MPs do abide by these terms exclusively within Parliament. This is not just done out of committee flavoring, but also to better distinguish our committee-specific procedures from standard Model UN procedures.

Addressing Speeches

A formality in British parliamentary debate is that all speeches in the House of Commons are addressed to the Speaker of the House of Commons as "Mr./Madame Speaker." Consequently, tradition dictates that speeches made by MPs cannot address other MPs by name, but rather by their constituency. This takes the form of "the (Right) Honourable Member from [constituency]" when referring to an opposing MP, and "my (Right) Honourable friend" for an allied MP. Other third-person descriptors to refer to other MPs may be used sparingly so long as they remain respectful. Breaching these formalities may result in the Speaker prematurely ending an MP's speaking time or censure. It is important to note, though, that these rules will only be in place during formal debate.

Prime Minister's Questions

A staple of British politics is Prime Minister's Questions, a weekly occurrence in which the Prime Minister addresses the House of Commons and is subject to questions from MPs. It emerged as a means of promoting accountability by having the Prime Minister literally answer to Parliament on matter of state. Within this committee, Prime Minister's Questions can occur at various intervals with a special vote and approval by the chair.

Motion of No Confidence

A Government that loses confidence in the House of Commons is one that loses the formal support of the King, and custom dictates a new government must form. This can range from a change in Prime Minister, to a call to dissolve Parliament and hold elections. With chair approval, any MP can make a motion of no confidence immediately following a formal debate to discuss parliamentary confidence. If the procedural motion passes with a simple majority, the committee enters special voting procedures. Speakers will be taken for and against the Government at the chair's discretion. Following the speakers, a substantive vote of no confidence will take place, requiring a two-thirds majority to pass. In the event the vote succeeds, the committee will enter a period of informal debate, in which MPs are encouraged to form a new Government. If none is formed in a timely matter, elections will be called and "new" MPs will help form a new Government.



Parliament and the Class Conflict

>>>>>The British House of Commons is one of two Houses of Parliament that make up the government of the United Kingdom and is its prime legislative body. However, it would be false to think that it serves as a neutral political body where any citizen of any race, class, or creed can have or always had an equal say. In reality, the House of Commons has always been an organ of class rule since its inception when, in the 13th century, landholders and other major property

owners sent representatives to present petitions and grievances to the king and accepted obligations to pay taxes. Thus, by its nature, the House of Commons developed as a body of property owners by property owners and for property owners. It was inevitable then that the House of Commons and the nascent bourgeoisie that it represented came into conflict with the nobility and what would later form the House of Lords, who depended on hereditary titles for their power and wealth. Eventually, as Britain underwent radical economic and social changes, this bourgeoisie would progressively support causes which allowed them to throw off the feudal chains that limited their power and development.

It was Feudalism that defined Britain throughout the Medieval Ages and formed the substance of its economic, social, military, and ideological structures for centuries, but like all economic systems, it contained the very contradictions which would cause its own demise. Within the hierarchy of lord and serf, there formed a so called middle class, not in the modern sense of the term, but a term that denoted a class that increasingly did not fit into the feudal paradigm. This middle class were the city dwellers, the ones that made their living not from the land like peasants or title like nobles, but through trade. It would be them that formed the basis of the House of Commons as they were the commoners themselves, even as they became wealthier and wealthier. Shopkeepers, craftsmen, merchants, bankers, and guildsman would slowly usher in a new era in British history; however, it would be what happened in the countryside that would truly determine the trajectory of British political economy, and Parliament would be at the forefront.

It was the humble peasant that formed the backbone of British (and most other) societies. They were the ones that tilled the soil, tended livestock, and produced the food society depended on. Peasants lived off subsistence farming, growing what they needed while their feudal lords took the surplus. Most peasants expected to live a life of back breaking work and deep poverty in the same village for all their lives, seeing nothing but the same horizon. As such, while peasant holdings provided subsistence for their families, they were not very productive. Lords cared that their rents and tithes were paid, but production was not geared towards markets and most payments were either in-kind or very cash poor. However, as the economy changed, so did markets and production. Here, Parliament would also have a decisive role in helping to create the conditions necessary for the rise of capitalism itself.

Between 1709 and 1869, Parliament passed what were known as Enclosure Acts. These acts fenced off and fully privatized what had been communal land that peasants depended on. As agricultural methods advanced and the surplus increased, production for markets and trade became more important and larger landowners became more and more profit oriented. This caused them to use their own power and wealth to lobby for enclosure acts which fenced off communal property used by the peasantry and turn it into their own private property. Over time,

as the peasantry no longer had the communal land they needed for grazing cattle or collecting wood, it became more and more impossible for them to provide for even their own subsistence. More and more people were forced to become either tenant farmers who paid rent to the large landlords or rural wage laborers who made money through work and owned no productive property. Many would desperately migrate into towns looking for work and would eventually become known as the urban proletariat, people who made money from their labor, not their ownership.

>Rise of Industrialization, Rise of Labour

With the harnessing of steam power in the 18th and 19th centuries, Britain was set on the course to become the preeminent world power and the first most developed capitalist economy. All the conditions for this development were there. Strong coal and iron deposits, scientific advancements, and perhaps most importantly, a large population of urban labourers in which to exploit, who depended on the wages received from capitalists for their livelihood. It would be from this population that the Labour Party would spring from but it would be a long road of emerging class consciousness and worker movements before the Labour Party could form. The nature of Britain's parliamentary system was that it was a democracy of property owners. The vast majority of people could not qualify to vote including most men. Voting required steep property qualifications that only the wealthiest and most powerful could fulfill. This meant that the vast majority of workers and others that owned no property could not even vote for representatives in parliament. This simple fact of the undemocratic nature of Parliament would spur the first mass worker's movement in history, the Chartists.

Named after the People's Charter that was drawn up for the London Working Men's Association in 1838, the Chartist movement sought for a radical democratization of Britain. The Charter had six demands. 1) All men should have the right to vote regardless of property they hold. 2) Voting should take place by secret ballot. 3) Parliamentary elections every year, not once every five years. 4) Constituencies should be of equal size. 5) Members of Parliament should be paid. 6) The property qualification for being a Member of Parliament should be abolished. The chartist petition was presented to Parliament in June 1839 with over 1.25 million signatures. However, its rejection sparked unrest that was swiftly crushed by the authorities. After a few more mass petitions, rallies, and even the threat of violence, Parliament was able to shrug off the Chartist demands; however, this would be temporary. While the Chartist movement itself died down, its demands would live on, and other working class movements would take them on while the fearful upper classes knew that if they did not give in to reforms and concessions, the

threat of violence or even revolution would increase. By 1918, every demand except for the one specifying new parliamentary elections every year would be met.

However, in the decades leading up to the 20th century, conditions for working class families continued to get worse and worse, and their political representation remained either nonexistent or ineffectual. Finally, by 1900, working class leaders met to break away from the bourgeois liberals that did not truly represent their interests and so they met to form a new party for a new century. After so many years of struggle by workers, trade unionists, and socialists, they formed the Labour Party. The Party's first leader, Keir Hardie, a committed socialist and union organizer, became the first Labour member of Parliament. His positions proved very radical, especially for the time. He supported women suffrage, self-rule for India, home rule for Scotland, and an end to segregation in South Africa. When World War I started, he tried to organize a pacifist strike in protest to the war but died soon after. His legacy would live on though, and the Labour Party would see increasing electoral successes.

As global capitalism reached its ultimate crisis during the Great Depression, it would be the working class that would suffer the most. Deep wide scale unemployment, poverty, and lack of social services and support crushed working families endlessly. As the Conservatives ruled in Parliament during this period, Labour would have great difficulty in securing seats, however, one of the MPs that was able to stay in Parliament through this period would become one of Labour's most important Prime Ministers. His name was Clement Atlee. While the Conservative government led by Winston Churchill touted how they won World War 2, in the 1945 election, Labour would promise to win the peace. After so many years of hardship, the people of Britain wanted radical change. The manifesto at the time laid out a bold vision, pledging to destroy the five evil giants of society: want, squalor, disease, ignorance, and unemployment. It was this message that would give Labour its largest majority with 393 seats and make Atlee the Prime Minister.

Labour wasted no time enacting visionary change. The majority introduced social security, brought key industries into public ownership for public benefit, introduced major housing initiatives, and greatly increased worker's rights. But Labour's prime achievement would be the creation of the National Health Service, spearheaded by Health Minister Aneurin Bevin, which would promise free healthcare at the point of access for all regardless of one's ability to pay. To this day, the NHS is considered a national treasure, removing the anxiety of illness from millions of families. One of Labour's prime objectives is to defend the NHS.

The next Labour governments through the 1970s would also institute important social changes. The Labour governments (1964-1970 and 1974-1979) under Wilson and then James Callaghan permanently ended the death penalty, decriminalized homosexuality, outlawed racial discrimination, and established the Open University. However, as Labour approached the 1980s,

Britain would see a reaction against progressivism in the election of Margaret Thatcher. Prime Minister Thatcher indelibly changed both Labour and the country; privatizing public utilities, deregulating banking, decreasing taxes on the rich, and creating a more aggressive foreign policy. By the 1990s, top Labour members felt forced to acquiesce to many of these policies, and so New Labour was born. New Labour was the neo-liberal strand of the party who advocated a rightward shift in policies for an electorate that was seen as more right-wing. Led by Tony Blair, the Labour party seemed to go back on its socialist and working class roots and advocated for free trade, deregulation, and involvement in the disastrous Iraq War.

Finally, at the end of New Labour's reign, the largest economic crisis since the Great Depression would bring the world, and especially Europe, to its knees as governments frantically tried to contain the crisis. However, it would be the working class that would feel the brunt of the suffering through layoffs and Conservative austerity. While Labour had spent years rejecting class politics and becoming the party of bankers and CEOs, things would begin to change though in 2015. After years of austerity and the evisceration public services, voters looked to a new leader for the Labour Party, one that harkened to Labour's past and promised to make the party a working class party again. That leader would be Jeremy Corbyn. Promising to bring back class based politics, Corbyn and the Labour manifesto promised to return privatized utilities back into public hands, increase funding to the NHS, reduce income inequality, and much more.

Now, as Theresa May's Conservative government collapsed and Labour was able to take power, it remains to be seen whether or not the Red Parliament will be able to live up to Labour's legacy, or succumb to the many enemies it, and the working class, has had since its inception.

-These are the positions each of you will be assigned to represent each constituency so named. The parties are labeled at the top. The first ten positions are Labour's cabinet. If you find yourself assigned to one of these roles, it will be your job to become well acquainted with each subject as you will have an important say when drafting bills relating to your area. For example, if you are Health Secretary, you will have an important part in drafting health policy. The first ten Conservative positions are the Shadow Secretaries. While they do not have cabinet power, their jobs are to critique the actual secretaries in power and formulate alternative proposals. Each party has a manifesto you can look up for more information on their policies.

Constituencies

32 Labour Party

Labour Cabinet/Frontbenchers

- 1) **Chancellor of the Exchequer, Hayes and Harlington**
- 2) **Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Secretary, Islington and Finsbury**
- 3) **Home Secretary, Hackney North and Stoke Newington**
- 4) **Defense Secretary, Llanelli**
- 5) **Justice Secretary, Leeds East**
- 6) **Brexit Secretary, Holborn and St. Pancras**
- 7) **International Trade Secretary, Leicester South**
- 8) **Education Secretary, Ashton-under-Lyne**
- 9) **Transportation Secretary, Middlesbrough**
- 10) **Health Secretary, Lewisham East**

Back and Midbenchers

- 11) **Chief Whip, Newcastle upon Tyne East**
- 12) **Whip, Doncaster Central**
- 13) **MP, Ashfield**
- 14) **MP, Redditch**
- 15) **MP, Bristol South**
- 16) **MP, Edinburgh South**
- 17) **MP, Glasgow North East**
- 18) **MP, Cardiff Central**
- 19) **MP, Cardiff North**
- 20) **MP, Liverpool, Riverside**
- 21) **MP, Liverpool, West Derby**
- 22) **MP, Manchester Central**
- 23) **MP, Lincoln**
- 24) **MP, Ipswich**
- 25) **MP, Canterbury**
- 26) **MP, Brighton, Kemptown**
- 27) **MP, Portsmouth South**
- 28) **MP, Plymouth, Sutton, and Devonport**
- 29) **MP, Birmingham, Ladywood**
- 30) **MP, Birmingham, Edgbaston**

31) MP, Lancaster and Fleetwood

32) MP, City of Durham

18 Conservative

- 1) Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, Runnymede and Weybridge
- 2) Shadow Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Secretary, Uxbridge and South Ruislip
- 3) Shadow Home Secretary, Bromsgrove
- 4) Shadow Defense Secretary, South Staffordshire
- 5) Shadow Justice Secretary, Hertfordshire
- 6) Shadow Brexit Secretary, Haltemprice and Howden
- 7) Shadow International Trade Secretary, North Somerset
- 8) Shadow Education Secretary, East Hampshire
- 9) Shadow Transportation Secretary, Epsom and Ewell
- 10) Shadow Health Secretary, South West Surrey

Back and Midbenchers

- 11) Chief Whip, Skipton and Ripon
- 12) Whip, Castle Point
- 13) MP, Cities of London and Westminster
- 14) MP, Chelsea and Fulham
- 15) MP, Wimbledon
- 16) MP, Vale of Glamorgan
- 17) MP, South Norfolk
- 18) MP, North Cornwall

3 Scottish National Party (SNP)

- 1) MP, Glasgow Central
- 2) MP, Edinburgh East
- 3) MP, Perth and North Perthshire

2 Liberal Democrats

- 1) MP, Bath
- 2) MP, Edinburgh East

1 Greens

- 1) MP, Brighton, Pavilion

1 Plaid Cymru

- 1) MP, Dwyfor Meirionnydd

1 Democratic Unionist Party (DUP)

- 1) MP, Belfast East

1 UK Independence Party (UKIP)

- 1) Louth and Horncastle

Brexit

On June 23, 2016, British citizens voted in a referendum to decide whether or not the UK should stay in the European Union. The referendum passed and the UK will leave the EU, and this process has been colloquially called Brexit. While Labour strongly campaigned for the UK to remain part of the EU, they will respect the referendum and will put national interest first. Pro-exit advocates argued that by leaving the union, it will help maintain the British national identity and the UK's place in the world. Many citizens were afraid of increased immigration and were afraid that this increase of immigration would somehow diminish or ruin British culture. Many of the British working class felt as if immigrants were coming and taking their jobs. There is also nostalgia for a time when the UK could do whatever it wanted, without having to consult the EU or follow its economic and immigration policies. Most of the arguments to remain did not focus on counter arguing the points made by the opposition, rather they focused on arguing that despite the complications it brings, being a part of the EU helps the economy and leaving it would be disastrous. Most economist agreed with the claim since Europe is Britain's largest export market and its largest source of freeing direct investment. London's rise as a global financial center is largely due to the UK's involvement in the EU and by exiting, may cost London its status and all the high paying jobs that come with it. While the UK has also had Euroscepticism, it reached new heights due to the refugee and Eurozone crisis which made the EU look disorganized and dysfunctional, prompting a new level of outrage towards the EU in the UK and leading to the referendum.

Labour's response to Brexit focuses on putting jobs and the economy first. Labour will change the negotiation priorities from the White Paper approach of the conservatives and will replace it with new negotiations that aim to retain the benefits of the Single Market and Customs Union, which will help maintain existing industries in the UK. The future of EU nationals living in Britain will be secured and they will continue to get the same rights they did while living in the UK while it was still a full member of the EU. Labour has always fought for the rights of the working class and aims to pass an EU Rights and Protection Bill that will guarantee the rights of workers, equality law, consumer rights or environmental protections. One of Labour's main goals is to end workplace exploitation, and to increase the number of refugees accepted. Labour aims to ensure that all EU derived laws that benefit workers and environmental protections remain in place. Immigration policies will change and Labour will work to create new immigration policies that are beneficial and fair to both members of the new trade agreements, while ensuring the protection of immigrant and migrant workers already in the UK. In regard to international trade, Labour will focus on maintaining the EU as a priority trading partner as currently 44% of UK exports are shipped to EU countries. By working with the World Trade Organization and through

their Just Trading Initiative, Labour will ensure that international trading is at an all-time high in both quantity and quality.



National Health Service

The NHS was founded in 1948 with the goal of providing medical and dental care to everybody, funded by the taxpayers, ensuring that everybody pays into the system according to their means. The NHS has always been on the forefront of new medical technology, launching vaccination campaigns in the 1950s, allowing female contraception and abortion in the 60's, creating CT scans and babies born via in vitro fertilization in the 70's, and keyhole surgery and an AIDS awareness campaign in the 80s. In the 1990's the system changed to include the NHS community care act where NHS trusts, independent organizations under their own management, were allowed to be deemed NHS providers without actually being directly under NHS management. This was intended to allow an increase in creativity and innovation. In the 2000s the NHS Plans created some of the biggest changes to healthcare in England by increasing funding

and eliminating geographical inequalities, improving service standard, and extending patient choice. In 2012 the Health and Social Care Act launched with five goals in mind; strengthening the commissioning of NHS services, increasing democratic accountability and public vote, liberating provision of NHS services, strengthening public health services and reforming health and care arm's –length bodies. However many critique this act passed by the Tories as focusing only on profit and reducing costs, rather than focusing on the quality of patient care.

The Labour Party was responsible for the creation of the NHS decades ago, and consider it one of their proudest achievements. However, there is much room for improvement to the NHS and Labour recognizes that, and aims to help. Labour guarantees to shorten wait times across the board- guaranteeing access to treatment within 18 weeks, which will remove one million people off the waiting list by the end of next parliament. They guarantee patients will be seen in accident and emergency department within four hours, stopping the regular breach of safe levels of bed occupancy, and allowing the ending of mixed-sex wards. By increasing funding to general practitioner services, Labour will ensure a community-based care system that can also provide social and mental health services. They will halt pharmacy cuts and review provisions to ensure all patients have access to pharmacy services, and address issues with the postcode lotteries and rationing of services across the country, which will make sure that your geographic location does not affect your quality of service. Labour will push for value-for-money agreements with pharmaceutical companies and ensure the NHS will be able to provide effective access to new drugs and treatments (an example of that is making sure the NHS completes the trial program for PrEP, which would help reduce the chance of HIV infection in high risk groups).

Labour aims to invest in children's health by introducing the new Index of Child Health to report annually on obesity, dental health, under-fives, and mental health. Labour will also implement a plan to combat childhood obesity within the first 100 days, focusing on advertising and food labeling, as well as implementing a tax on soft drinks. They will address poor childhood dental health, as well as plans to combat tobacco and alcohol abuse by children. Labour aims to undo the damages done to mental health services by the Tories and aims to stop the practice of sending children to adult mental health wards and to stop sending people across the country away from their support networks for treatment. Labour also aims to particular increase access to mental health services for the LGBT+ community and ethnic minorities. Labour commits to an additional 30 billion pounds of funding for the NHS through increasing income tax for the top five percent earners and by increasing taxation on private medical insurance. Labour aims to repeal the Health and Social Care Act that has put profit before patients and make NHS the preferred provider of health care in England. Together, Labour aims to restore equal access to quality healthcare for all, as was the original vision of the NHS.



Foreign Policy

Throughout the late 20th and early 21st century, the foreign policy of the United Kingdom was based around its membership in four key multinational organizations: the United Nations Security Council, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the European Union, and the Commonwealth of Nations. These reflected Britain's historical role as a leading economic and military superpower. The pending consequences of Brexit alongside the implications of a Corbyn-led Labour government will force Britain to reevaluate its place within each of these bodies and, more widely, Britain's place in the world.

At the end of the Second World War, the United Kingdom possessed a colonial empire encompassing 700 million people outside the British Isles, including large swaths of Africa, South Asia, and Southeast Asia. Postwar decolonization functionally ended the British Empire, greatly reducing the direct scope and reach of the United Kingdom. However, Britain remains the fifth largest economy in terms of Gross Domestic Product, maintains the sixth largest military budget, and maintains close political and economic ties with many of its former colonial possessions. The United Kingdom is also one of only eight states possessing nuclear weapons, maintaining roughly 120 active warheads atop submarine-based Trident intercontinental ballistic missiles.

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

The United Kingdom is among the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, alongside the United States, Russia, China, and France. The permanent members of the Security Council wield veto power over any resolution, and the body's decisions carry a great deal of legitimacy. Britain's place on the Security Council is a result of its role as one of the leading Allied powers during the Second World War. In recent years, there have been calls to modify the nature of the Security Council, whether it be by including new permanent members or by eliminating the veto. Should Britain be perceived as withdrawing from international affairs, this may call its permanent place on the Security Council into question.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

Britain is also a founding member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, a multilateral defense alliance. NATO was originally established between the United States and its allies in Western Europe to counter the Soviet Union and its sphere of influence in Eastern Europe. NATO members are part of a unified, supranational military command structure, and engage in close strategic planning and exercises. The principle of collective defense, as outlined in Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, obligates its members to come to the defense of any other member that comes under attack. Since the end of the Cold War, NATO's membership and objectives have expanded. Following the Russian annexation of Crimea, NATO has redirected its attention to Russia as its chief strategic concern. The 2014 Wales summit codified the requirement that all NATO members must contribute a minimum of 2% of their GDP into defense spending; as of 2018 only the United States, the United Kingdom, Greece, Poland, Estonia, and Romania, Lithuania, and Latvia, of the 28 total NATO member states, have reached.

The recent election of a Labour government under Prime Minister Corbyn is certain to complicate the United Kingdom's relationship with NATO. Corbyn has personally been a longstanding critic of the alliance, calling for its disbandment or Britain's withdrawal from it on numerous occasions, a view endorsed by Labour's left wing. However, Labour's moderate wing supports Britain's continued participation within NATO. As leader of the Labour Party in 2017, Corbyn agreed to accept his party's support for NATO, albeit pledging to only commit British forces to NATO operations sanctioned by the United Nations Security Council. However, Labour's victory has reinvigorated the party's left and a renewed call to curtail or completely end the United Kingdom's NATO membership.

EUROPEAN UNION

The United Kingdom joined the European Communities, the predecessor of the European Union, in 1973. The European Union evolved into an extensive supranational body, capable of passing binding legislation on its member states in exchange for representation within its legislative, judicial, and executive organs. The EU incorporates a free trade agreement, a common customs area, standardized regulatory policies, freedom of movement, and a common EU citizenship. There is also a common currency, the euro, whose monetary policy is managed by the European Central Bank; all EU members are required to eventually adopt the euro, with the only exceptions being the United Kingdom and Denmark. As a single unit, the EU is the world's second largest economy by GDP and home to over 512 million people.

The predecessor bodies of the European Union were established in the aftermath of the Second World War, under the premise that closer economic and political integration would prevent another devastating conflict. British leaders, traditionally selective regarding their involvement in continental affairs, did not initially join. However, the consequences of decolonization and the postwar economic climate precipitated the United Kingdom's involvement in the European Communities and eventually the European Union. Despite its involvement, Britain historically resisted efforts at closer integration, most notably opting out of the euro in the 1992 Maastricht Treaty. Following the "yes" vote in the 2016 referendum on leaving the EU, Britain began extensive Brexit negotiations; details on this can be consulted in the Brexit section.

COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS

The Commonwealth of Nations is an international association made up primarily of former British colonies and territories. The Commonwealth emerged as the British Empire underwent decolonization, as a means of maintaining formal ties between the United Kingdom and its former colonies. The Monarch of the United Kingdom serves as the ceremonial Head of the Commonwealth, although in practice it is led by a Secretary-General elected by the Commonwealth Secretariat. Citizens of member states also enjoy Commonwealth citizenship, the rights that it entails are inconsistent and vary by jurisdiction; Commonwealth citizens enjoy the most rights in the United Kingdom, where they have residency and voting rights. The

organization is also known for organizing the Commonwealth Games, a quadrennial international athletic competition among its member states.

Euroskeptics, particularly those within the Conservative Party, have sought to deepen ties with the Commonwealth as an alternative to participating in the European Union. These groups have proposed reforms such as a Commonwealth-wide free trade agreement, common market, and freedom of movement for Commonwealth citizens. Whether or not a Commonwealth free trade agreement could equal the economic benefits of continued EU membership remains unclear.

THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP

The historically close ties between the United States and the United Kingdom is popularly referred to as the “special relationship.” These ties date back prior to the US’s entry into the Second World War, based on US President Franklin Roosevelt’s close relationship to Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who sought American assistance for the war effort. Postwar, this evolved into an extensive network of economic, military, and intelligence cooperation unseen between any two other powers. The Special Relationship remained steadily strong throughout most of the Cold War, but began to experience more complications following its end.

Under the Obama administration, the US cultivated closer ties with Germany and France, often at the perceived expense of Britain. These moves were compounded by the Obama administration’s opposition to Brexit, warning that the United Kingdom would receive less favorable trade agreements if it decided to leave the European Union.

The election of US President Donald Trump, who seemed to align more closely with the May government and pro-Brexit populists, appeared to have marked a resurgence in the Special Relationship. During his campaign, Trump was a vocal supporter of Brexit and supported bilateral trade agreements with the United Kingdom. However, a series of diplomatic rows between Trump and May, along with Trump’s general unpopularity among Britons served only to deepen a growing rift between Britain and the US. The Special Relationship is at its lowest point since the Suez Crisis and since the start of the Corbyn government following the two leaders’ vocal condemnations of each other after the general election.

Creating a Fairer Britain

Since the years of Margaret Thatcher and New Labour, the party was said to have given up the class struggle in exchange for the capitalist neo-liberal policies which have benefitted the 1% of British society while sacrificing UK workers to the wave of globalization. Now, under Jeremy Corbyn, the Labour Party seeks to bring class issues back into the fore and at the head of politics. It is in this vain that Jeremy Corbyn has introduced the platform for creating a fairer Britain with an economy that works for the many, not the few.

This topic will include the various Labour platform policies that most address the class war, and will have to be addressed throughout the entire committee. These issues include but are not limited to:

- Addressing the tax system to better benefit lower income citizens rather than regressive tax policies,
- Instituting stronger financial rules and regulations along with creating the National Investment Bank to provide socially useful capital to invest in public industry.
- Expanding ownership of companies to include employees and the general public, increasing democratic control.
- Raising pensions and increasing care for the elderly.

Click on this link to explore Labour's proposals:

<https://labour.org.uk/issue/economy/>