

Chapter 02

Multiple Choice

1. Which of the following countries together form the United Kingdom?
 - a. England and Scotland only.
 - b. England, Scotland, and Wales only.
 - c. England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.
 - d. England, Scotland, Wales, and all of Ireland.
2. Margaret Thatcher's tenure as PM marked a critical dividing line in postwar British politics in all of the following ways EXCEPT that she was
 - a. the longest continuous-serving prime minister in the 20th century
 - b. the first female prime minister in Western Europe
 - c. known for her contentious relationship with British unions
 - d. known for her close foreign policy relationship with the United States
3. The *Magna Carta* was a historic statement of the rights of a political community against the monarchical state, and it
 - a. unified the Scottish and English crowns.
 - b. established Norman rule throughout the British Isles.
 - c. resolved Britain's long-standing religious conflict.
 - d. placed the first formal restrictions on the power of the monarch.
4. All of the following are TRUE of the Industrial Revolution EXCEPT it
 - a. created pressures for the country to become more democratic.
 - b. decreased the standard of living throughout the United Kingdom.
 - c. squeezed small landowners off the land.
 - d. allowed Great Britain to become the dominant international power.
5. The expansion of the right to vote in the United Kingdom
 - a. happened very quickly within a 50-year time period.
 - b. involved a great deal of violence.
 - c. was done so mainly on the basis of property qualifications.
 - d. was fully completed by 1900.
6. The term *collectivism* describes the
 - a. governing philosophy supporting the United Kingdom's participation in the European Union.
 - b. shift in the balance of power downward from the state to communities and individual citizens
 - c. consensus in politics after World War II, when most Britons and the major political parties agreed that the state should work to narrow the gap between rich and poor and provide for basic necessities
 - d. consensus that the British government should take control of its defense industries in order to successfully wage war during wartime conditions
7. The moniker of *New Labour* refers to
 - a. the political party that is in coalition with the Conservative Party in Britain's current government

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- b. the attempt by the Labour Party to rebrand itself as a “third-way” alternative to Thatcherism and the collectivism of traditional Labour
 - c. the creation of new labour standards as a result of the United Kingdom’s EU membership.
 - d. a new party, which formed following a split that developed within the Labour Party due to the leadership’s support for the war in Iraq
8. The term *hung parliament* refers to
- a. a situation of divided partisan control of the two houses of Parliament
 - b. a situation after an election when no single party comprises a majority in the Commons
 - c. the formal veto power of Parliament to reject legislation promoted by the executive
 - d. past instances where the British monarch tried to limit the power of Parliament
9. David Cameron’s approach to governance, which included wide-ranging initiatives to empower ordinary citizens to take control over their lives and shift the balance of power downward from the state to communities and individual citizens was called the
- a. Big Society.
 - b. Third Way.
 - c. Collectivist Consensus.
 - d. Thatcherism.
10. Which of the following is an example of a successful referendum in the United Kingdom?
- a. The vote to withdraw from the European Union.
 - b. The vote in Scotland to secede from the United Kingdom.
 - c. The vote to replace the British pound as the official currency of the United Kingdom.
 - d. The vote eliminate the use of first-past-the-post voting in parliamentary elections.
11. According to the authors, which of the following is NOT of interest to the study of British politics today?
- a. Britain’s *laissez-faire* approach to economic governance and its ability to sustain economic growth and competitiveness
 - b. Citizen control over the government and constitutional reform
 - c. The question of what it means to be British
 - d. The relevancy of the Westminster model in a world of turbulent political change
12. As an approach to economic and social policy in the United Kingdom, *neoliberalism* supports
- a. increased social spending.
 - b. the promotion of free-market competition and reduced governmental regulation and social spending.
 - c. government intervention in the economy through the use of nationalized industries.
 - d. decreased foreign investment to limit Britain’s exposure to the forces of globalization.
13. All of the following are TRUE about the *collectivist consensus* that existed in Great Britain following World War II EXCEPT that it
- a. was inspired by the suffering shared by Britons during World War II.
 - b. led to the direct ownership by the British state of its key industries.
 - c. accepted the policy of full employment.
 - d. led to the expansion of the social welfare state and its services.

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14. All of the following are TRUE of *monetarism* in the United Kingdom EXCEPT that it
- reflected a radical change from the postwar consensus regarding economic management.
 - signaled a rejection of Keynesian economics.
 - called for a widespread nationalization of industries.
 - assumed that there is a natural rate of unemployment set by the market.
15. Under Gordon Brown, New Labour's economic policies emphasized all of the following EXCEPT
- economic stability (low debt, low deficit, and low inflation).
 - economic growth, fueled by tax cuts.
 - foreign investment.
 - government–business partnerships.
16. The British Coalition Government's proposed debt reduction measures were
- regressive in nature.
 - progressive in nature.
 - neither regressive nor progressive, affecting everyone equally.
 - initially regressive, but over the course of the four years will become more progressive.
17. New Labour's approach to society
- emphasizes entitlements.
 - re-emphasizes the collectivist consensus, which supported broad and deep state intervention in the economy to promote an egalitarian society.
 - emphasizes that government intervention to foster societal equality was unnecessary and undesirable.
 - supports comprehensive solutions to society's ills and the reduction of the tendency for the government to neglect marginalized individuals.
18. Members of ethnic minority groups in the United Kingdom
- are well-integrated.
 - are overwhelmingly under the age of 25.
 - are increasingly foreign-born.
 - experience racially motivated criminal attacks, especially since the Brexit vote.
19. The gender pay gap in the United Kingdom
- is expected to narrow as the country recovers from the 2008 global economic crisis.
 - has narrowed due to the policies promoted by the Coalition Government.
 - is expected to widen as public sector cuts increase the number of women in the private sector.
 - is widest for part-time workers than for full-time workers.
20. Environmental policy in the United Kingdom
- is solely promoted by the British Green party.
 - has begun to reflect a cross-party consensus since the 2013–2014 floods.
 - prioritizes urban environmental issues over rural ones due to the Coalition Government's urban bias.
 - is among the most aggressive in the world in its attempt to address global climate change.

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21. The United Kingdom ranks high for foreign direct investment because of its
- relationship with the European Union.
 - strong government control of the economy.
 - geographic location, which makes it a gateway to the European mainland.
 - economy, which is more market-driven and offers a business-friendly political climate.
22. All of the following are TRUE of the United Kingdom's constitution EXCEPT that it
- is not a single, formally written document.
 - sets up a dual executive with the powers equally shared between the prime minister and the monarchy.
 - is a combination of common law, tradition, and authoritative interpretation.
 - dates back to the 17th century.
23. *Parliamentary sovereignty* means that Parliament
- has more authority than the executive and judicial branch..
 - is a separate and co-equal branch, having a clear set of powers, separate from those given to the prime minister and judiciary.
 - chooses the next king or queen when there is a vacancy due to death, retirement, or abdication.
 - can overturn decrees passed by the European Union legislature.
24. Which of the following is NOT true about the system of vertical power in the United Kingdom?
- Historically, no powers were reserved for subnational units of government in the United Kingdom.
 - The Labour Government of Tony Blair introduced reforms that devolved specified powers to legislative bodies in Scotland and Wales.
 - The Labour Government of Tony Blair introduced reforms that granted some specific powers to all major metropolitan areas.
 - Voters defeated a referendum that would have made the United Kingdom a federal system.
25. Cabinet government includes all of the following EXCEPT
- fusion of powers.
 - supreme control of government.
 - responsibility for policy-making.
 - choosing the next monarch.
26. The prime minister is
- elected by the House of Commons.
 - the leader of the party who controls a majority of seats in the House of Commons after a general election.
 - directly elected by a majority vote of the whole electorate.
 - selected by an electoral college on the basis of votes cast by electors representing England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.
27. Members of the cabinet are
- chosen by the prime minister, but limited to members of the Commons or the Lords, and practice collective decision making.
 - chosen by the prime minister, but limited to members of the governing party, and have limited responsibilities.
 - chosen by the prime minister, but limited to members of the Commons, and are mainly an advisory board.

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- d. chosen by the prime minister to reflect a balance between parliamentarians and influential civic and business leaders, and are not utilized with any frequency.
28. Two constitutional mechanisms for checking the prime minister are
- a. the impeachment process and variable elections.
 - b. the vote of no confidence and the convention of collective responsibility.
 - c. the monarch and the House of Lords.
 - d. Prime Minister's Questions and the election process.
29. Which of the following is true about the British civil service?
- a. There is a concern that the growing importance of special advisors is eroding the impartiality of civil servants.
 - b. Civil servants in the United Kingdom do not do much work conceptualizing and refining legislation.
 - c. The size of the civil service has increased with the ongoing modernization of Whitehall.
 - d. The majority of people at the top of Britain's ministries are political appointments.
30. Quangos are
- a. a pejorative term political opponents use against each other.
 - b. organizations that take responsibility for specific functions and combine government and private sector expertise.
 - c. private enterprises that have taken control over traditionally public-owned entities like the mail service.
 - d. international companies headquartered in another country.
31. The British judiciary is generally less politicized and influential than the U.S. judiciary because
- a. it has no power to judge the constitutionality of legislative acts.
 - b. of a societal emphasis on compromise, resulting in a less litigious society.
 - c. the undue influence from strong prime ministers.
 - d. the fact that they only meet three months out of the year.
32. The introduction of *devolution* by Tony Blair's Labour government involved the
- a. increase of formal policymaking power for large cities throughout the United Kingdom.
 - b. creation of representative assemblies in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.
 - c. redistribution of policy-making powers to quangos within the British political system.
 - d. redeployment of power from the House of Commons to the House of Lords.
33. The political institution that has greatest impact upon policy-making in the United Kingdom is the
- a. British civil service
 - b. British Parliament
 - c. British monarch
 - d. British prime minister and cabinet
34. The House of Commons serves all of the following functions EXCEPT
- a. passing laws.
 - b. providing finances by authorizing taxation.
 - c. choosing the next monarch.

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- d. reviewing and scrutinizing public administration and government policy.
35. Before a bill becomes a law, all of the following must occur EXCEPT
- it must be approved by the House of Commons.
 - has to be read and debated in the House of Lords.
 - sent to the Crown for royal assent.
 - approved by the House of Lords
36. All of the following are TRUE of the House of Lords EXCEPT it
- is responsible for creating most government policy,
 - it can debate, amend, and delay, but not block, legislation.
 - it includes senior religious leaders from the Church of England.
 - it is made up of a mixture of hereditary peers and life peers.
37. The term *backbenchers* refers to
- members of parliament who unseat an incumbent.
 - elderly life peers in the House of Lords.
 - all members of the minority party.
 - members of Parliament, regardless of party affiliation, who do not hold a leadership position.
38. Backbencher dissent
- rarely occurs in Parliament.
 - has occurred more often since the 1970s.
 - occurs only in the House of Lords.
 - often occurred before the 1980s, but has since decreased in frequency.
39. In Parliament, select committees can hold hearings, take testimony, and question
- senior civil servants and ministers.
 - the prime minister and 10 Downing Street members.
 - the British monarch.
 - members of Britain's non-departmental public bodies.
40. All of the following are TRUE about Britain's two-party system EXCEPT
- The Conservative and Labour parties routinely divide at least 85 percent of the seats in the House of Commons.
 - From 1945 to 2019, only leaders of the Conservative and Labour parties served as prime ministers.
 - Since 1970, the Conservative Party has controlled Parliament more often than Labour..
 - The Liberal Democrats have become an important alternative to Britain's two major parties.
41. The choice of Ed Miliband as the leader of the Labour Party in 2010 marked
- a continuation of New Labour policies.
 - the party's adoption of a more progressive ideology without returning to "Old Labour".
 - the party's return to social democracy associated with the Keynesian welfare state and trade unionism.

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- d. the party's adoption of an even more centrist ideology in order to appeal to Liberal Democrat and moderate Conservative Party voters.
42. Which of the following is TRUE of the Conservative Party?
- a. Trade unions make up a large part of its party membership.
 - b. Its main rival is the Liberal Democratic Party.
 - c. Draws significant support from those who oppose the United Kingdom's membership in the European Union..
 - d. It has attempted to return the collectivist consensus in the 21st century.
43. The Liberal Democrats became a serious contender in the 2010 election for all of the following reasons EXCEPT
- a. the country's dissatisfaction with New Labour.
 - b. Nick Clegg's leadership of the Liberal Democrats.
 - c. the party's outreach to British voters through their campaign to "knock on one million doors."
 - d. the general fear among the British electorate about the potential success of radical right parties in the 2010 election
44. Before 2011, Parliament's terms were
- a. fixed, with elections occurring every four years.
 - b. staggered, so that only one third was up for election every two years.
 - c. variable, occurring at least every six years.
 - d. variable, occurring at least every five years.
45. The United Kingdom's *first past the post* electoral system tends to
- a. exaggerate the scale of victory of the largest party.
 - b. result in minority or coalition governments.
 - c. result in a House of Commons that accurately reflects the demographic characteristics of the populace
 - d. keep the combined popular vote for smaller and national parties below five percent
46. Which of the following electoral systems does the United Kingdom use to elect members to the House of Commons?
- a. proportional representation
 - b. first-past-the-post
 - c. multi-member districts
 - d. rank-ordered preferential
47. In terms of gender and ethnic representation in the British Parliament following the 2010 election, Parliament
- a. became less diverse, only seeing an increase of white women in its ranks.
 - b. saw its numbers of ethnic minority MPs double.
 - c. proportionally represented Britain's ethnic and gender divisions for the first time.
 - d. saw its number of women MPs fall from those elected in 2005.
48. Which of the following statements about Britain's national parties (the Scottish National Party and the Plaid Cymru) is CORRECT?

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- a. These national parties dominate the contests in their regions.
 - b. The biggest competitor for these national parties in their respective regions is the Labour Party.
 - c. These parties have seen their support erode in favor of the British Green Party.
 - d. These parties have started to competitively participate in electoral districts outside of their respective regions.
49. All of the following have been major influences in the last thirty years on British culture EXCEPT
- a. feminism.
 - b. antinuclear activism.
 - c. class identity.
 - d. environmentalism.
50. Which of the following statements BEST describes the role of occupational and social class in Britain's political culture?
- a. Worker solidarity is strengthening in spite of the Coalition Government's policy of "being tough on the unions," thus showing the persistence of occupational and social class.
 - b. Worker solidarity has been consistently undermined by Conservative-led governments since Margaret Thatcher, thus weakening the impact of occupational and social class.
 - c. The Labour Party has consistently supported labor unions due to the power of these groups to determine party policy, thus maintaining the role of social class.
 - d. Strike rates in the United Kingdom are well above average in comparison to OECD and EU countries, showing that class remains a significant political cleavage in the country.
51. 7/7 refers to
- a. ratifying the European Union constitution.
 - b. an Act of Parliament to devolve substantial powers to Northern Ireland.
 - c. opening a dialogue with Al-Qaeda and the Taliban.
 - d. a suicide bomber attack by four British Muslims on the London transport system.
52. Prime Minister David Cameron sought to build closer international ties
- a. African countries.
 - b. European Union.
 - c. former colonies.
 - d. key allies and critical trading partners with special historic ties to the United Kingdom
53. Blair's "doctrine of international community" referred to his
- a. close relationship with U.S. presidents Bill Clinton and George Bush.
 - b. belief in multilateralism.
 - c. support for the use of military force when necessary to right human rights abuses.
 - d. support for increased ties between the United Kingdom and the European Union.
54. The _____ transformed the British state and society.
- a. Industrial Revolution
 - b. *laissez-faire*
 - c. special relationship
 - d. collectivism

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Essay

55. Describe the key features of the British political system that affect the way power is organized in the state, highlighting any changes that may be occurring to these features. Assess the argument that a democratic deficit exists within the heart of this political system.
56. Describe the policy-making process in the United Kingdom, highlighting the major actors within this process. Explain how the policy-making process is being transformed internally and externally.
57. How well has Britain adjusted to the realities of a postcolonial multicultural society? Discuss the experiences of ethnic minorities in Britain, noting differences among ethnic minority communities, and evaluate government responses and policies intended to improve the economic and political conditions for ethnic minorities. Explain how the 9/11, London bombings of July 2005, and Brexit have transformed the context of multicultural politics in Britain. Please utilize specific examples from the text in your answer.
58. Discuss the cultural, economic, and political forces that lead to the successful vote to leave the European Union (Brexit). Describe the possible economic and political consequences for the United Kingdom once they actually leave the European Union.
59. Describe how the British 2010 election was significant. Examine the assumption that this was a unique election within the British political system.
60. Some would argue that Britain's joining the European Union and devolution have fundamentally challenged key principles of British politics such as parliamentary sovereignty and the unitary state. Discuss the merits of such an argument. Draw upon specific examples from the text in your answer.
61. Compare and contrast the approach to economic management taken by New Labour, the Conservatives under Thatcher and Major, and the current Coalition Government. Describe the extent these approaches fundamentally differ. Compare and contrast their differences and similarities.
62. Compare and contrast roles of the House of Lords and the House of Commons within the British parliamentary system and their relationship to one another. Assess the impact that further House of Lords reform could have on Britain's political system generally and on the relationship between these two legislative chambers specifically.
63. The United Kingdom has usually been described as having a "civic culture." Explain what is meant by this. Describe how British political culture may be changing. Assess the impact of these changes and what they suggest about the endurance of this characterization.