

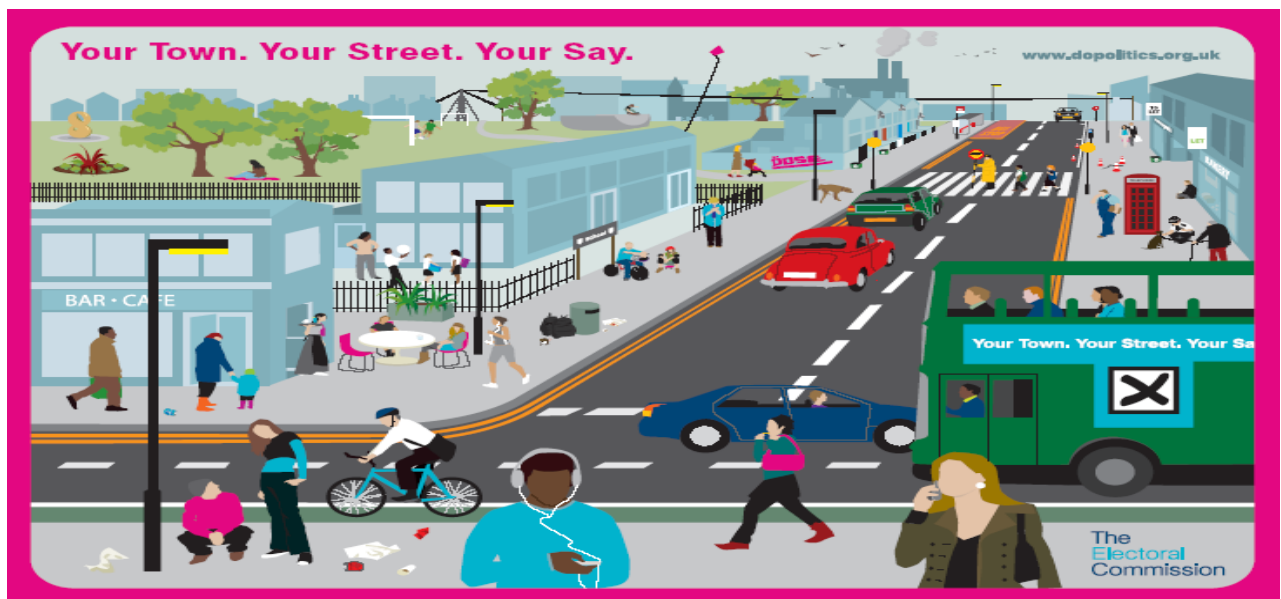


Politics Transition Work



Have you ever thought about how politics affects you?

All of these things are affected by politics. Everyday people involved in politics are making decisions that affect you, your family and your friends. So even if you think you don't do politics...you do!



1. Can you highlight at least 5 things in the source and explain how this involves the Government or Politics.
2. When you think of the word 'politics' what comes into your mind?

Ever heard anyone say I don't do politics..... We all do politics everyday even if we don't realise it.

Haydon Politics Course



We will be undertaking the Edexcel Politics course and this is broken down into the following:

3 exam papers = 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ % each (84 marks per paper) and each exam is 2 hours long.

- Paper 1 - UK Politics and Core Political Ideas
- Paper 2 - UK Government and Non-core Political Ideas
- Paper 3 - Comparative Politics - Global Politics

Over the two year course we will cover the 3 units and multiple topics within them. In Year 12 you will be starting with Paper 1 - Government and Politics in the UK, and Paper 2 UK Government and Non-core Political Ideas. In Year 13, you will complete content for Paper 3 Comparative Politics; Global Politics.

Key Political terminology is essential through the course and so we would expect you to learn and know the key political terminology below:

Task 1 (Main Task) - How does British Politics function?

Key Terms	Definitions
Politics	The study of resolving conflicts in society and distributing power effectively.
Democracy	From the Greek literally meaning- Rule by the people. Two main branches of Representative and Direct.
Power	Being able to make someone do something.
Authority	The right to make something happen.
Legitimacy	The legal right and authority to use power. A Government gets its legitimacy from winning an election.
Pluralism	Power flows from a variety of different sources and does not rest with one group.
Pluralist Democracy	A Democracy which encourages participation at all levels and allows free and fair competition between competing groups.
Franchise	This is literally the legal right to vote. A franchise can only be extended by an Act of Parliament.
Devolution	The dispersal of power, but not sovereignty, within a political system.

Class dealignment	The process where individuals no longer identify themselves as belonging to a certain class and for political purposes fail to make a class connection with their voting pattern.
Partisan dealignment	The process where individuals no longer identify themselves on a long-term basis by being associated with a certain political party.

You are going to undertake a project to look at the **key elements of British Political system**. This will be essential in your understanding of the course and will **inform debate in our first politics lessons in September**.

This project is also essential in **developing you as an independent learner**, which is vital for any successful politics student. You can use the internet, however we don't want information copied and pasted. **You are going to create a booklet and produce one A4 page on the following areas:**

1. **What is Parliament?**

What is House of Commons and House of Lords?
 What are the key differences between them?
 Who are the key individuals in House of Parliament? ie the House Speaker
 What is an MP? And what do they do? Include examples of MPs and their Constitutions

2. **Who is in the Government and the Cabinet?**

What is the Cabinet?
 Who are each members of the Cabinet and their office?
 Is the Cabinet important?

3. **Who are the key individuals of the opposition?**

Who are the 2 main opposition parties? Include logos
 Who are the leaders of these parties?
 What were their main policies from the 2024 election?

4. **What is the First-Post-the-post (FPTP) electoral system?**

What are the positives of the system?
 What are the negatives of the system?
 What other electoral systems are they?

5. **What are key elements of 3 main parties Core ideologies?**

What is Conservatism? What are the key elements?
 What is Socialism? What are the key elements?
 What is Liberalism? What are the key elements?

6. What was the result of the 2024 General election?

What was the outcome of the election?

What was the winning party's aims whilst in government?

How many people voted (%) during the election?

Have they made any progress since the election?

Task 2 - Politics Review Articles.

This is Politics Review that we subscribe to and provide topical political articles. Can you read the two articles attached and complete the questions and activities in the exam boxes:



Article one :

Judicial review in the UK has grabbed headlines in recent years, with high-profile controversial cases over the Rwanda Bill, Shamima Begum and women's rights. Yet often this process is misunderstood. So, what exactly is judicial review, and how important is it?

Box 1 Exam tip

The nature of judicial review cases is often misunderstood by students in exams, and confused with 'declarations of incompatibility'. It is important that you are clear that:

- Judicial review rulings are binding on governments, and require a decision to be taken again.
- In contrast, declarations of incompatibility are not binding on governments.

The High Court in London

Declarations of incompatibility

■ A declaration of incompatibility is drawn from the Human Rights Act 1998. It is a ruling from the courts which lets the

government know whether a new piece of legislation can operate within the bounds of the Human Rights Act. These are issued by UK courts.

■ They are relatively rare: only 52 were issued between 1998 and 2024, with 12 of them overturned on appeal. Those that were not overturned are

not binding. However, a declaration of incompatibility can create pressure on the government to alter proposed legislation to be more fitting with the Human Rights Act, and it encourages public debate.

What is judicial review?

Judicial review cases are heard by a High Court or the Supreme Court in the UK. It is the process by which a judge can review the actions of a government or public authority and decide on their lawfulness. Crucially, it is only the action being reviewed, and not the outcome. That means that judges are exploring whether the processes that were used were lawful.

If a public body is found to have acted unlawfully, then the decision of the judicial review is binding. The most common outcome is the issuing of a 'quashing order', which nullifies the original decision. This means that the decision reached by the public body must then be made again. Importantly, it does not mean that a judge replaces the ruling with one of their own.

How does it work?

In a case of judicial review, the government or a public authority can be found to have acted unlawfully for various different reasons.

Ultra vires

The government may lose in judicial review if it has acted illegally, by making a decision which is beyond its powers. This is known as acting *ultra vires*. The government is required to follow public law when making its decisions and cannot act beyond its powers.

For example, in the 2024 case of *Liberty v Home Secretary*, the government was found to have unlawfully used its powers in reinterpreting the 1986 Public Order Act. The Act allowed for restrictions on public protests in cases of 'serious' disorder, damage or disruption. The Court found that the government had acted *ultra vires* by using its Henry VIII powers (Box 2) to reinterpret the word 'serious' to include more minor offences.

Box 2 Henry VIII powers

This refers to clauses sometimes included in legislation that allow the government to reinterpret law without having to go through the entire legislative process again.

Irrationality

The government may lose judicial review if it is deemed to have made its decision irrationally. This means that the government may have taken into account information that was not relevant to the case, or that the decision was illogical.

For example, in the 2024 case of the *Law Society v Lord Chancellor*, the government was found to have acted irrationally when it refused to raise legal aid fees by 15%. The High Court decided that then-Lord Chancellor Dominic Raab had acted irrationally by failing to research the state of legal aid properly before taking the decision to not raise fees.

Fair procedures

The government may lose judicial review if it did not use fair procedures in making the decision. This means the Court reviews the procedures that were used in reaching a decision, ensuring the decision was impartial.

For example, again in the case of *Liberty v Home Secretary* (2024), the Court found that the government had engaged in a one-sided consultation when using its powers, consulting only with the police and not with any bodies that represented the interests of the protestors. This was a second reason the government lost its case.

How important is it?

Judicial review is an important power for ensuring limited government. This is a key principle of liberal democracies. In the UK system, where Parliament is sovereign and the government may command a large majority due to first-past-the-post, it is one of the relatively few checks that does exist on government.

However, the number of cases and the use of judicial reviews in recent years has come under scrutiny. In 2021, Home Secretary Suella Braverman released a statement on 'Accountability and the Constitution'. While she commented on the importance of the legal system, she contrasted this with the principle of parliamentary sovereignty, and remarked:

'it is crucially important that we neither permit, facilitate nor encourage judicial review to be used as a political tool by those who have already lost the arguments.'

This had echoes of the Conservative Party's 2019 manifesto, which pledged to ensure judicial review 'is not abused to conduct politics by another means'. But is it really being used in this way?

The number of cases

Braverman stated that judicial review was being misused in part due to the rise in cases. However, as statistics from the civil service show (Figure 1), these figures have not risen dramatically in recent years. In fact, in some cases the government has brought cases of judicial review itself. For example, in 2023 the government brought the case of *Cabinet Secretary v Chair of Covid Inquiry*, to try to prevent the release of Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s WhatsApp messages during the Covid pandemic.

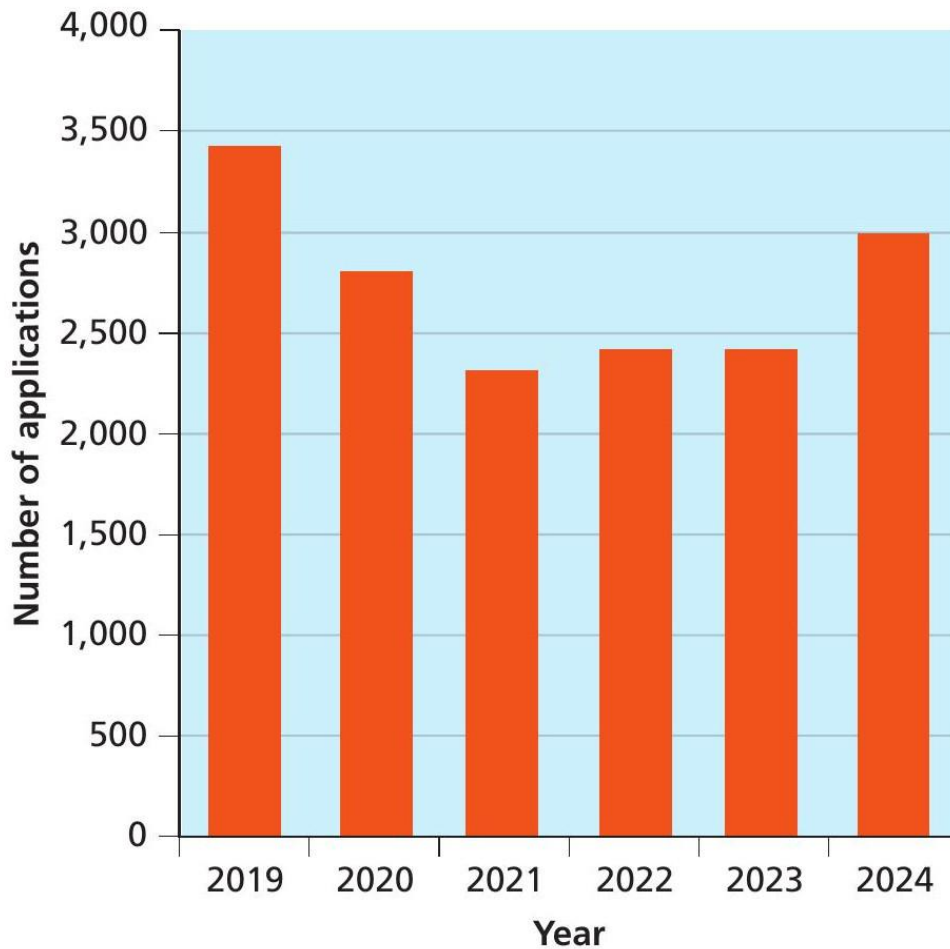


Figure 1 Applications for judicial review in the UK, 2019–24

Source: Civil Justice Statistics Quarterly



Sir James Eadie KC addressing judges at the Royal Courts of Justice in June 2023, where the Cabinet Office brought a challenge over the UK Covid Inquiry’s request for materials, including Boris Johnson’s notebooks and WhatsApp messages

Specific cases

There have been several high-profile cases of judicial review that have made the process more prominent in the media (Table 1). The cases regarding the government’s Rwanda scheme to tackle immigration was widely reported and perhaps led to a greater recognition of the process.

The win-rate of cases

The high-profile cases in Table 1 are ones that the government has lost. However, these individual examples are a little misleading, as the government actually wins around 65% of judicial review cases. In fact, this was one of the reasons Home Secretary Braverman was critical of them, inferring that they waste the government’s time and money.

Case	Outcome
<i>R (Miller) v Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union</i> (2017)	The government was found not to have the authority to take the UK out of the EU without a parliamentary vote.
<i>R (Miller) v the Prime Minister</i> (2019)	Prime Minister Boris Johnson was found to have acted unlawfully when he prorogued Parliament.
<i>R (UNISON) v Lord Chancellor</i> (2017)	The government was found to have acted unlawfully in introducing tribunal fees.
<i>R v Home Secretary</i> (2023)	The government’s Rwanda scheme was found to be unlawful, as asylum-seekers sent to Rwanda had a ‘real risk’ of being returned to their home country, where they would face harm.
<i>For Women Scotland Ltd v The Scottish Ministers</i> (2025)	The Court clarified ‘woman’ and ‘sex’ under the Equality Act 2010, determining them to be biological terms.

Impact

Perhaps the most significant impact of judicial review is the challenge that it seems to pose to parliamentary sovereignty. With judicial review being binding, it could be seen as a direct challenge. However, it is important to remember that judicial review does not replace a decision of the government; rather, it requires the decision to be made again within the bounds of its powers. Additionally, Parliament could challenge judicial review through either a legal appeal, or by passing a new statute law. Therefore, while the high-profile nature of some

judicial review cases suggests it can pose a challenge to parliamentary sovereignty, this should not be overstated.



Supporters of Sex Matters and For Women Scotland outside the Supreme Court in London on the first day of the judicial review hearing, November 2024

Reform?

While the judicial review process has caused some controversy in recent years, little meaningful reform to the process has taken place. However, in 2025 the government introduced proposals to limit judicial review on infrastructure planning applications, to try to prevent judicial review being used as a form of protest to disrupt infrastructure projects.

Conclusion

While judicial review has gained prominence in recent years, this is perhaps more a change of public perception than being reflective of any developments in the use or nature of judicial review itself. Its binding nature can be seen as powerful, by ensuring the lawful action of the government. It can also be viewed as a deterrent: the government knows that its process of decision-making can be challenged using judicial review, and indeed that it might lose in this process. This should incentivise the government to make better legislation and to act within the limits of its powers.

ACTIVITIES

How far can judges go?

1. Do you think judicial review poses a real threat to parliamentary sovereignty?
2. Summarise three reasons why the government might lose a judicial review case, using examples from this article.
3. Which case do you think is the most significant and why?
4. Is judicial review a vital safeguard of democracy or an obstacle to the elected government?

Task 3- Can you explore, watch or read the following:

Daily Politics Show and PMQs - This is on every day, as a minimum you should watch Wednesday editions every week especially PMQ section, where the PM is asked question by the official Opposition and MPs (They do have a summer break) . This is available on BBC iplayer- Daily Politics show. www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer

Sunday Political viewing. There are a number of political shows on Sunday morning. These include Andrew Marr show, Preston on Sunday and the Sunday Politics Show. All shows are available on catch up. www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer and www.itvhub.com.

Spotify- Whilst also being a great app for music Spotify also has a range of podcasts and audiobooks ready to explore. Some podcast suggestions are: The Politics Show, The Politics Shed, The rest is Politics.

News Apps- There are a number of news apps that keep you up today date with current political events. Can you download a range of them (Guardian, BBC, Independent).

Get exploring -There are a variety of media and social media outlets to access political information. Just explore a range of these.

Recommended books:

- 1984 - George Orwell.
- This Land - Owen Jones
- 50 Politics Classics - Tom Butler Bowdon
- Prisoners of Geography - Tim Marshall
- The Last Utopia - Samuel Moyn



