

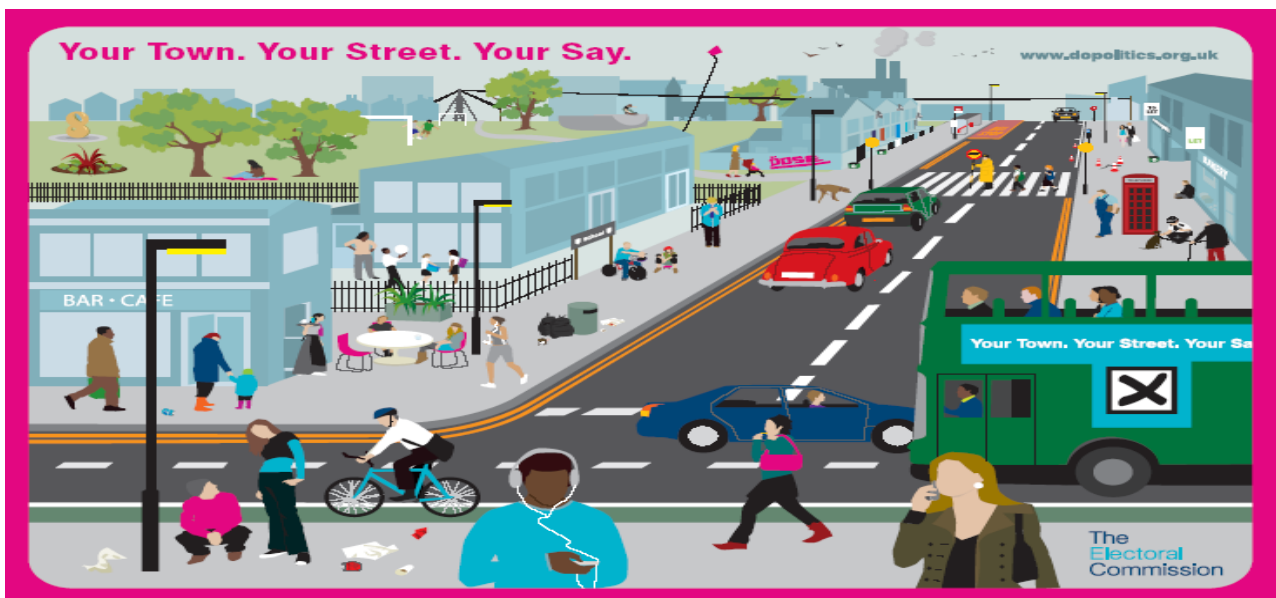


# Politics Transition Work



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 AQA Government Politics course and this is broken down into the following:

3 exam papers =  $33\frac{1}{2}\%$  each (77 marks per paper) and each exam is 2 hours long.

Paper 1 - Government and Politics of U.K

Paper 2 - USA Politics: Comparative study (with U.K)

Paper 3 - Politics Ideas

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.

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

<i>Key Terms</i>	<i>Definitions</i>
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.
Political Culture	All the factors in society which shape the political behaviour of its members.
Consensus	Accepting basic principles to ensure stability and compromising to reach results.
Homogeneity	Certain values within a society are shared so that there is a stronger pull together than apart.
Franchise	This is literally the legal right to vote. A franchise can only be extended by an Act of Parliament.

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

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 Constituencies

### 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 policy from 2017 election?

### 4. What is the First-Past-the-post (FPTP) electoral system?

What are the positives of the system?

What are the negatives of the system?

What other electoral systems are there?

### 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 2017 General election?

What is a difference between a majority government and hung Parliament?

What were the main factors in determining the outcome?

## 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 : The debates surrounding the EU referendum and the Consequences:



See attachment for full article

### Article two: Constitution reform and AV referendum:



See attachment for full article

It is essential you print off and highlight the key arguments within the articles.

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

**Home of our Democracy-** Can you visit and explore the [www.Parliament.co.uk/education](http://www.Parliament.co.uk/education). Can you explore this and watch the video clips on how Parliament functions. This will help with your research task. There are also a number of interactive games of the day/life of an MP.

**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](http://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](http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer) and [www.itvhub.com](http://www.itvhub.com).

**Twitter Account** - Can everyone make sure they follow us on twitter [www.twitter.co.uk/haydonpolitics](https://twitter.com/haydonpolitics). This includes a vast amount of current political articles on all the units we cover. This is regularly updated through the academic year and one of our most important tools in keeping up to date with current political affair. **You should be aiming to read one political article a day.**

**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.

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









# The EU refe

John Curtice

## The result explained

Professor Curtice explains the demographic and geographical differences in the level of support for remaining and leaving, why these differences arose and how the supporters of the various parties across the UK were divided

**W**hether Britain should or should not be a member of the European Union (EU) and, if so, on what terms, has long been a disruptive and divisive issue in British party politics. In 1975 it occasioned the first ever UK-wide referendum. In the 1980s it helped split the Labour Party and in the 1990s gave rise to serious tensions in the governing Conservative Party. Most recently, it has disturbed the normal rhythms of postwar English electoral politics with the rise of the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP).

It was the rise in UKIP support — and continuing tensions inside the Conservative Party — that persuaded David Cameron to promise in January 2013 that, should the Conservatives win an overall majority in the 2015 general election, he would, after renegotiating Britain's terms of membership, hold a second referendum on Britain's EU membership. In an implicit acknowledgement of the inability of the country's mechanisms of representative democracy to resolve the European question, it was back to the tactics of the 1970s.

Except that this time the result was very different. On 5 June 1975, in a ballot in which, at 65% turnout was lower than was then the norm for a general election, 67% voted 'Yes' to staying in what was then commonly known as the Common Market. Just 33% voted 'No'. But on 23 June 2016, in a ballot in which 72% voted, more than had done so at any UK-wide ballot since 1992, the UK voted

### Exam context



This article is essential reading for AS students. It focuses on the following aspects of the specifications:

#### Edexcel

Unit 1 Democracy and political participation

#### AQA

Unit 1 Electoral systems

#### OCR

Unit F851 Electoral systems and referenda





narrowly, by 52% to 48%, in favour of leaving the EU. As a result, Cameron immediately announced his intention to resign as prime minister while the UK government faced dealing with the consequences of an outcome that it had not sought.

### Demographic differences

Not that the UK voted as one. Rather, there were some deep demographic and geographical differences in the level of support for remaining and leaving. The key demographic differences are outlined in Tables 1 and 2.

First, younger people were relatively keen on remaining in the EU, while, in contrast, older voters tended to want to leave (Table 1). Indeed, it appears that a majority of those aged under 45 voted to remain, while most of those aged 45 and over opted for leaving.

Second, university graduates voted by at least two to one in favour of remaining, while those whose highest

qualification (if any) was one normally obtained at age 16 voted at least as heavily in favour of leaving. This latter difference overlaps with social class — university graduates are more likely to be in middle-class jobs — but of the two it is education that distinguishes more sharply between supporters of Remain and those backing Leave.

There was also one other demographic difference of note. Those from a black or ethnic minority background were much less likely to vote to leave than were those who considered themselves to have a white background. According to a very large poll conducted on polling day for Lord Ashcroft, only 32% of those from a black or ethnic minority background voted to leave, while 68% preferred to remain. The equivalent figures among those from a white background were 53% and 47% respectively.

**THERE WERE SOME DEEP DEMOGRAPHIC AND GEOGRAPHICAL DIFFERENCES IN THE LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR REMAINING AND LEAVING**

**Table 1** Referendum vote by age group

Age group	Remain (%)	Leave (%)
18–24	73	27
25–34	62	38
35–44	52	48
45–54	44	56
55–64	43	57
65+	40	60

Source: Lord Ashcroft

**Table 2** Referendum vote by educational attainment

Highest qualification	Remain (%)	Leave (%)
Degree	68	32
Higher qualification below degree	48	52
A-level or equivalent	50	50
GCSE or equivalent	30	70
Other/don't know	45	55

Source: YouGov on the day of poll weighted to actual result



The results were projected onto BBC Broadcasting House



### Geographical division

These demographic differences were reflected in how different parts of the country voted. Table 3 summarises the geographical division of the vote by showing how each of the four parts of the UK voted, and how the outcome varied across the government office regions into which England is officially divided. London's population has by far the youngest age profile of any part of the UK, the highest proportion of graduates and the most ethnically diverse character. This explains why it voted by almost three to two in favour of remaining. In contrast, all of the rest of England together with Wales voted to leave, and especially so in the North and the Midlands where graduates are least numerous.

The link between the demography of an area and the way in which it voted is even clearer if we look at how the results varied between local authorities (which was the

level at which the count was conducted). On average in England and Wales the vote to leave was just 42% in those areas where more than 32% of the adult population has a degree (as recorded by the 2011 Census) compared with as much as 64% in those places where less than 22% have such a qualification. Equally, support for leaving averaged just 48% in those local authorities where less than 15% of the population is aged 65 or more, but 57% in those places where more than 20% fall into that category.

However, the overall demography of the vote cannot account for all of the geographical variation. Scotland's population is not especially highly educated, young or ethnically diverse, yet it voted more strongly in favour of remaining than any other part of the UK. Equally, Northern Ireland, the only part of the UK to share a land border with another EU country, also voted quite clearly to remain. We will return to this feature of the result later.

**Table 3** How the UK divided

	Remain (%)	Leave (%)	Turnout (%)
London	59.9	40.1	69.6
South East	48.2	51.8	76.6
South West*	47.4	52.6	76.7
Eastern	43.5	56.5	75.7
East Midlands	41.2	58.8	74.1
West Midlands	40.7	59.3	72.0
Yorkshire & Humber	42.3	57.7	70.7
North West	46.3	53.7	70.0
North East	42.0	58.0	69.3
England	46.6	53.4	73.0
Wales	47.5	52.5	71.7
Scotland	62.0	38.0	67.2
Northern Ireland	55.8	44.2	62.7
United Kingdom	48.1	51.9	72.2

\* includes Gibraltar

Sources: Electoral Commission/Sky News/BBC News

### The economy and immigration

Why did these demographic and geographical differences arise? According to voters' own self-report, the most important issues in the referendum were the perceived economic consequences of leaving and the implications of EU membership for the level of immigration into the UK. According to an Ipsos MORI poll conducted just before polling day, 32% said the most important issue for them in deciding which way to vote was 'the number of immigrants coming into Britain', while 31% referred to 'the impact on Britain's economy'. No other issue was mentioned by more than 16%.

But which issue mattered most to voters depended on which way they were inclined to vote. Leave supporters were more likely to mention immigration while Remain supporters referred more often to the economy. Table 4, based on the final poll conducted by YouGov shortly before polling day, makes clear why this was the case. A plurality of voters believed that leaving the EU would mean that Britain was economically worse off. At 78%, this perception was especially common among Remain voters — indeed, on no other issue did they regard the consequences of leaving



so negatively. At the same time, a majority of all voters reckoned immigration would be better (that is, lower) if we left, and this was the beneficial consequence cited most often by Leave supporters themselves.

Young voters and graduates took a very different view of these two central issues than did older voters and those with few, if any, educational qualifications. According to YouGov's final poll, those aged 18–24 were almost twice as likely (59%) as those aged 65 or more (30%) to feel that Britain would be economically worse off if it left the EU. An earlier YouGov poll revealed that as many as 54% of graduates felt that leaving would make Britain economically worse off, compared with 24% of those with an age 16 qualification.

Equally, according to YouGov's final poll, only 43% of those aged 18–24 reckoned that immigration would fall if we left the EU, compared with 61% of those aged 65 or older. Only 45% of graduates felt that immigration would drop if we left, compared with 68% of those whose highest qualification (if any) is one normally obtained at age 16.

### Social change

Why did these differences of perspective emerge? For a start, immigration is one of those social issues on which differences of outlook by age and educational background have long been in evidence. Older voters are more likely to regard the social change that immigration can bring as a challenge to the culture and ways of doing things to which they have become accustomed. Graduates, in contrast, have often been encouraged by their educational experience to think more widely and to accept that people may engage in different cultural customs and ways of doing things.

These two groups are also inclined to view differently the economic effects of the greater mobility that has come with a more global world. University graduates typically have the skills required to compete in, and even profit from, a world in which people can freely seek employment in another country. Those with few, if any, educational qualifications, in contrast, are more inclined to feel that the presence of foreign workers reduces wage rates and job security.

### Party support

These social divisions cut across the kinds of people who typically support Britain's two largest parties. While the Conservative Party tends to be more popular among graduates working in the private sector, it also tends to win more votes among older people. Although Labour is relatively popular among working-class voters who typically have relatively few educational qualifications, it also performs relatively well both among younger and among ethnic minority voters together with graduates working in the public sector.

Consequently, both parties' supporters were heavily divided on polling day. While Lord Ashcroft's poll found that 67% of those who voted for Labour 12 months earlier did follow the party's recommendation to vote to Remain, that still meant 37% backed Leave. Cameron had even less success in persuading Conservative voters to follow his lead — just 42% of them voted to Remain while 58% backed

**Table 4** The perceived consequences of leaving the EU

	All voters		Leave voters	Remain voters
	Better (%)	Worse (%)	Better (%)	Worse (%)
Influence in world	16	38	33	73
Economy	23	40	48	78
Jobs	22	36	44	72
Terrorism	19	17	39	33
NHS	35	24	69	49
Immigration	53	3	84	5

Source: YouGov 20–22.6.16

Leave. Not only did the referendum expose some key social divisions but it also proved highly disruptive (once again) of the regular patterns of British party politics.

**BOTH PARTIES' SUPPORTERS WERE HEAVILY DIVIDED ON POLLING DAY**

### Scotland and Northern Ireland

Indeed, even the SNP, still riding high in the polls in Scotland, could not bring all of its voters with it, despite the fact that the party's vision of independence for the last 25 years or so has been very firmly one of 'independence in Europe'. Only 64% of SNP supporters voted to Remain while 36% voted to Leave. Still, because the SNP is currently so dominant north of the border, winning 50% of the vote in the 2015 general election, even that modest success was enough to ensure that Scotland, unlike England, voted to Remain.

Meanwhile, in Northern Ireland the two main nationalist parties, Sinn Féin and the SDLP, also argued in favour of remaining, not least because the EU was regarded by them as providing an important underpinning to the Good Friday Agreement under which nationalists and unionists share power in the province. That argument was evidently highly persuasive — according to polling by Lucid Talk, no less than 87% of nationalist voters supported Remain.

Scotland and Northern Ireland, then, voted differently from the rest of the UK because of the distinctive way in which the question of EU membership is debated and regarded in those parts of the UK. It is seen as a way of helping to realise nationalist aspirations for independence (in Scotland) or all-island governance (in Ireland). Now that their wishes to remain in the EU have been thwarted, perhaps the next potentially disruptive question British politics will face is whether Scotland and/or Northern Ireland should leave the UK. Either way, the ramifications of the EU referendum are likely to be felt for a long time.

### Exam focus



Using this article and other resources available to you, answer the following question.

**Why was there a majority for the UK to leave the EU?**

John Curtice is professor of politics, Strathclyde University.



# Has post-2010 constitutional reform failed?

Robert Hazell

Robert Hazell argues that there have been more successes than failures, that more successful reforms have come from the Conservatives than the Liberal Democrats and that, now unencumbered by the Liberal Democrats, the Conservative score will advance further

## Exam context

This article is essential reading for AS students. It focuses on the following aspects of the specifications:

### Edexcel

Unit 2 Reforming the constitution

### AQA

Unit 2 Constitutional change

### OCR

Unit F852 Constitutional reform

Many commentators would say that the constitutional reform plans of the coalition government ended in failure. That is because they tend to associate constitutional reform with the Liberal Democrats, not the Conservatives, and they remember best the high-profile failure of two big Liberal Democrat policies — electoral reform and reform of the House of Lords. But look more deeply and a different score card emerges, with more constitutional reform successes than failures (Boxes 1 and 2).

## Box 1 Constitutional reforms of the coalition government: the failures

- Alternative vote referendum defeated (2011)
- Elected second chamber: Lords reform bill withdrawn (2012)
- Planned reduction of House of Commons to 600 MPs aborted (2013)
- Failure of inter-party talks to reform party funding
- Only two out of England's 12 largest cities opt for elected mayors
- Abandonment of 200 all-postal primaries

Not surprisingly, these successes include policies which were jointly supported by both coalition parties, but also several which were originally Conservative reforms. Rather more of the constitutional reform proposals of the coalition government originated from the Conservatives than from the Liberal Democrats, and rather more Conservative proposals were implemented successfully. The coalition also helped to lay the ground for further constitutional reforms which are now being implemented by the Conservative government elected in 2015.

## Judging success and failure

Whether a reform is deemed a success or a failure depends on how the reform is defined, who provides the answer and in what timescale. The coalition's programme for government committed the coalition to hold a referendum on electoral reform. So strictly it was a success simply to hold the referendum. It was a failure only in the eyes of electoral reformers, who were disappointed by the referendum result.

## Box 2 Constitutional reforms of the coalition government: the successes

- Scotland Act (2012) implementing Calman Commission report on further powers
- Referendum on further legislative powers for Wales (2011)
- Fixed-Term Parliaments Act (2011)
- European Union Act (2011) making future EU treaties subject to referendum lock
- Wright reforms in House of Commons, creating Backbench Business Committee
- Petitions to force issues onto Parliament's agenda
- Statutory register of lobbyists Act (2014)
- Recall of MPs Act (2015)

Likewise with the Scottish independence referendum held in 2014: for the SNP the result was a failure, for the UK government a success. But a year later, that verdict looks more questionable, since Scottish independence remains firmly on the political agenda. In this article, 'success' is generally defined as successful implementation — whether the reforms are subsequently deemed successful will be for history to judge.

## The failures

### AV referendum, Commons and Lords reforms

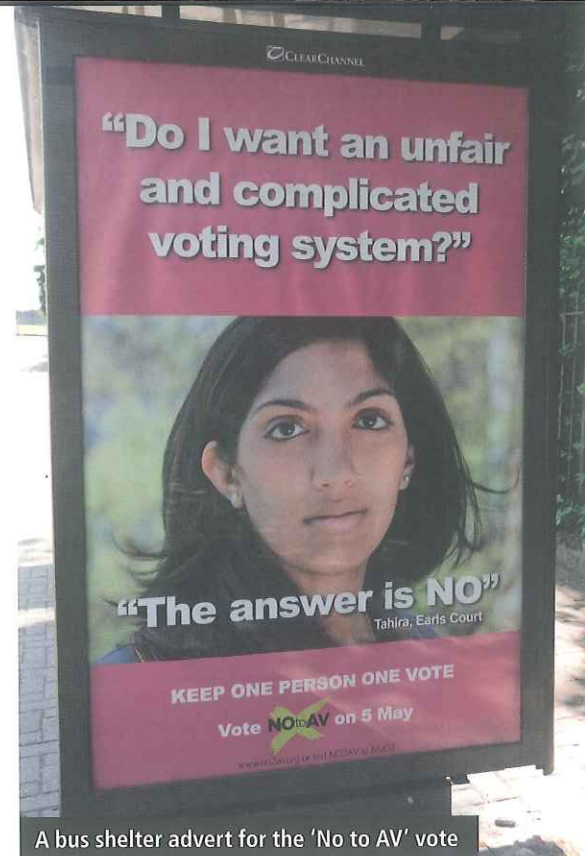
The first three reforms listed in Box 1 are linked. The coalition government linked the alternative vote (AV) referendum and the reduction in the size of the House of Commons together in one bill, the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill, to ensure that the Conservatives would vote for the AV referendum, and the Lib Dems for the reduction in the number of MPs. Nick Clegg took the lead, as part of his overall responsibility for the constitutional reform programme, and pushed ahead at top speed. The Lib Dems were anxious to hold the AV referendum as soon as possible, during the new government's honeymoon period. The Conservatives knew they had to get legislation through early if the boundary reviews for 600 new constituencies were to be completed in time.

In the May 2011 referendum AV was convincingly defeated by 68% to 32%. The Lib Dems blamed the result on the weaknesses of the 'Yes' campaign, but in truth the referendum could never have been won in such a short timescale. Dirty campaigning did not help, but the Constitution Unit had warned since June 2010 that the referendum would be lost if so little time was allowed for public information and education.

Although bruised, the Lib Dems supported the planned reduction in the size of the House of Commons until the defeat in 2012 of their proposals for an elected House of Lords. Here too Nick Clegg took the lead, putting forward proposals for a second chamber of 450 members which would be 80% elected and 20% appointed.

THE SUCCESSFUL REFORMS HAVE BEEN LESS HIGH PROFILE





A bus shelter advert for the 'No to AV' vote

But when his bill was introduced, 91 Conservative MPs voted against its second reading, and 19 others abstained. In August 2012 Nick Clegg announced the government was abandoning the bill, claiming that the Conservatives had 'broken the coalition contract'. In retaliation, the Lib Dems then withdrew their support for the reduction in the size of the House of Commons, and voted against the orders for the 600 new constituencies, so that the 2015 election took place under the old boundaries.

#### Other failures

The last three failures in Box 1 can be dealt with more briefly:

- Nick Clegg's attempt to reform party funding failed for the same reason as the talks chaired by Jack Straw: although the parties agreed on the need to limit private

donations, they could not agree on increased state funding to bridge the gap.

- Elected mayors and all postal primaries were both Conservative reforms. In the May 2012 referendums for elected mayors in ten cities, only Bristol voted to have a mayor — Leicester and Liverpool had previously opted for one.

- All-postal primaries were not pursued because of cost, and because the government could not force other parties to change how they selected their candidates.

#### The successes

The successful reforms have been less high profile, but no less important (Box 2).

#### Further devolution

First were big strides towards further devolution in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. These were supported by both coalition partners, but more wholeheartedly by the Liberal Democrats than the Conservatives.

The coalition passed the Scotland Act 2012, which granted greater taxation and borrowing powers to the Scottish Parliament (power to vary the rate of income tax by 10p in the pound, and to levy stamp duty, land tax and landfill tax), plus borrowing powers up to £2 billion a year, and limited legislative powers over drugs, driving and guns.

In Wales a referendum was held in 2011 which approved further legislative powers, by 64% to 36%. As a result the Assembly has power to pass Acts in the 20 subject areas specified in the Government of Wales Act 2006.

#### Fixed-Term Parliaments Act 2011

Another big change was the Fixed-Term Parliaments Act 2011, which abolished the power of the prime minister to seek an early dissolution, and in its place set a fixed 5-year term. Gone is the right of the prime minister to choose an election date which best suits his or her party, but gone too is the additional power this gave the prime minister over rebellious backbenchers, to threaten them with early dissolution if they did not toe the line.

Big strides have been made towards further devolution in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland



### Box 3 Constitutional reform agenda of the new Conservative government

- In/out referendum on EU membership
- Scotland Bill, implementing Smith Commission
- Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill for England
- English votes for English laws
- Wales Bill, implementing St David's Day declaration
- Repeal Human Rights Act, replace with British Bill of Rights
- Reduce House of Commons to 600 seats in revived parliamentary boundary review

#### EU treaties

The Conservative pledge to make future EU treaties subject to a referendum lock was in response to Labour's failure to hold a referendum over the Lisbon Treaty in 2007. But enactment of the referendum lock in the EU Act 2011 was not enough for Conservative eurosceptics. In 2013 Cameron was forced to go further, and promise to hold an in/out referendum on EU membership in the next Parliament.

#### Parliamentary reforms

The last four reforms listed in Box 2 are all parliamentary reforms. Most important were the reforms initiated by the Wright Committee on reform of the House of Commons in 2009. The 2010 Parliament created a new Backbench Business Committee which controls 20% of parliamentary time, and elections for select committee chairs and members, reducing the patronage power of the whips.

The Wright Committee also recommended a stronger petitioning procedure, leading to over 20 petitions which had received over 100,000 signatures being debated in the 2010 Parliament. A statutory register of lobbyists was introduced in the Transparency of Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Act 2014. One of the last Acts passed by the last Parliament was the Recall of MPs Act 2015, in response to the MPs' expenses scandal, enabling constituents to trigger a recall petition if an MP sentenced to imprisonment or suspended for at least 21 days.

#### The new Conservative government

For completeness we must include the agenda of the new Conservative government, which is now able to do things previously blocked by the Liberal Democrats (Box 3). So it is to hold an in/out referendum on EU membership before the end of 2017. It hopes to replace the Human Rights Act with a British Bill of Rights, but the new lord chancellor Michael Gove is proceeding cautiously, promising initially only a consultation paper. His predecessor Chris Grayling, now leader of the House of Commons, had hoped to change Standing Orders in July 2015 to introduce English votes on English laws, but postponed the issue when Conservative rebels made the government realise that it might not muster the numbers.

The government's slender majority will not prevent swift passage of the Scotland Bill, devolving all of income tax and half of VAT to Scotland, and giving greater autonomy to the Scottish Parliament, because that commands all party support. Likewise for the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill, enabling local authorities to work more closely together on transport, housing, strategic planning, health and social care, by forming combined authorities with an elected mayor: Manchester and other 'Northern Powerhouses'. The Wales Bill will follow more slowly, introducing a reserved powers model (as in Scotland), and devolving 10 points of income tax if the Welsh government agrees. Finally, the reduction in the size of the House of Commons will happen under the revived boundary review due to restart early in 2016, for completion by 2018, so that the new House of Commons elected in 2020 will have 600 MPs.

#### Conclusion

To sum up: there have been more constitutional reform successes than failures, and more successful reforms have originated from the Conservatives than the Liberal Democrats. This should not surprise us, since the Conservatives were the senior coalition partner. Of the 18 constitutional reform proposals in the coalition's programme for government, 14 had been in the Conservative manifesto, and 9 in the Lib Dem one. By 2015 the coalition had delivered eight of the Conservative reforms, but only five of the Lib Dems'. This is a crude score card, listing all reforms as if they were equal, when some are clearly more important than others. But the new Conservative government, unencumbered by the Liberal Democrats, will now be able to advance the Conservative score even further.

THERE HAVE BEEN MORE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM SUCCESSSES THAN FAILURES

#### Exam focus

Using this article and other resources available to you, answer the following questions.

- 1 How do the electoral reform (AV) and Scottish independence referendums illustrate the difficulty of judging 'success' or 'failure' of constitutional reforms?
- 2 Why did the AV referendum fail?
- 3 Why did the planned reduction of the House of Commons to 600 MPs fail?
- 4 What were the major constitutional reform successes of the 2010–15 coalition government?
- 5 What further constitutional reforms has the Conservative government pledged to carry out?
- 6 Analyse the comparative success/failure rates of the Conservatives and Lib Dems in constitutional reform.

Professor Robert Hazell is director of the Constitution Unit, School of Public Policy, University College London.