

STUDY GUIDE

ONCEAVO MODELO DE NACIONES UNIDAS DEL COLEGIO SAN IGNACIO



HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESIDENTS

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1. Welcoming Letter

Dear Delegates,

in this United Nations Model Conference, it is a privilege for us to have you as a member of the distinguished House of Commons committee. As your chair, we would like to send our warmest greetings to each and every one of you.

You have the exceptional chance to participate in parliamentary processes, have intriguing conversations, and help develop practical solutions as a member of the House of Commons. The issues on our committee's agenda are extremely diverse. You'll need to use your critical thinking, spirit of cooperation, and diplomatic abilities because each topic has its own opportunities and problems.

It is crucial to promote an atmosphere of respect for one another, candid communication, and constructive engagement as we move through these discussions. Each delegate is encouraged to contribute their distinct viewpoints, take part in thorough research, and look for creative solutions that take into account the complexities of the problems at hand. Keep in mind that this committee serves as a forum for various viewpoints to be heard, and that the outcomes of our talks will be greatly influenced by your active participation.

Accept the chance to get knowledge from one another's perspectives, comprehend the world's problems better, and improve your leadership and advocacy abilities.

We, as your presidents, will be there to help and support you at every stage of our discussions. Do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any questions, worries, or need help.

Sincerely,

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2. Introduction to the Committee

The House of Commons, inspired by the real-life parliamentary body in the United Kingdom, holds a significant role in the democratic process. It serves as the lower house of the legislature, representing the voice of the people and providing a platform for various debates, legislation, and oversight of the government.

The foundational ideas of representative democracy and accountability support the House of Commons. It serves as a platform for frank discussions between elected officials, careful consideration of proposed legislation, and constantly monitors the executive branch providing accountability. The committee is essential in formulating legislation, carrying out investigations, and influencing public policy.

2.1. History

The primary purpose of the House of Commons was to represent common people and give them a voice in decision-making. It serves as a democratic forum where elected officials can defend the interests and grievances of their citizens. By arguing for the needs of the people, members ensure that legislative decisions take into account the many opinions and goals of the people.

Also it has served as a venue for contentious discussions, significant legislation, and the defense of civil freedoms throughout its history. It has been the scene of historic occasions including the Magna Carta's passage in 1215 and the Glorious Revolution in 1688, which established important tenets of parliamentary authority and constitutional law. It is still used as a benchmark for parliamentary systems around the world, inspiring democratic institutions in many other countries.

This electing body was established in 1341 and has a long, illustrious history. It was created in response to the changing political dynamics and the necessity to give regular people a voice in the decision-making process. Initially constituted of knights, burgesses, and representatives of the clergy, the House of Commons ultimately developed into a body consisting Every one of elected Members of Parliament (MPs) from different constituencies!¹

2.2. Objectives

Members make sure that legislative decisions take into account the many viewpoints and ambitions of the populace by advocating for their needs. The Parliament's House of Commons was created to promote democratic ideals. It serves as a forum for productive discussion, enabling

¹ Uk parliament. «constituencies: Parliamentary constituencies». UK Parliament, www.parliament.uk/about/how/elections-and-voting/constituencies.



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the study of many viewpoints and the formation of laws that represent the desires of the general public.

Within the House of Commons, we have identified two significant topics for our discussions: Measures to Ensure Access to Global Markets in the Face of Brexit and Electoral Reform: Evaluating Proportional Representation are Topics A and B, respectively. These subjects have been chosen with care to speak to current global issues and to reflect the constantly changing dynamics of our societies.

The implications of Brexit, or the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union, are discussed in Topic A, along with strategies for maintaining access to global markets. This will go into the complexities of trade agreements, regulatory alignment, and trade facilitation to mitigate potential barriers and promote economic stability.

The discussion of electoral reform in Topic B is in-depth, with a focus on the evaluation of proportional representation as an alternative electoral system. The principles of PR, its effects on representation, political parties, and governance, as well as its applicability in various political contexts, will be examined.

2.3. Functions

Legislative work is the House of Commons' main duty. The committee's members of parliament (MP) are in charge of putting out, discussing, and passing the laws that govern the country. They assist in the creation of policies that deal with societal issues, safeguard citizens' rights, and advance the public welfare through deliberative discussions, amendments, and voting.

The House of Commons also has oversight authority over the government's executive branch. To ensure openness, accountability, and the efficient use of public funds, representatives carefully examine government activities, policies, and expenditures. They protect the interests of the citizens they represent by holding the government accountable through probes, committee hearings, and question periods.

Everyone in the House of Commons has significant influence over how laws are made, how debates are conducted, and how resolutions are proposed. They are able to draft and amend laws, examine governmental operations, and represent the needs of their constituents. In this committee delegates can forge alliances, reach consensus, and work toward practical and just solutions through cooperation and diplomacy.



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TOPIC A: Measures to Guarantee
Access to International Markets
in the Face of Brexit

3.1. Glossary

- **Brexit:** The withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union.
- **European Union (EU):** A political and economic union of 27 European countries, promoting cooperation and integration among member states.
- **Referendum:** A direct vote in which citizens can express their opinion on a particular political issue.
- **Euroscptic:** A person or group skeptical of or critical toward European integration or the EU.
- **Sovereignty:** The authority of a nation-state to govern itself independently.
- **Single Market:** A system that allows for the free movement of goods, services, capital, and people within the EU.
- **Supranational:** Authority or institutions above the level of individual nations, with the power to make decisions that apply to member states.
- **Trade Agreements:** Formal agreements between countries that establish the terms and conditions of trade between them.
- **Regulations:** Rules and standards set by governing bodies to guide and control various

3.2. Introduction to the topic

The topic: "Measures to Guarantee Access to International Markets in the Face of Brexit" focuses on the significant economic and trade repercussions of the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union. To develop successful strategies that guarantee continuous access to global markets, participants need to have a thorough awareness of the historical backdrop, difficulties, and potential possibilities related to Brexit.

The process by which the United Kingdom (UK) left the European Union (EU) in a referendum held on June 23, 2016, is referred to as the "British exit," or "Brexit." The UK's vote to leave the EU has significant ramifications for the EU, the UK, and the world. It was a turning point in European history. Examining the causes of it, the characteristics of the EU as an organization, the consequences of being a member country, and the significance of the European Union facilitating market access are all necessary to comprehend the context and meaning of Brexit.

What was Brexit?

Brexit alludes to the legal and political procedure that led to the UK's exit from the EU. It happened as a majority of UK citizens (51.9%) decided to exit the EU in a referendum held regarding the question of membership. This revoked the UK's membership in the EU, including its involvement in a number of its organizations and policies.



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Why did it happen?

The two main issues that caused the majority of Brexit supporters to become unsatisfied are as follows:

- Immigration Regulations:

Immigration was one of the main issues that led to the Brexit vote. Concerns over the free movement of people within the EU were frequently linked to euroskepticism and anti-EU attitudes. The free movement premise of the EU, according to critics, allowed for unfettered immigration into the UK, putting more strain on public services, housing, and employment possibilities. They thought that by leaving the EU, the UK would be able to exert more control over its immigration laws and border controls, allowing the administration to manage the flow of immigrants and give priority to the needs of its population.

- Economic Contributions and Budgetary Issues:

The belief that the UK was making more financial contributions to the EU budget than it was receiving in return was a significant source of resentment. Some Brexit backers contended that the UK's financial commitments to the EU were excessively exorbitant in comparison to the advantages it gained from EU funding schemes and programs. Campaigns emphasizing the net financial contribution data, which implied that leaving the EU would free up money for domestic spending priorities, served to reinforce this viewpoint.

Furthermore, a major concern for many Brexit supporters was the apparent loss of sovereignty. They said that EU institutions were limiting the UK's ability to make independent decisions by making decisions that directly affected the nation's laws and regulations. Those who believed that decisions regarding the future of the UK should be determined inside its own democratic institutions rather than by supranational organizations strongly identified with the call for greater national sovereignty.

Overall, these policies contributed to the unhappiness that culminated in the Brexit vote, along with more general worries about national identity, influence over legislation, and economic independence. The outcome of the referendum revealed a sharply split public opinion on the UK's relationship with the EU. The debate over these issues represented a broad spectrum of opinions and interests.



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What is the European Union?

With 27 members, mostly in Europe, the European Union (EU) is a complex and distinctive political and economic union. In order to foster economic cooperation, peace, and stability among its member states, the EU has grown and changed its policies over time. A more thorough summary of the activities, policies, and operation of the European Union is provided below:

- Economic integration and the creation of a single market:

The EU's main goal is to establish a single market that will provide the free movement of people, products, capital, and services among its member states. This integration has made it easier for people to invest and trade across borders, which has helped the economy thrive and created jobs.

- Common Currency and Monetary Policy:

The official currency of 19 EU members that make up the Eurozone is the Euro (€). The Eurozone's use of the currency has improved trade and financial transactions across the region while also promoting economic solidarity. The European Central Bank (ECB) is in charge of directing monetary policy for the Eurozone, with the objectives of preserving price stability and fostering economic expansion.

- Common Agricultural Policy (CAP):

The CAP is a crucial EU policy that aims to assist farmers, guarantee food security, and advance sustainable agricultural methods. To stabilize prices and ensure farmers receive a fair wage, it supports them financially and controls agricultural markets.

- Climate change mitigation and environmental protection policies:

The EU has been a leader in these fields. In order to solve environmental issues across the continent, it has developed a number of measures to lower greenhouse gas emissions, promote renewable energy, and do so.

- Competition Policy:

The single market is to be protected from unfair competition through the EU's competition policy. To avoid monopolies and advance consumer welfare, it forbids anti-competitive behavior and controls mergers and acquisitions.



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- Social and Employment Policies:

To protect workers' rights, advance social cohesion, and combat social exclusion, the EU has created social and employment policies. All citizens are to live in a just and inclusive society as a result of these policies.

- Foreign policy and external relations:

The EU represents its member states in areas of foreign policy, taking an active part in world affairs. It works to advance peace, democracy, and human rights throughout the world through diplomatic efforts, humanitarian assistance, and trade talks.

How the EU Functions:

Heads of state or government from the member nations make up the European Council. It establishes the strategic priorities for the EU and gives broad political direction.

The European Commission is the EU's executive body and is in charge of developing laws, carrying out policies, and upholding EU law. Each member state has a commissioner on it, and the President of the European Commission serves as its leader.

Legislation recommended by the European Commission may be adopted, amended, or rejected by the European Parliament, which represents EU people. It is essential for establishing EU policies and examining EU institutions.

The European Union's Council represents the governments of its members and collaborates with the European Parliament on legislative matters. It enacts EU legislation and organizes political choices.

The European Union's Court of Justice is responsible for ensuring that EU law is consistently interpreted and applied. The Court of Justice, the General Court, and other specialty courts are among the many courts that make up this system.

In charge of monetary policy and preserving price stability inside the Eurozone is the European Central Bank.

Each member state has a voice in establishing EU policies and laws through democratic representation and negotiation, and decisions within the EU are made through a variety of legislative procedures. The EU functions as a cooperative framework that supports national sovereignty and diversity while fostering consensus-building among member states and advancing shared interests and values.



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What effects does Brexit pose on the United Kingdom access to markets?

Market access will be significantly impacted by Brexit. Due to the UK's exit from the EU, it now has more freedom to determine its economic policies and to negotiate independent trade deals with other nations. It offers the UK the chance to adjust its rules and requirements to suit its own requirements, thereby expediting trade procedures and enabling access to markets outside of the EU.

In fact, as the United Kingdom (UK) works to untangle itself from the European Union (EU), Brexit poses substantial hurdles for the country. Some of the major challenges and complexity brought on by Brexit include:

- **Trade Agreement Renegotiations:**

As an EU member, the UK participated in a number of trade agreements that the EU negotiated on behalf of all of its member states. Following Brexit, the UK has to separately renegotiate these arrangements with foreign nations and commercial blocs. In order to maintain UK-favorable access to international markets, this procedure entails protracted and complex discussions.

- **Potential Trade Barriers:**

As a result of the UK's exit from the EU's Single Market and Customs Union, the EU and the UK now have separate customs jurisdictions. This raises the risk of new trade restrictions on products traveling between the UK and the EU, such as tariffs and customs checks. Businesses involved in cross-border trade may experience increased expenses, delays, and interruptions as a result of these obstacles.

- **Impact of Uncertainty on Investments:**

Investment choices have been impacted by the Brexit-related uncertainty. To keep access to the Single Market, businesses would be reluctant to invest in the UK or move their operations to other EU members. The economy, labor market, and general level of economic expansion in the UK may be impacted by this.

- **Regulation Differing:**

Following Brexit, the UK will be free to enact laws and standards that may differ from those of the EU. Businesses operating in the UK and the EU may have difficulties as a result of regulatory divergence since they must adhere to multiple sets of regulations, which could be expensive and complicated.



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- Border Problems:

In the Brexit negotiations, the border issue with Ireland has proven to be particularly difficult. It has proven challenging to protect the integrity of the Single Market while maintaining a smooth and frictionless border between Northern Ireland, which is a part of the UK, and the Republic of Ireland, an EU member state.

- Impact on Services industry:

Following Brexit, the UK's services industry, which contributes significantly to the economy, will confront new difficulties. The EU's passporting system no longer guarantees access to the EU market for services, including financial, legal, and professional services, thereby reducing market access and business opportunities for UK service companies.

- Impact on Industries Dependent on the EU:

The UK's automotive, agricultural, and fishing industries, for example, depend largely on the EU market for exports and supply chains. The competitiveness and profitability of these industries may be impacted by modifications to trade agreements and prospective tariffs.

- Other Trading Partners:

In addition to revising its trade arrangements with the EU, the UK is pursuing new trade agreements with nations outside of the EU. To achieve favorable trade terms, these conversations necessitate careful consideration of numerous economic and political interests. As the UK attempts to rebuild its trade links and role in the global economy, Brexit presents a variety of challenges and complexity. To guarantee a smooth transition and to reduce any potential negative effects on the UK's economy and businesses, the issues of renegotiating trade agreements, potential trade barriers, and managing regulatory divergence call for careful planning, discussions, and adaptation.



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3.3. Context to the topic

3.3.1. Historical context

1. June 23, 2016: The Brexit Referendum - The historic referendum was held, giving British citizens the chance to decide whether to stay in or leave the European Union. The majority of voters (51.9%) decided to leave, which paved the way for a profound change in the nation's relationship with the EU.

2. March 29, 2017: Article 50 Triggered - The formal exit process was started by the UK government by officially triggering Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union. The negotiations between the UK and the EU to determine the terms of their future relationship were given a two-year window under this act.

The process for a member state to leave the European Union is outlined in Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union. It goes as follows:

First, a member state must formally inform the European Council of its intention to quit the EU, the withdrawal process is launched as a result of this notification. A two-year negotiation process is contemplated, during this time, the departing state and the EU can discuss and come to an agreement on the conditions of the exit as well as their future cooperation.

If both the withdrawing state and the European Council agree, the period for negotiations may be extended. However, before the first two years are over, a decision must be made to prolong the negotiation term. The initial two-year window for Brexit negotiations was extended. The Article 50 deadline for the withdrawal process was originally set for March 29, 2019. But as the deadline drew near, it became clear how difficult and complicated the negotiations between the UK and the EU were. Both sides encountered a wide range of problems and differences, from the future of their commercial links to the divisive subject of the Irish border.

It became apparent that the initial two-year time frame was insufficient to establish a comprehensive deal that would cover all the complexities of the UK's withdrawal from the EU given the complexity and importance of the negotiations. The stakes were high since a "no-deal" situation would have meant a quick and disruptive withdrawal from the EU without any trade or cooperation agreements in place. The UK and EU decided to prolong the discussion term in order to avoid the potentially disruptive effects of a "no-deal" scenario. This extension gave both parties additional time to carry on their discussions, look for areas of agreement, and try to come to a win-win solution.



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The withdrawal deadline was delayed to October 31, 2019, and the first extension was given in April 2019. The deadline was again extended to January 31, 2020, but this time due to the fact that the negotiations were still going nowhere and the UK Parliament was having trouble approving the draft Withdrawal Agreement.

"The Withdrawal Agreement" is the the legal document detailing the conditions of the withdrawing state's separation from the EU. It addresses a number of issues, including the financial settlement, the rights of those whose lives are touched by the withdrawal, and any necessary transitional plan

It was ultimately agreed upon by the UK and the EU, and it was approved by the UK Parliament. Due to this, the UK entered a transition period that lasted until December 31, 2020, during which time it continued to abide by EU laws and regulations while discussing its future relationship with the EU. As a result, the UK officially left the EU on January 31, 2020.

The lengthened Brexit negotiations period served as a stark example of the difficulties and difficulties involved in untangling a complex relationship between the UK and the EU. There were several hot subjects that came up as contentious problems between the United Kingdom (UK) and the European Union (EU) during the discussions that followed the triggering of Article 50 and the official process of Brexit. These issues were at the center of the discussions and had a significant impact on the Withdrawal Agreement and the future of the UK-EU relationship. Following are a few of the Brexit talks' top heated topics:

- Future Trade Relationship:

The UK intended to negotiate a comprehensive trade agreement that would guarantee access to the EU Single Market while enabling it to negotiate its own trade deals with nations outside the EU. On the other hand, the EU underlined the significance of fair competition and level playing fields in order to safeguard its Single Market.

- Irish Border and the Backstop:

During the discussions, the Irish border issue emerged as one of the most divisive and challenging topics. To secure the Good Friday Agreement and uphold peace on the island of Ireland, the UK and the EU were committed to preventing a hard border between Northern Ireland (a portion of the UK) and the Republic of Ireland (an EU member state). Finding a way to avoid a hard border while maintaining the integrity of the EU's Single Market and Customs Union, however, proved difficult.



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- Governance and Dispute settlement:

The procedures for future relationship governance and dispute settlement were also important subjects of discussion. On how to resolve any conflicts and disagreements brought on by the Withdrawal pact's implementation and the upcoming trade pact, both parties had to come to an accord.

3. June 8, 2017: General Election - A hung parliament (No political party or coalition of parties holds a majority of seats in the parliament in a parliamentary form of governance) resulted from the UK's prematurely held general election.

In particular, the inability of the then-Prime Minister Theresa May to get parliamentary support for the withdrawal agreement reached with the EU led to the parliamentary impasse over Brexit, which led to the calling of the UK general election. The Conservative Party, led by Boris Johnson, won a resounding victory in the election and a commanding majority of seats in the House of Commons. The UK government's position in legislative votes on Brexit was bolstered by the Conservative Party's sizable majority in the House of Commons. It made it less necessary for the government to rely on the backing of smaller parties and made it simpler for it to pass laws pertaining to Brexit.

4. December 12, 2019: General Election- Conservative Majority: The political environment and the UK government's bargaining posture in the Brexit process were significantly shaped by this election.

The election ended the protracted political impasse that had stymied the Brexit process. The overwhelming majority made it possible for the UK government to ratify the Withdrawal Agreement and win parliamentary approval for it. In a number of areas, the election gave the UK government a crystal-clear mandate and a strong position in the Brexit process. The election outcome made the UK's exit from the EU more clear. The election results reaffirmed that the public supports the Conservative Party's strategy of "getting Brexit done," which was the focus of their election campaign.

The results brought to light regional divisions within the UK, notwithstanding the substantial national majority. Several regions of the country, most notably Scotland and Northern Ireland, expressed a desire for a separate Brexit strategy, which could make it difficult to keep the UK united throughout the process.



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3.3.2. Economic context

Main disruptions

The European Union allowed for the United Kingdom to have access to the other member countries markets, waiving most of the restrictions and barriers that normally stand in between countries. However, Brexit created several difficulties as these barriers were reestablished; some of them are tariffs, costume procedures and regulations.

The Reestablishment of trade barriers in the form of tariffs on products traveling between the UK and the EU is one of the major effects of Brexit. As a part of the EU Single Market and Customs Union before Brexit, the UK benefited from tariff-free trade with other EU members. The UK and the EU, on the other hand, became different customs territories once the UK left the EU's single market.

Due to this modification, certain items traded between the UK and the EU now face tariffs. Tariffs are levied as taxes or tariffs on imported goods, and the way they are applied will depend on the kind of goods being imported as well as the specifics of the trade relationship that will be established following Brexit. Tariffs can make imported goods more expensive for consumers and businesses, driving up prices and reducing the competitiveness of UK exporters in the EU market. Similar to this, when exporting their goods to the UK, EU exporters will incur new fees.

On the other hand, businesses engaged in commerce between the UK and the EU now face increased administrative obligations and customs processes as a result of Brexit. In order to simplify the movement of products across borders and assure compliance with legislation, customs checks and declarations are now required.

Supply chains and commerce flow may be impacted by these new customs processes, which might result in delays and disruptions at ports and border crossings. Businesses used to free-flowing trade across the EU now have to deal with increased administrative costs and expenditures associated with customs compliance.

For companies that rely on just-in-time supply chains, where any delays in shipments can have a big impact on manufacturing processes, the introduction of customs procedures has been particularly difficult.

Another detrimental factor, is that as a member of the EU, the UK was bound by uniform regulations in a number of industries. Following Brexit, the UK is free to establish its own rules and standards. To preserve continuous access to the EU market, several industries must, however, maintain regulatory consistency with the EU.



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Non-tariff obstacles, such as requirements for product certification and inspections, can arise from divergence from EU standards and present difficulties for exporters. For instance, in order to maintain market access, companies exporting food or medical devices to the EU must abide by EU rules.

Regulation divergence can also have an impact on the services sector, as professional mobility depends on mutual recognition of licenses and degrees between the UK and the EU.

Key Trading Partners

To minimize trade disruptions and achieve economic stability, the UK must maintain and secure its present trade agreements. The following are a few of the top trade deals that the UK should prioritize:

- European Union (EU):

Even though the UK left the EU, its commercial links with its former EU allies are still crucial. To retain tariff-free and frictionless commerce with EU member states, which is the UK's largest trading partner, a comprehensive trade agreement must be reached. The continued flow of products and services would be ensured by successful negotiations with the EU, benefiting both British businesses and consumers.

- United States:

One of the world's major economies and a crucial trade partner for the UK is the United States. A strong trade agreement with the US may present UK exporters with new business prospects in industries including agriculture, technology, and financial services. A trade agreement with the US would improve bilateral economic relations and encourage investment.

- Japan:

Japan is another important commercial partner for the UK, and preserving access to the Japanese market depends on a trade agreement with Japan. In light of the fact that Japan is renowned for its industrial and advanced technology sectors, a trade deal might offer British businesses more favorable market access and prospects for expanding their exports.



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- Canada:

A trade agreement would make it easier for goods and services to go back and forth between the UK and Canada, which is one of its main trading partners. Various industries, including aircraft, medicines, and natural resources, can gain from an agreement with Canada.

- Australia and New Zealand:

Access to markets in the Asia-Pacific area may be gained through negotiating trade agreements with Australia and New Zealand. These agreements will strengthen economic relations between the UK and countries in the Southern Hemisphere and benefit UK exporters, particularly in the agricultural and food industries.

- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

:

ASEAN represents a dynamic, quickly-expanding market with a sizable customer base. Securing trade agreements with ASEAN countries can open up a variety of markets for the UK, encourage investment, and foster economic cooperation.

- Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP):

The UK has expressed interest in joining the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), a trade pact between 11 nations in the Pacific Rim. The UK would have access to a combined market of more than 500 million people and increase trade opportunities with nations in the Asia-Pacific area if it joined this pact.

The UK can guarantee trade continuity, prevent interruptions, and promote economic stability by placing a high priority on the negotiation and upkeep of major trade agreements. These agreements may open up new export markets, draw in foreign capital, and promote economic expansion across a range of industries, all of which may help the UK's economy succeed after Brexit.

Regulatory Alignment:

A key component of trade agreements is regulatory alignment, which makes sure that goods and services adhere to uniform standards and laws across markets. When creating frameworks for regulatory cooperation, policymakers should pay particular attention to the following elements in order to improve trade flows and advance economic stability:



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- Harmonization of standards:

This is necessary to remove technical trade obstacles between the UK and its trading partners. In order to ensure that products and services may be marketed and used interchangeably in different markets without requiring significant adjustments or resulting in higher compliance costs, rules, product standards, and testing techniques must all be aligned. The debate of standards and certifications that allow products that satisfy regulatory criteria in one country to be accepted in another should be given top priority by lawmakers. The UK can increase its trade competitiveness and lessen the burden on businesses by supporting standards harmonization, which will help eliminate duplicative testing and certification procedures.

- Regulatory Cooperation and Dialogue:

Establishing avenues for ongoing regulatory cooperation and conversation with trading partners is essential for dealing with developing regulatory difficulties and fostering a common understanding of regulatory goals. The early resolution of any conflicts or difficulties that may occur during the implementation of trade agreements can be facilitated by routine consultations and information sharing amongst regulatory authorities.

In order to allow key government agencies to discuss regulatory changes and potential areas for convergence, lawmakers should give top priority to building forums for regulatory discussion and collaboration. This may result in improved regulatory coherence, greater regulatory alignment, and more security for multinational corporations.

- Reciprocal Recognition of Conformity Assessment:

Reciprocal recognition of conformity assessment is crucial for lowering trade barriers in addition to standardization. The process of confirming that goods and services meet legal criteria is known as conformity assessment. Legislators should seek to create agreements that acknowledge one another's conformity assessment processes so that companies can use the results of those assessments to gain access to partner markets.

Reciprocal acceptance of conformity assessment can simplify exporters' market entry procedures and lower compliance costs, fostering more efficient trade flows and boosting participation in global marketplaces.

- Regulatory Transparency and Predictability:



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It is essential for businesses to be able to anticipate and meet regulatory obligations that rules are transparently developed and put into effect. Legislators should stress the value of regulatory transparency and make sure that, when necessary, draft regulations are publicized beforehand and subject to public input.

Furthermore, establishing a transparent and predictable regulatory framework boosts investor trust and promotes a favorable business environment. Additionally, it gives companies the ability to plan their operations and investments with more assurance, which may encourage more trade and investment.

- Regulatory Collaboration in Emerging Sectors:

Emerging sectors may need special regulatory considerations as technology and businesses advance. To ensure that laws and standards are consistent and encourage innovation and market access, legislators should actively participate in regulatory cooperation and coordination in these industries.

The UK can effectively create frameworks for regulatory cooperation with its trading partners by concentrating on these factors as legislators. These actions will encourage a trading climate where all parties benefit reciprocally by facilitating trade flows, lowering trade barriers, and promoting economic stability.

In conclusion, for smooth commerce flows, effective customs procedures and streamlined operations are crucial. The use of digital technologies, the easing of documentation requirements, and the implementation of best practices in customs procedures are some of the steps that should be explored in order to improve trade facilitation. It will be essential to promote efficiency, predictability, and transparency in cross-border trading.

The effects of Brexit may vary for various economic sectors. Everyone should examine the unique difficulties and chances that many sectors, including financial services, manufacturing, services, and agriculture, face. Sector-specific plans should be the main topic of discussion to guarantee ongoing market access, foster competition, and aid in economic progress.



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3.4. Current Situation

3.5. Previous Resolutions

- Trade Agreements and Partnerships:

The UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement was negotiated by the UK and the EU and went into force on January 1, 2021. The agreement covers a number of trade-related issues, such as customs cooperation, rules of origin, and sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and it guarantees tariff-free trading for the majority of commodities. To increase market access, the UK has explored bilateral trade agreements with foreign nations. The UK-Turkey Free Trade Agreement, the UK-Canada Trade Continuity Agreement, and the UK-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement are notable agreements.

Actors:

- International trade partners.
- EU institutions.
- The British government.

Contextual Implications: Trade partnerships and agreements are essential for preserving market access, lowering trade barriers, and giving firms stability and predictability.

- Regulatory Alignment and Standards:

To guarantee that regulations and standards are recognized by both the UK and the EU, the two countries have worked to develop regulatory alignment and equivalence agreements. For industries like manufacturing, agriculture, and medicines, this is especially crucial.

In some financial industries, the EU has given temporary equivalence rulings, enabling the continuation of cross-border service supply. However, compared to its membership in the EU, the UK now has less access to the EU financial market.

Actors:

- Industry groups.
- EU and UK regulatory agencies.

Contextual Implications: Harmonizing legislation reduces trade obstacles, upholds product standards, and ensures compliance with rules pertaining to environmental protection, human health, and safety.

3. Customs Procedures and Border Controls:



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Following Brexit, new customs policies and border checks were put in place to control trade between the UK and the EU. This covers customs declarations, inspections, and adherence to origin-specific regulations. Non-tariff barriers could cause delays and raise expenses for companies involved in international trade. Examples include more paperwork and administrative procedures.

Actors:

- UK Border Force.
- EU customs officials.
- Trade-related companies.

Contextual Implications: Guaranteeing seamless commercial operations, minimizing interruptions, and retaining market access, efficient customs procedures and reduced border friction are essential.

- Services and Financial Sector:

A key component of the market access negotiations has been access to the EU Single Market for services, especially the financial industry. The loss of passporting rights, which previously permitted financial institutions with UK addresses to offer services throughout the EU, has had an impact on the UK's financial services sector. New regulatory and structural frameworks are now in place for the industry.

Actors:

- Financial institutions from the UK.
- The EU.
- Regulatory organizations.

Contextual Implications: Cooperation, regulatory alignment, and the creation of substitute entry channels are necessary for maintaining market access for financial services.

5. Supply Chains and Logistics:

In order to negotiate the post-Brexit trade realities, businesses have to modify their supply chains and operations. This involves taking into account variables including customs processes, border delays, and modifications to regulatory requirements. In order to keep access to the Single Market and minimize interruptions, some UK-based companies have set up subsidiaries or moved activities inside the EU.



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Actors:

- Cross-border trading companies in the UK and the EU.
- Logistics firms.

Contextual implications: Continued market access, cost control, and customer satisfaction, effective supply chains, optimized logistical processes, and risk management are essential.

3.4. Current Situations

The COVID Pandemic and the Russian-Ukrainian War have caused disruptions on global trade, this alongside Brexit has caused a huge strain on the national economy. For the United Kingdom, the extensive negotiations on the withdrawal arrangements and on the future trading relationship generated uncertainty, causing a sharp depreciation of the country's currency and negatively affecting investment.

According to Forster-van Aerssen(2023) :

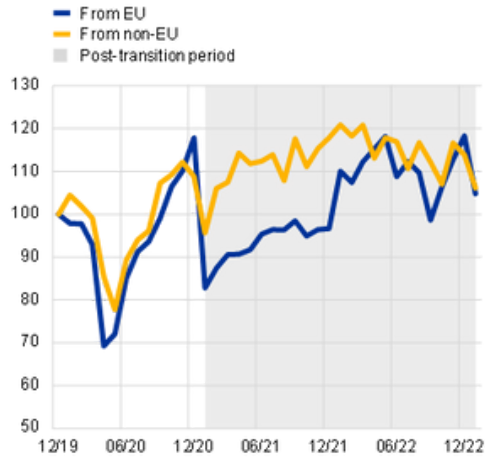
UK trading volumes with the EU decreased significantly after the implementation of the TCA, they remained under their pre-pandemic level until the beginning of 2022. Brexit seems to have played some role in the economic downfall, alongside the lack of agreements covering trade in services . For example, financial services, which amount to 20% of total UK services exports, did not have enough focus on the TCA's provisions. The United Kingdom and EU had agreed that, alongside the TCA, they would conclude a Memorandum of Understanding on regulatory cooperation, despite this, they have failed to come to an agreement. Since Brexit, the importance of the EU as a UK trading partner has declined, with the EU accounting for 29% of total UK financial services exports in 2022, compared with 37% in 2019.



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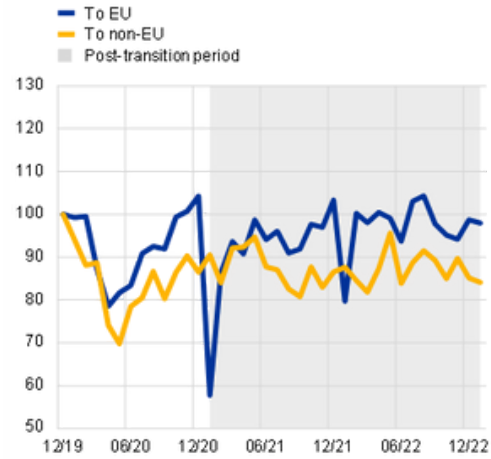
a) Import volumes

(index: 2019=100, monthly data)



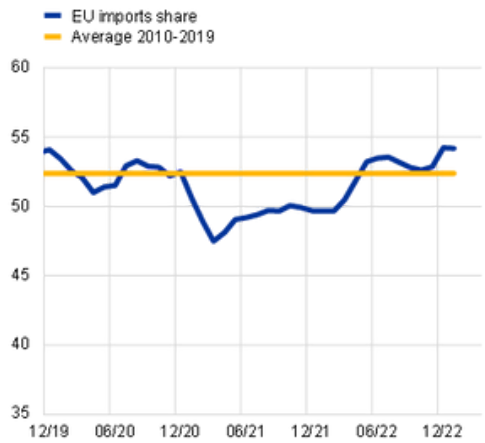
b) Export volumes

(index: 2019=100, monthly data)



c) Share of imports from the EU in total UK imports

(percentages, three-month moving averages)



d) Share of exports to the EU in total UK exports

(percentages, three-month moving averages)



The post-transition period started in January 2021, when the TCA entered into force provisionally. The latest observations are for January 2023. Source: ONS

This, has severely impacted the UK's Gross Domestic Product, and the commercial deficit increased 7.7 percent in the first quarter of 2022. The post-pandemic recovery in UK trade has lagged behind that of other advanced economies.



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3.5. Future projections

The present agreements, including the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement, seek to retain market access for goods between the UK and the EU and secure tariff-free trade. These agreements also emphasize regulatory equivalence and alignment to make it easier for laws and standards to be mutually recognized and to give businesses a level playing field. Expectations include: lowering trade barriers, avoiding supply chain interruptions, and giving cross-border trading companies stability and predictability.

The committee should concentrate on keeping eyes on the efficacy and implementation of the current agreements and identifying any problems or gaps that need to be fixed. It should evaluate how trade restrictions, customs processes, and regulatory changes affect firms and suggest ways to reduce the effects. The committee should encourage communication and collaboration between the UK and the EU in order to handle any new problems and create win-win solutions. The committee's suggestions and actions can be influenced by regular evaluations of market access, trade flows, and company experiences.

It should take into account the following:

- **Customs and Border Management:** To ensure effective trade operations, cutting back on paperwork and addressing border delays.
- **Regulatory Alignment:** Encouraging continued regulatory collaboration between the UK and the EU to reduce obstacles and uphold safety standards and rules for products.
- **Sector-Specific Considerations:** Examining the effects of Brexit on various sectors and identifying particular obstacles they might encounter when trying to enter global markets. adjusting policies and assistance to meet the demands of particular industries.
- **Financial Services:** Addressing the effects on the financial industry and looking towards alternative market access procedures to keep UK-based financial firms competitive.
- **Trade Promotion and Diversification:** Aiding companies in discovering new customers outside the EU, looking for international trade prospects, and expanding their export markets.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Talking to companies, trade groups, and other pertinent stakeholders to learn about their problems and to get their opinions on the realities of entering foreign markets.

3.6. Preguntas al Delegado (QARMAS)

- What is the historical and political context of Brexit and its impact on international market access?
- What are the main obstacles faced by countries and companies in maintaining access to international markets post-Brexit?



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- What measures have been proposed so far to ensure access to international markets in the post-Brexit context?
- How can countries and businesses collaborate effectively to address these challenges?

3.7. Useful Resources

- World Trade Organization (WTO) website](<https://www.wto.org>)
- Official Brexit webpage of the UK Government](<https://www.gov.uk/government/brexit>)
- [Official Brexit website of the European Union](https://ec.europa.eu/info/brexit/brexit-what-next_es)
- [BBC Brexit: Latest news, analysis, and explainer articles] (https://www.bbc.com/news/politics/uk_leaves_the_eu)
- [World Bank report on the economic impact of Brexit] (<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/01/09/brexit-deadline-could-worsen-global-slowdown>)
- Podcast relating to the topic <https://spotify.link/esqbCh12cDb>
- Podcast relating to the topic <https://spotify.link/fjvkJi32cDb>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/21/world/europe/nhs-brexit-eu-migrants.html>



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TOPIC B: Electoral Reform:
Evaluating Proportional
Representation

4.1. Introduction to the Topic:

The topic “Electoral Reform: Evaluating Proportional Representation” seeks a thorough understanding of the idea of proportional representation (PR) as an electoral reform mechanism, as well as examining the whole electoral apparatus in lightpast and present systems, in order to take into account its applicability and efficacy in various political circumstances.

The United Kingdom’s (UK) electoral system is called “First Past the Post” (FPTP), which is used to elect the members of the parliament in general elections. Each voter makes a mark next to one candidate on the ballot paper. First Past The Post is a “plurality” voting system: the candidate who wins the most votes in each constituency is elected. Often, bigger political parties tend to be favored, and it shows a remarkable lack of inclusivity and broadness. A party could have a considerable amount of votes in the entire country. Still, if they don't obtain the majority of individual constituencies they will not get a corresponding number of seats in Parliament. Even so, Westminster’s FPTP system benefits nationalist parties, for instance, half of Scottish voters voted for the SNP in 2015, but the SNP won 95 percent of Scotland’s seats.

In The UK, there are two chambers, The House of Lords and The House of Commons. In the House of Lords, the elections are not held democratically or through the citizens, but rather people who have been senior officials, former politicians, or high authorities are appointed. The House of Commons is formed by 650 parliamentarians that are chosen through the Majority Single-member system (FPTP)

Westminster’s voting system creates two sorts of areas. “Safe seats”, with such a low chance of changing hands that there is no point in campaigning, and “swing seats”, could change hands. As parties want to get as many members of the parliament (MP) as possible, parties prioritize voters who might change their minds and live in swing constituencies. Parties design their manifestos to appeal to these voters and spend the majority of their funds campaigning in them.

But, policies designed to appeal to voters in constituencies, are not representative of the rest of the country, and thus, unfairly neglected constituencies. Because of this, voters who live in safe seats can feel ignored by politicians.

Because of this, a Proportional Representation System has been proposed as an alternative, as it seeks a representative body that reflects the overall distribution of public support for each political party. Where majority or plurality systems effectively reward strong parties and penalize weak ones by providing the representation of a whole constituency to a single



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candidate who may have received fewer than half of the votes cast (as is the case, for example, in the United States), proportional representation ensures minority groups a measure of representation proportionate to their electoral support. There are many different forms of PR. Some are focused solely on achieving PR on different political parties while others permit the voter to choose between individual candidates.

Proportional Representation may encourage an improvement in the relationship of parliament-people, due to its principal intention (generating a more equitable voting system). This new system offers preeminent choices to voters, connotating greater representation.

Nevertheless, PR also reduces accountability to voters as an ousted party of government can retain office by finding new coalition partners after an election, it also can provide a route for extremist to force their way into the political mainstream, whereas, in an FPTP this would be unlikely, not to say impossible, to happen. PR, even though it has many advantages, it weakens the link between the the elected representative and their constituency, meaning that, under the FPTP, there is a strong link between and MP and their constituency, whilst a PR system would threaten this with detrimental results for the local community.

4.2. Historical Context

The UK has a parliamentary system of government, which consists of the monarchy, the House of Commons, and the House of Lords.

The House of Lords' membership is composed by 300 members, whom 240 are elected, and 60 independent. The elected members serve a single, non renewable term of 15 years. The House of Lords debates legislation, and has the power to amend or reject bills, however, a bill passed by the House of Commons can no longer be rejected by the House of Lords, meaning that the Commons can override the Lords' veto. The House of Lords is independent from the House of Commons, and compliments its work, The Lords shares the task of making and shaping laws and checking and challenging the work of the government. On the other hand, the House of Commons debate the big political issues of the day and proposals for new laws, and is responsible for granting money to the government through approving Bills that raise taxes. Generally, the decisions made in one House have to be approved by the other; in this way the two-chamber system acts as a check and balance for both Houses.

The Origins of the House of Commons, begin when landholders and other property owners in the counties and towns began sending representatives to Parliament to present grievances and petitions to the king and to accept commitments to the payment of taxes.



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By the 17th century, the House of Commons had gained the sole right to initiate taxation measures. The House of Lords retained its veto power over bills passed by the Commons, however, and in 1832 the only recourse of the Liberal Party government was to threaten to flood the House of Lords with new Liberal peers in order to prevent it from rejecting that government's Reform Bill.

The Parliament Act of 1911, enabled a majority of the House of Commons to override the Lords' rejection of a bill, which gave more power to the House of Commons, consequently making the House of Lords lose power to delay other legislation for a period beyond two years (reduced in 1949 to one year). The act also reduced the maximum duration of a parliamentary session to five years.

The Membership of the House of Commons varied volatily, starting at 658, increasing to 707, and finally, at the general election in May 2010, 650 members were returned, 533 from England, 59 from Scotland, 40 from Wales, and 18 from Northern Ireland.

In the face of having 650 members, currently the chamber of the House of Commons seats only 427 persons. After it was destroyed by a German bomb during World War II, there was considerable discussion about enlarging the chamber and replacing its traditional rectangular structure with a semicircular design.

After a series of political reforms aimed at expanding the franchise and practical method for conducting elections, FPTP seemed like the simplest and most practical way for conducting elections, particularly in a country where political parties were becoming more organized.

The FPTP system was further solidified in the 19th century with the passage of the Reform Acts, which expanded the electorate and introduced more uniformity in the electoral process, that, along with the Representation of the People Act 1918, gave the right to women over the age of 30 the right to vote.

4.3. Current situation

Even though PR is not a system that is currently being used in the UK, it is in many other countries in Europe (and worldwide), the most widely used families of PR are party-list PR, used in 85 countries; mixed-member PR (MMP), used in 7 countries and the single transferable vote (STV), used in Ireland, Malta, and Australian Senate.



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- Party-list PR

Party-list PR is a voting system in which multiple candidates are elected according to their ordered position on a predetermined electoral list. Parties are awarded seats in parliament according to the overall proportion of votes they receive within their district or constituency. Two main voting methods are used in party-list systems: open, closed, and free lists.

In open lists, voters can indicate preferences for individual candidates within a party's list, which means, especially, that each ballot contains a candidate list. In this case, a vote for a candidate equals a vote for that candidate's party.

Closed lists, on the other hand, reduce the voter's choice over individual characters and it increase the power of a party's leadership in determining the order of candidates. Once the election concludes, seats are allocated to each party based on the percentage of votes they receive.

Lastly, free lists allow voters to distribute their votes amongst candidates from different parties.

Party-list PR's sole purpose is to produce governments that reflect the overall level of public support each party commands with a finer accuracy, and make it easier for smaller parties to win seats at the Parliament at the same time. As a result, governments elected using the party-list system are often comprised of a diverse range of parties. As before said, this system is one of the most used worldwide, some good examples of Party-list PR are Israel, Argentina, Turkey, and Albania.

Said system has a wide range of parties to choose from, and countries that use systems as such tend to form multi-parties governments, as list systems are highly proportional, moreover, it also encourages voters to participate as they give the electorate a broader range of choices. Nevertheless, having too many parties can also give too much power to these, not to say local party members often have no say in the selection, and voters may be permanently engaged with an unpopular or unwanted candidate.

- Mixed-member PR

In Mixed-member PR elements from FPTP and PR are mixed in, giving the person two votes, a party vote and an electorate vote. When this system is applied in a place or country, the people help choose the number of seats in the Parliament each party gets. The party vote decides how many seats each political party gets, meaning that parties with a greater share of the vote get more seats, this being the reason why parties try to win as many electorate seats as possible.



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If a sole party gets every single vote, then it would only be fair that it governs alone, but usually, no party gets enough votes, and in order to form a government or pass legislation, parties often need to come to an agreement with other parties.

Some types of possible agreements are:

- Coalitions: When two or more parties join together to form a government.
- Confidence and supply agreements: When one party agrees to support another on certain issues and laws that are voted on in Parliament.

Some examples of this system are in Germany, New Zealand, Scotland, and Wales, where votes are cast for both local elections and also for overall party vote tallies, which are used to allocate additional members to produce or deepen overall PR.

A positive thing about this electoral system is that smaller parties would have a chance of winning seats in the Legislature even if a riding outright cannot be accomplished, any party that wins at least 3 percent of the popular vote would be awarded four list seats. Given that this is a complex system, it can be complex as well for voters to understand, compared to much simpler systems, even so, there is a possibility for voters to choose different candidates or parties, allowing a possibility for a less clear view and mandate for candidates and parties.

- Single Transferable Vote

This form of PR is mainly used in Ireland, Malta, and Australia. Rather than one person representing everyone in a small area, bigger areas elect a small team of representatives, such as 4 or 5. These representatives reflect the diversity of opinions in the area.

The single transferable vote puts the power in the hands of the public, giving voters the liberty of choosing candidates from various parties (they can elect all MPs based on their individual abilities) and voters can vote for independent candidates. This system is far from an easy and understandable one, and it can be comparatively compound, due to the ranking and vote transfer process, also being time-consuming.



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4.4. Future Projections

Enrolling PR in the UK would result in significant changes to the country's electoral system and political landscape.

Some of the main changes that would come with this system are mainly that governments would typically be formed between two parties and, while other micro-parties may gain the odd seat or two, this would likely be as much of a novelty as it is under First Past the Post.

This also means that there is a sudden and significant increase in the number of parties participating in elections and potentially entering the parliament. Such high levels of multi-partyism are typically seen as undesirable as it makes government formation and stability more difficult.

In all, it would be a more plural, more representative, more responsive party system, but one rooted in something familiar. In spite of everything, PR would considerably open the floodgates on parliamentary parties, meaning that the political system allows for the emergence of a large number of political parties, often representing a wide range of ideologies, interests, and perspectives.

3.5. Questions for the delegates (QARMAS)

- What is the role of your delegation in the House of Commons?
- Is your delegation in favor or against any kind of electoral reform?
- Is your delegation in favor or against PR?
- What system would be more beneficial to your delegation?
-

3.6. Useful Resources

- https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Patrick-Dunleavy/publication/268414975_ANALYSING_AN_INSTITUTIONAL_TRANSITION_GAME_IN_AN_ESTABLISHED_LIBERAL_DEMOCRACY_THE_INTRODUCTION_OF_PROPORTIONAL_REPRESENTATION_IN_THE_UK/links/54bcd52b0cf253b50e2d66e7/ANALYSING-AN-INSTITUTIONAL-TRANSITION-GAME-IN-AN-ESTABLISHED-LIBERAL-DEMOCRACY-THE-INTRODUCTION-OF-PROPORTIONAL-REPRESENTATION-IN-THE-UK.pdf
- <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0010414005284374>
- <https://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/22671/>
- <https://muse.jhu.edu/pub/1/article/225586/summary>



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5. Delegations

- Boris Johnson (Conservative) - Prime Minister
- Rishi Sunak (Conservative) - Chancellor of the Exchequer
- Keir Starmer (Labour) - Leader of the Opposition
- Priti Patel (Conservative) - Home Secretary
- Jacob Rees-Mogg (Conservative) - Leader of the House of Commons
- Angela Rayner (Labour) - Deputy Leader of the Labour Party
- Liz Truss (Conservative) - Secretary of State for International Trade
- Grant Shapps (Conservative) - Secretary of State for Transport
- Dominic Raab (Conservative) - Foreign Secretary
- Emily Thornberry (Labour) - Shadow Secretary of State for International Trade
- Michael Gove (Conservative) - Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
- Nicky Morgan (Conservative) - Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities
- Jeremy Corbyn (Labour) - MP for Islington North
- Theresa May (Conservative) - MP for Maidenhead
- Sir Keir Starmer (Labour) - MP for Holborn and St Pancras
- Andrea Leadsom (Conservative) - MP for South Northamptonshire
- Ed Miliband (Labour) - MP for Doncaster North
- Nadhim Zahawi (Conservative) - Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
- Sadiq Khan (Labour) - Mayor of London and MP for Tooting
- Jo Swinson (Liberal Democrat) - MP for East Dunbartonshire



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- *Single transferable vote*. (s. f.). <https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/voting-systems/types-of-voting-system/single-transferable-vote/>
- *What is MMP?* (s. f.). Elections. <https://elections.nz/democracy-in-nz/what-is-new-zealands-system-of-government/what-is-mmp/>
- *What would the party system look like if the UK had proportional representation?* (s. f.). <https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/what-would-the-party-system-look-like-if-the-uk-had-proportional-representation/>



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