

The ultimate student work pack to unpack British politics...

**British
politics IS
not that
complicated!**



The UK

⊗ Great Britain

⊗ England



⇒ **Cartoon by Morten Morland for
The Times, 28 January 2025.**

A Comprehensive* Overview* of the UK Political Landscape in 2025

(1) The British constitutional monarchy



The United Kingdom operates under a constitutional monarchy, where the monarch serves as Head of State whilst elected officials hold political power. This system combines traditional ceremonial roles with modern democratic governance.

King Charles III acceded to the throne in September 2022 following the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II. King Charles III reigns but does not govern. He is the public figure who officially embodies* the State's unity and legitimacy. He is a ceremonial figurehead*, not the Head of Government—a role filled by the Prime Minister, who is elected. Parliament remains the supreme legal authority, able to create or end any law*.

The King represents the nation at times of national mourning* and addresses the public during moments of crisis. His Majesty also leads the nation in times of celebration, such as through the annual Christmas broadcast*. He represents stability and continuity in times of change, and people from different age groups or walks* of life can relate to the Royal Family. The monarch serves as a neutral figurehead* above party politics, representing national unity.

Charles III is also Head of the Commonwealth, which was formed from the former British Empire in 1949. Many members were territories historically under British rule through settlement, conquest or cession. Today, it is a voluntary association of 54 independent countries.



(2) The two main parties and their leaders



A - Labour Party – Sir Keir Starmer ⇒ Prime Minister (PM) since July 2024

A former human rights barrister* and Director of Public Prosecutions*, Starmer led Labour to victory in the 2024 general election, ending 14 years of Conservative rule. He has focused on “resetting” relations with the EU and boosting* the British economy through stimulus investment.

Labour is a centre-left party advocating for social justice, workers' rights, and strong public services. Under Starmer, it has shifted* towards the political centre, focusing on economic competence and pragmatic governance.

B- Conservative Party – Kemi Badenoch ⇒ Leader of the opposition since November 2024

The first Black leader of a major UK political party and the fourth female Conservative leader, Badenoch won the leadership* following the party's 2024 election defeat.

The Conservatives are a centre-right party traditionally supporting free markets*, individual responsibility, and established institutions. Under Badenoch, they are rebuilding around core* conservative principles.



(3) The history of UKIP and the rise of Reform UK

A- From UKIP (the UK Independence Party) to Reform UK

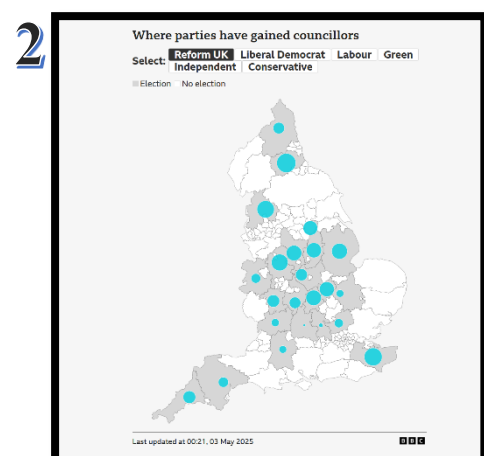
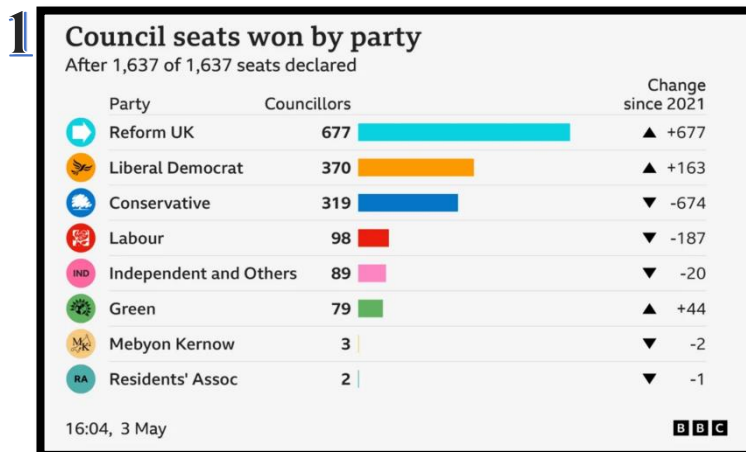
UKIP was a fringe* party until Nigel Farage's leadership* turned it into a major populist Eurosceptic force. UKIP capitalised on a growing perception in many towns and communities that had been 'left behind' by de-industrialisation, globalisation, and an apparently out-of-touch, London-centric liberal elite, with EU membership being portrayed as the root cause* of these problems. Its greatest success was pressuring Prime Minister David Cameron into holding the 2016 Brexit referendum. During the campaign, UKIP used inflammatory* anti-immigration rhetoric and disinformation.

After the referendum, Farage launched the Brexit Party in 2019 to push for Brexit delivery*. It was rebranded* as Reform UK in 2021, broadening its agenda* to include immigration, tax reform, and cultural issues.

B- Reform UK's 2025 success

Reform UK secured 41% of the vote and topped national polls* in the recent local elections—the first time since 1900 that a party outside Labour and the Conservatives won the most votes and seats. Public perception increasingly sees Reform as a “mainstream” party. Labour and the Conservatives each lost two-thirds of their council seats*, marking their worst local election performance on record. In local elections, Britons choose who will run local services—from education and housing to transport and planning—at county and unitary authority level.

Under Nigel Farage's leadership, Reform UK presents itself as a populist alternative, championing* stricter immigration controls, lower taxes, and what it calls “common sense” policies*. The party has tapped* into widespread disillusionment with the traditional parties, drawing most of its support from disaffected former Conservative voters.



(4) The two-house system

The UK Parliament is made up of two chambers: the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

The House of Commons is the elected chamber and holds the main power to make laws and hold the government to account*. It is the primary legislative body, and its decisions ultimately determine whether a government can remain in office*.

The House of Lords is the unelected upper chamber, made up of appointed and some hereditary members. It acts primarily as a revising chamber, carefully examining legislation, proposing amendments, and investigating matters of public policy.

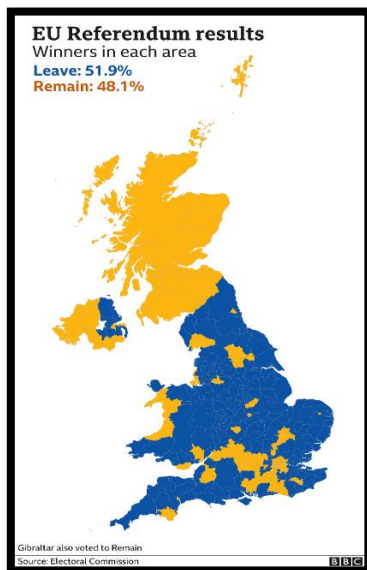
Although both Houses are involved in law-making*, scrutiny*, and debate, the Commons has final authority, especially on financial legislation and votes of confidence* in the government.



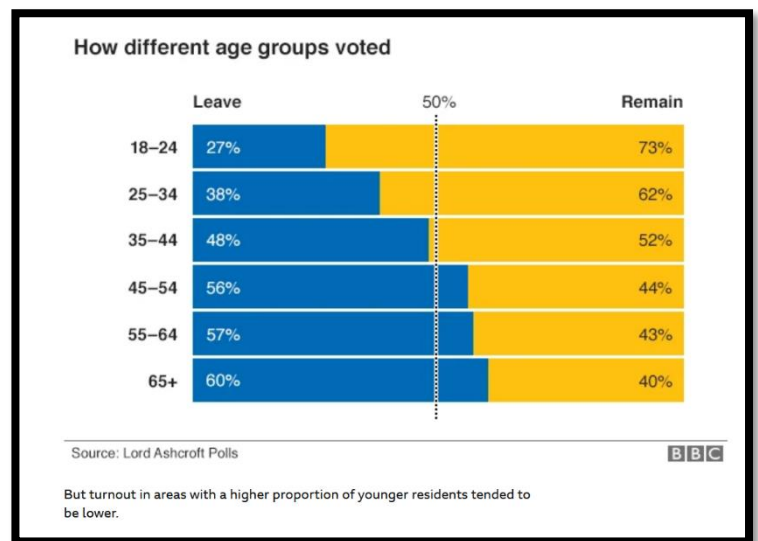
(5) EU Brexit timeline and maps.

- **June 2016: The Brexit referendum** took place - 51.9% Britons voted to leave the EU.
- March 2017: Article 50 was triggered*, beginning the formal exit process.
- **January 2020: The UK officially left the EU**, Brexit is enacted* but a transition period began to help with deciding a future trade deal*.
- December 2020: The transition period ended, new trading relationships began.
- July 2024: The Labour party was elected pledging* (= promising) a “reset*” with the EU.
- **May 2025: The new UK-EU Reset Deal** was ratified, improving post-Brexit relations – easing border checks, linking carbon trading, protecting exports worth ~£9bn by 2040.

1



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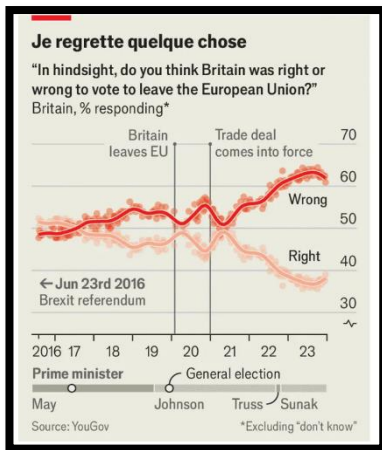
(6) A closer look at the 2025 UK–EU deal

In May 2025, the UK and the EU agreed to a comprehensive* reset* of their relationship, which leaders described as "a new chapter" in post-Brexit relations.

The UK remains outside the EU single market and not part of the customs union*. It retains regulatory independence, its own trade policy*, and external tariffs*, and does not benefit from the EU's trade agreements*.

However, the new agreement includes several key improvements:

- **Trade:** The removal* of barriers to food and drink exports represents a significant development in UK-EU commercial relations as it streamlines* trade by reducing veterinary checks on animal and plant shipments between the UK and the EU.
- **Defence:** Strengthened (= reinforced) security and defence cooperation between the UK and the EU would build upon existing partnerships whilst* establishing new frameworks* for intelligence* sharing and joint operations.
- **Diplomacy:** A formal reset of diplomatic ties* would involve the establishment of regular summits between UK and EU leadership, alongside improved coordination mechanisms.
- **Student exchange programmes:** Since Brexit, the UK no longer participates in the Erasmus+ programme. A key outcome* of the summit is the decision to work again towards easing* the participation of young people from both the EU and the UK in a range of activities - such as work, studies, au-pairing, volunteering*, or simply travelling - for a limited period.



(7) A closer look at: “Brexit regret”

Recent polling* consistently shows that a majority of Britons now believe Brexit was a mistake. Economic difficulties, trade barriers, and a diminished role on the world stage* have all contributed to growing disillusionment.

According to YouGov, 55% of Britons now think it was wrong to leave the EU, while just 11% believe Brexit has been more of a success than a failure.

Despite this shift* in public opinion, there is currently little political will* to rejoin the EU or reopen negotiations in the near future.

source: The Economist, 2024.

(8) Challenges facing the Labour party - Despite winning a substantial majority in 2024, Keir Starmer’s Labour government faces significant challenges that threaten its long-term prospects:

A. Economic pressures: Labour inherited a difficult economic situation marked by high inflation, stagnant growth*, and strained* public finances. Balancing promises to improve public services with fiscal responsibility has proven* challenging. For example, in 2024, the UK was expected to face a fiscal gap of around £20 billion unless taxes were raised or spending cut—both highly unpopular options.

B. Declining popularity: Polling* indicates that Labour’s support has waned* since taking office*, with critics arguing that the government lacks* a clear vision and has struggled to deliver on key promises. Starmer’s personal approval ratings* have also dropped significantly.

C. Internal divisions: The party faces pressure from its left wing. Jeremy Corbyn recently announced plans to launch a new left-wing party, potentially splitting the progressive vote and underscoring ongoing ideological tensions within Labour. In early July, MP Zarah Sultana resigned* from the party to join Corbyn’s Independent Alliance—a group of six independent MPs rather than an official party. The Alliance opposes austerity, the two-child benefit cap*, arms sales to Israel, and the abolition of winter fuel allowances* for most pensioners*, while pushing for public ownership* and radical social justice reforms as a response to perceived Labour failures to deliver meaningful change.

D. The challenge posed by Reform UK: The rise of Reform UK presents a particular threat to Labour in working-class constituencies*. The party appeals to voters concerned about immigration and cultural change—issues where Labour’s position is sometimes seen as unclear. Support for both Labour and the Conservatives has dropped to around 43%, while Reform UK is projected to win more seats than Labour and the Tories combined in future elections.

(9) A closer look at the NHS crisis

The National Health Service (NHS) was founded in 1948 by the Labour government under Clement Attlee. It was a cornerstone* of the new welfare state*, inspired by the *Beveridge Report* (1942), which sought* to tackle the “five giant evils”: Want, Disease, Ignorance, Squalor*, and Idleness*. The NHS promised free, universal healthcare funded through taxation—providing care “from cradle to grave*.”

Today, the NHS in England is facing a severe crisis. Under successive Conservative-led governments, it has undergone* major reforms, budget cuts, and increasing



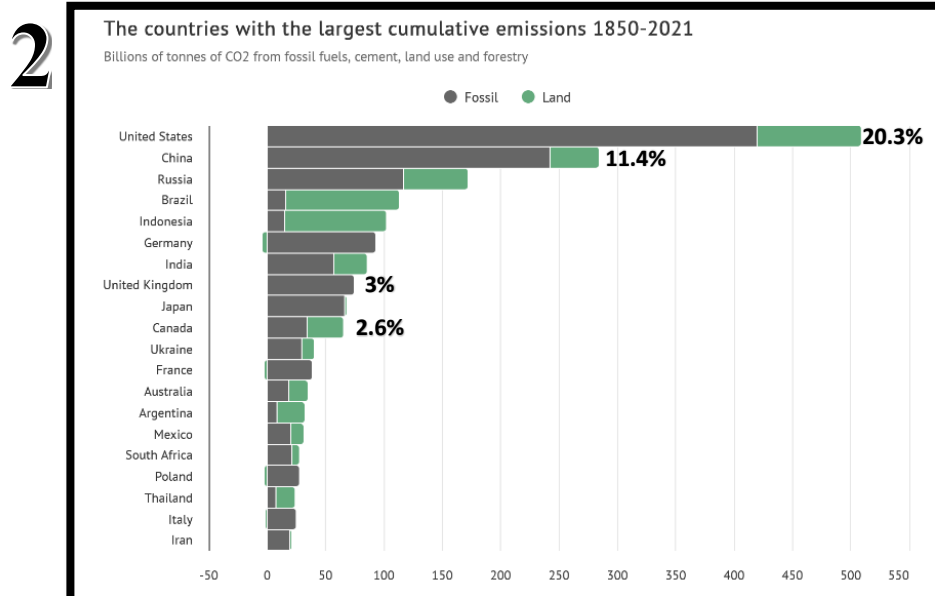
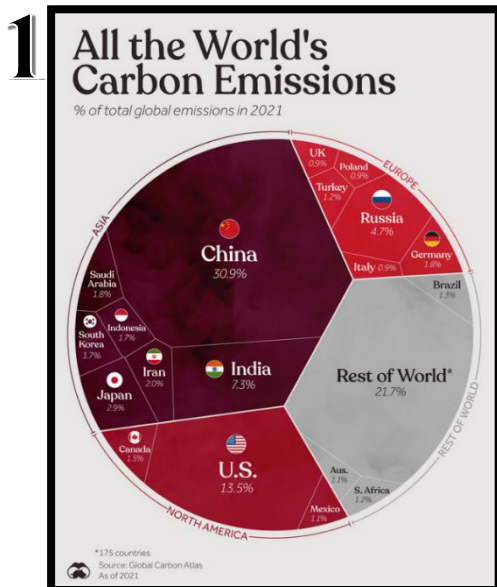


marketisation*, particularly since the 2012 Health and Social Care Act. The service is now understaffed*, underfunded, and staff are underpaid—leading nurses and junior doctors to organise strikes* demanding fair pay and improved working conditions. By February 2025, over a million patients in England were waiting for NHS treatment, with waiting lists *and backlogs* stubbornly exceeded six million.

Labour has pledged* to reverse privatisation trends, invest heavily in staff, and restore the NHS as a truly public service. However, this will be extremely costly. Independent analysis by The Health Foundation warns of a potential £38 billion annual funding shortfall* to properly restore NHS services. With an ageing population, NHS funding looks set to be an ever-growing challenge.

(10) A closer look at “net zero” in the UK

A- The UK is committed to reaching net zero by 2050. In 2019, building on its commitment to the 2015 Paris Agreement, the UK pledged* to reduce its net greenhouse gas* emissions by at least* 100% by 2050 compared to 1990 levels. This goal is known as “net zero”. Milestones* on the path to a net zero economy are now enshrined* in UK law, including an ambitious interim target of cutting emissions by 68% by 2030.



B. Rishi Sunak’s political climb-down* on net zero.

However, during Rishi Sunak’s Conservative government in 2023–24, several key environmental pledges* were watered down*:

- The ban on* new petrol and diesel car sales was pushed back from 2030 to 2035.
- The rollout* of heat pumps* and energy efficiency upgrades was scaled back*.
- Plans to introduce new efficiency standards for rental properties were scrapped*.

Sunak argued these changes were necessary to “protect working families” from rising costs, but critics accused him of politicising climate policy to court* right-wing voters.

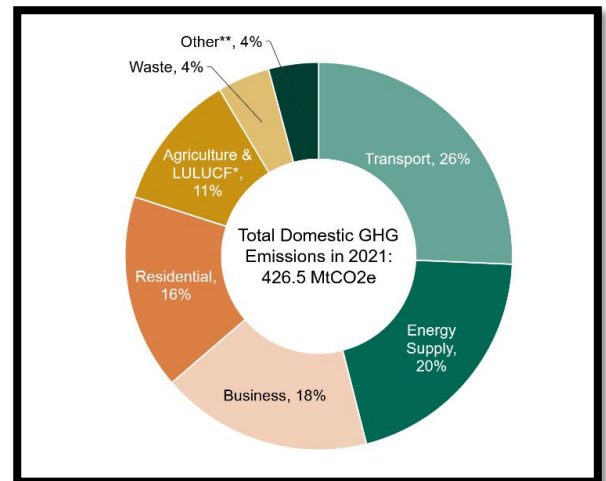
C- The Labour’s current climate policy.

Polls* indicate that most Britons support net zero, though many remain cautious* about the costs and the government’s ability to deliver. Younger voters tend to be more climate-conscious, while older generations show greater scepticism.

In 2025, the Labour government pledged to revitalise the net zero agenda by:

- Creating **Great British Energy**, a publicly owned* clean energy company.
- **Reaffirming a commitment to clean power*** by 2030, ahead of the Conservative target of 2035.
- Promising a £28 billion annual **green investment**, later scaled back* amid fiscal concerns.
- **Supporting wind energy:** In July 2024, the newly elected Labour government lifted the ban on new onshore* wind projects — a move long advocated by environmentalists and energy experts. This ban was originally introduced in 2015 by then-Prime Minister David Cameron. Labour aims to double onshore wind capacity by 2030 to boost Britain's energy independence, reduce household energy bills*, create skilled* jobs, and tackle the climate crisis.

Greenhouse gas emissions by sector, 2021 ⇒
<https://www.gov.uk>



(11) A closer look at immigration in the UK

A. Ethnic & religious composition of the UK.

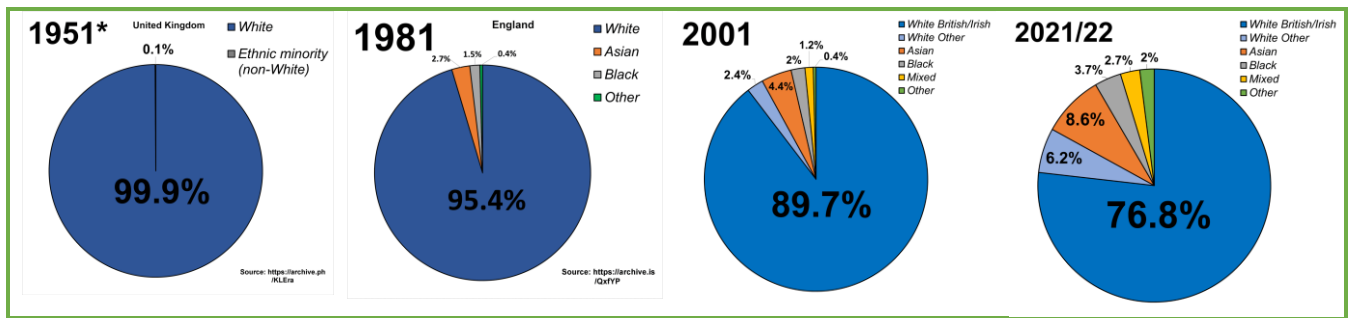


Britain has undergone* a profound transformation from a predominantly White post-war society to one that is ethnically and religiously diverse. Following World War II, the UK experienced significant immigration from its former colonies, particularly from the Caribbean, South Asia (India, Pakistan...), and Africa, due to labour shortages and the legal right of Commonwealth citizens to live and work in Britain. For example, after 1945, the Windrush generation—mainly from the Caribbean—arrived to fill labour shortages* in the National Health Service, transport, and other industries. Later on, following the EU enlargement in 2004, Eastern European migration surged*, particularly from Poland and Romania. This rapid demographic change sparked* social friction and xenophobia. Brexit was partly driven* by anxieties over immigration, intertwined* with socioeconomic frustrations and questions of national identity.

BAME is an acronym that stands for "**Black, Asian and minority ethnic**" and has been used to refer to people of non-white ethnicities in the UK. The term encompasses* three main categories: Black individuals (those with African or African-Caribbean heritage), Asian people (those with roots in countries such as India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, China, and other Asian nations), and other minority ethnic groups. A British BAME person would therefore* be someone who holds British citizenship* or nationality but belongs to one of these non-white ethnic backgrounds.

Following Brexit, the UK introduced a points-based immigration system that ended free movement from the EU, imposing stricter criteria on skills, salaries, and sponsorship. Legal immigration has since prioritised skilled workers, healthcare professionals, and those in STEM fields*, while illegal migration via small boats across the English Channel* has risen sharply.

- In the 2021 census* for England and Wales, 81.7% identified as White (74.4% White British), with Asian British accounting for 9.3% and Black British 3.7%.
- Religiously, approximately 46% identified as Christian, 6.5% Muslim*, 1.7% Hindu, and 37% reported no religion.



B. Illegal immigration and measures addressing this issue.

a. Statistics on legal immigration: Legal immigration to the UK has shifted significantly after Brexit, with a notable decrease in EU migration and an increase in non-EU migration, particularly for work and study purposes.

- In 2023, the UK population was around 68 million people and approximately 16% of the population was born outside the UK.
- India, Poland, Pakistan, Romania, and Ireland were the most common countries of birth among UK migrants in 2021/22.
- In the years leading up to Brexit, net migration to the UK typically fluctuated around 200,000 per year.
- Following Brexit, net migration initially rose sharply. It surged* to 764,000 in 2022, then reaching a record high of 906,000 in 2023. This immigration was largely driven* by non-EU nationals
- However, by 2024, net migration had decreased to 431,000, which is still higher than pre-Brexit levels.

b. Statistics on illegal immigration: There's a clear increase in small boat arrivals since Brexit, but disentangling* the impact of Brexit from other factors is difficult.

- In 2024, roughly 36,816 migrants were detected crossing the English Channel* in small boats also called "dinghies" (= inflatable, often overcrowded* vessels).
- By July 2025, over 20,000 had crossed, marking a 50% increase compared to the first half* of 2024.
- Since 2018, more than 170,000 migrants have crossed via small boats.

c. Addressing illegal immigration:

- **The aborted Rwanda scheme:** In April 2022, the Conservative government announced plans to send certain asylum seekers* to Rwanda, where their claims* would be processed. However, in November 2023, the UK Supreme Court ruled the policy unlawful, deeming Rwanda unsafe for asylum removals. After winning the 2024 election, Labour scrapped* the scheme.
- **Labour's strategy:** Labour established a Border Security Command (BSC) focused on dismantling people-smuggling* networks. Between July 2024 and January 2025, deportations of illegal immigrants rose by 24% compared to the previous year. Labour plans to overhaul* the immigration system through new legislation tightening* visa rules, raising English language requirements, extending residency requirements to ten years, and fast-tracking* highly skilled roles such as engineers and nurses*. The forthcoming* Immigration Bill also includes powers to seize* smugglers*' assets*, implement digital ID verification, and enhance* enforcement* capabilities.

Critics argue Labour's "smash the gangs" rhetoric is mostly symbolic, noting that crossings* increased in 2025 compared to 2024.

C. Recent unrest & anti-immigration riots*: the Southport stabbings* in July 2024.

Violent riots* erupted across England in summer 2024, triggered by misinformation falsely linking the 17-year-old autistic perpetrator of a fatal stabbing* attack that killed three young girls in Southport to a Muslim* migrant. Elon Musk amplified the disinformation through his platform X, posting that "civil war" in the UK was inevitable and linking the unrest* to mass immigration. This inflammatory* rhetoric sparked* far-right violence, with rioters targeting migrant accommodation* centres and mosques in towns including Rotherham, Tamworth, Stoke-on-Trent, Epping, and Southport itself.



(12) A closer look at the British welfare state (= Etat providence)

A. History and main features

The British welfare state, as we know it today, emerged from the ashes* of the Second World War when the Labour government under Clement Attlee laid the groundwork* for a comprehensive* social safety net*. In 1948, the National Health Service was established in the United Kingdom. Britain was the first western country to offer free medical care to the whole population. Nowadays, despite its flaws* and lack of funding*, the welfare state remains the backbone* of British society.

The modern welfare state rests on five key pillars, often called the "five giants" that needed tackling: want*, disease, ignorance, squalor*, and idleness*. At its heart lies* the NHS, alongside* a comprehensive benefits* system covering unemployment*, sickness, pensions*, and housing support. The system operates on the principle of universality, meaning benefits are available to all citizens based on need rather than means*.

During the last 14 years of Conservative rule* - from David Cameron's election in 2010 to Rishi Sunak's defeat in 2024 - austerity measures were introduced and benefits* reduced. The Tories took a wrecking ball to jobs, wages, benefits, health and social care. The number of doctors and nurses were sliced* and a quarter of local government jobs vanished. Those hit hardest were those already struggling on low wages* and pitiful benefits*. Under the guise of* streamlining* the welfare state to improve its efficiency* and reduce bureaucracy, they drastically cut benefits.

When PM Keir Starmer took office* in July 2024, he said that the UK's benefits system was broken and that he planned to overhaul* the system and rein in* spending on working-age benefits. Paring down* spending was not easy nor popular, and he faced pushback* from members of his own Labour Party. In July 2025, following a dramatic climb-down*, he got a watered-down* welfare bill passed.

Looking ahead, the welfare state must strike* a delicate balance* between maintaining its core* principles whilst* adapting to modern challenges. It desperately needs sustainable funding and reform to cope with* an ageing population and rising healthcare costs.

B. The sugar tax

The soft drinks industry levy* (SDIL), or 'sugar tax', is a levy applied to UK-produced or imported soft drinks containing added sugar. Introduced in 2018, this policy was designed to tackle the growing obesity crisis by encouraging manufacturers to slash the sugar content in their products. Rather than hitting consumers* directly in their pockets, the SDIL is not a tax on consumers. It is levied on manufacturers and importers, who are incentivised* to reduce the sugar content of their products to avoid the charge.

The tax has shown promising results, with many companies reformulating their drinks to dodge the levy altogether. From April 2025, the Soft Drinks Industry Levy (SDIL UK) will rise in line with inflation, whilst* the government is also considering expanding its scope to include milkshakes and plant-based drinks.

C. The “nanny state” debate

The sugar tax exemplifies the broader "nanny state" debate that has been simmering* in British politics for years. Critics argue that such interventions represent government overreach*, claiming the government becomes a "nanny" - a patronising childminder who infringes on citizens' liberty. They contend* that individuals should have the freedom to make their own choices, even poor* ones, without state interference.

On the flip side*, supporters maintain that the sugar tax is not a “nanny state” measure - it's sound* public policy, pointing to evidence from countries like Mexico where similar measures have shown positive health outcomes*. They argue that when poor choices impose costs on the NHS and society as a whole, the government has both the right and responsibility to intervene. They point out that not regulating actually only protects the freedom of big companies to lobby governments. For example, if all soft drinks are packed with sugar, where is the liberty for citizens to choose better? Industries have vested* interests that don't align with* the greater good* or citizens' interests. This tension between individual liberty and collective responsibility continues to shape* policy debates across numerous areas, from smoking bans* to minimum alcohol pricing.

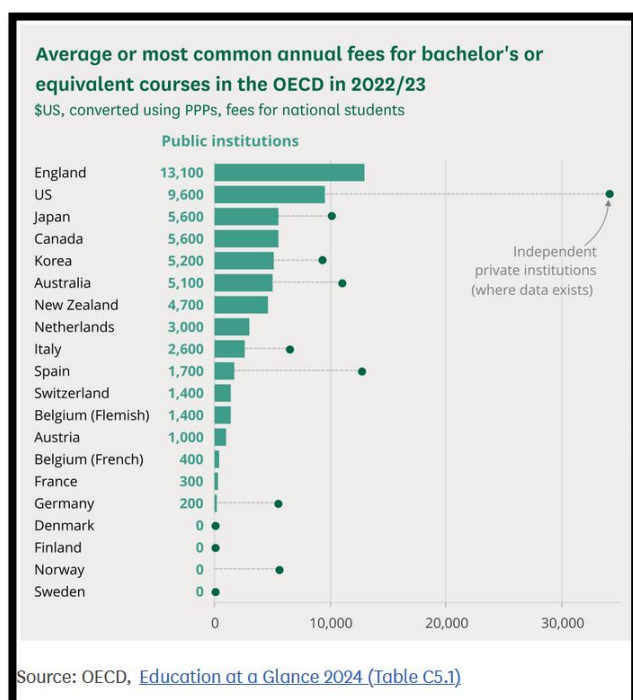
(13) A closer look at British tuition fees*: recent changes and historical context

In November 2024, the Labour government announced the first tuition fee* increase since 2017, raising the cap from £9,250 to £9,535 for 2025-26—a 3.1% rise in line with inflation. This decision came amid growing financial pressures on universities, with the Office for Students warning that 72% of providers could face deficits by 2025-26 due to fees being eroded by inflation over recent years.

The evolution of UK tuition fees reflects changing political philosophies about who should fund higher education. From free tuition with full grants in 1977, the system has progressively shifted* towards student

A deepening* funding crisis

Currently, the debate over tuition fees* comes at a time when a number of universities are under severe financial strain*, with tuition income increasingly eroded by rising costs such as staff* salaries. The Conservative government raised the cap* on fees in England to £9,000 a year in 2012, but the level has been frozen at £9,250 since 2017. Some studies suggest that English universities now need tuition fees of around £12,500 per year simply to break even*. Consequently, the Labour government announced a tuition fee increase in November 2024.



contribution. The Blair government introduced £1,000 upfront fees* in 1998, which were replaced by income-contingent loans* up to £3,000 in 2006. The most dramatic change came in 2012 when the coalition government raised* the cap to £9,000, fundamentally transforming higher education financing.

Arguments remain deeply divided. Supporters argue graduates should contribute to costs since they benefit through higher lifetime earnings*—with male graduates earning £130,000 more on average* over their working lives. Critics worry about deterring* disadvantaged students and the marketisation of education.

Source: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk>

(14) A closer look at the British media landscape

Key trends:

- ⇒ Declining print readership*, growing digital-only outlets*.
- ⇒ Polarisation and misinformation concerns rising—especially after Brexit and during immigration debates.

Careful! FALSE FRIEND ALERT!
"Liberal" in English does not mean "libéral" in French.

In the UK, "liberal" usually means socially liberal—supportive of civil liberties, equality, and personal freedoms. Both liberals and progressives generally oppose conservative resistance to change, but progressives usually push further for radical or rapid reforms. To express the French economic sense of "libéral" (free-market, low state intervention), English speakers use: pro-market, neoliberal or economically liberal or fiscally conservative.

The press

• Left-leaning:

- *The Guardian* – progressive*, socially liberal*, strong on climate, social justice.
- *The Mirror* – Labour-supporting tabloid*.
- *The Independent* – centrist-liberal, online-only.

• Right-leaning:

- *The Daily Telegraph (The Telegraph)* – strongly Conservative, pro-Brexit, traditionalist.
- *The Daily Mail, The Sun, The Express* – populist, right-wing tabloids*.
- *The Times* – centre-right, pro-business, less populist.

• Centrist/Pro-business:

- *The Financial Times* – centrist, EU-friendly, highly trusted in economic circles.
- *The Economist* – liberal* on social issues, fiscally centre-right, internationalist, broadly pro-globalisation* and critical of populism.

TV

- BBC – public broadcaster, quite impartial, widely* trusted though often attacked from both sides.
- Sky News – 24-hour news, generally centrist.

Online & social media

- YouTube, Facebook, X (Twitter) – key for younger audiences but prone* to misinformation.
- GB News and TalkTV – right-wing channels with growing online reach*.

Figure 1: Use of main platforms for news nowadays

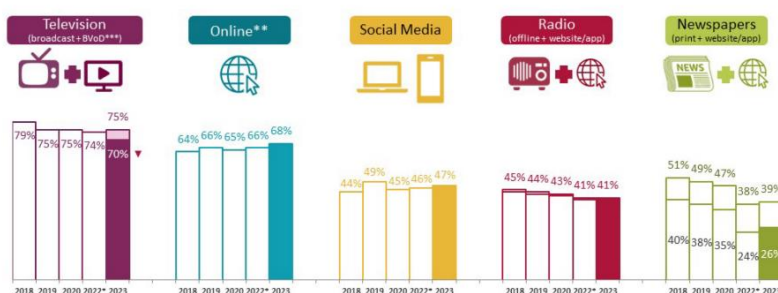
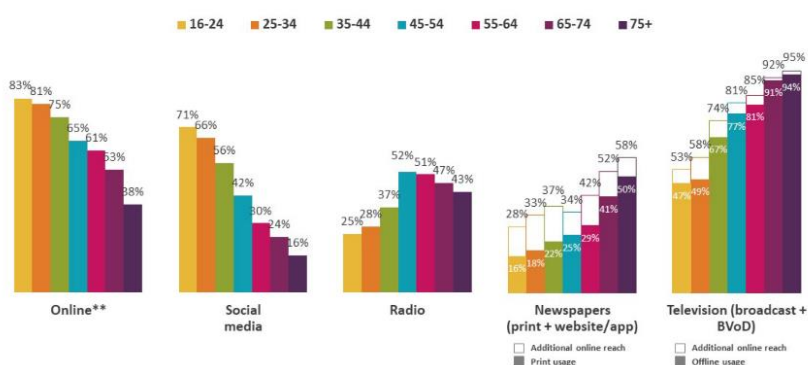


Figure 2: Use of main platforms for news nowadays, by age



Ofcom News Consumption Survey 2023. Question: C1. Which of the following platforms do you use for news nowadays?

Help!

- **Aborted:** Cancelled or stopped before being completed.
- **Accommodation:** Housing or places where people live or stay.
- **Agenda:** A political programme or set of objectives.
- **Alongside:** Together with or next to something else.
- **Approval ratings:** Measures of how well the public thinks a political leader is performing.
- **Assets:** Valuable items or resources owned by a person or organisation.
- **Asylum seekers:** People who seek refuge in another country due to danger or persecution at home.
- **At least** = au moins
- **Backbone:** The most important or supportive part of something.
- **Backlogs:** A build-up of work or cases that are yet to be dealt with.
- **Ban on:** An official prohibition of something.
- **Bans:** Official rules that forbid or stop something.
- **Barrister:** A lawyer in the UK who gives legal advice and speaks in higher courts.
- **Benefit cap:** A limit on the total amount of government benefits a person or family can receive.
- **Benefits:** Payments or help from the government to support people who are unemployed, sick, or on a low income.
- **Boosting:** Increasing or improving something, such as numbers, support, or performance.
- **Border checks:** Inspections at a country's border to control who or what is allowed to enter or leave.
- **Carbon trading:** A system where governments or companies can buy and sell permits to produce carbon emissions.
- **Cautious:** Careful and avoiding risks or sudden decisions.
- **Censuses:** Official surveys done by the government to count the population and collect information such as age, job, and housing.
- **Ceremonial figurehead:** A leader who represents a country in formal events but does not make political decisions.
- **Championing:** Actively supporting or speaking out for a cause or group.
- **Christmas broadcast:** A speech by the King or Queen given each Christmas Day, usually sharing messages of hope and unity.
- **Citizenship:** The legal status of being a member of a country, with rights and duties.
- **Claims:** Statements that something is true, often needing proof or evidence.
- **Clean power:** Energy produced in a way that does not harm the environment, such as wind, solar, or hydro power.
- **Climb-down:** A change in position, usually when someone backs away from a strong opinion or decision.
- **Common sense policies:** Rules or actions based on practical and obvious thinking that most people would agree with.
- **Intelligence:** Secret or gathered information used for security or military purposes.
- **Intertwined:** Closely connected and hard to separate.
- **Labour shortages:** Not enough workers to fill jobs.
- **Lacks:** Does not have something that is needed or expected.
- **Laid the groundwork:** Did the early work needed to prepare for something bigger.
- **Law:** The system of rules made by a government.
- **Law-making:** The process of creating laws.
- **Leadership:** The ability to guide or manage a group, or the people who do so.
- **Levy:** A tax or fee that is officially collected.
- **Liberal:** Open to change, often supporting individual rights and social reforms.
- **Lifetime earnings:** The total money someone earns during their working life.
- **Loan:** money lent by the bank; money that your borrow from the bank.
- **Marketisation:** The process of making something operate more like a free market.
- **Milestones:** jalons, étapes importantes
- **Mourning:** A time of sadness, especially after someone dies.
- **Muslim:** A follower of the religion of Islam.
- **National mourning:** A period when a whole country expresses sadness after a major loss, like the death of a monarch.
- **Net migration:** The number of people entering a country minus those leaving it.
- **Nurses:** Health professionals who care for patients in hospitals or other settings.
- **On average:** Generally, usually, typically
- **Onshore:** Located on land, not at sea.
- **Outcome:** The result of an action or event.
- **Overcrowded:** Having too many people or things in one space.
- **Overhaul:** A complete change or repair to improve something.
- **Overreach:** Trying to take more power than allowed.
- **Paring down:** Reducing or cutting something to a smaller form.
- **Pensioners:** People who receive a pension, usually because they are retired.
- **Pensions:** Regular payments made to people after they retire from work.
- **Pitiful:** Very bad, weak, or deserving pity.
- **Pledged** = Promised
- **Pledging:** Making a promise, often publicly or officially.
- **Political will** = la volonté politique
- **Polling:** Measuring public opinion by asking people questions.
- **Polls:** Surveys that show what people think or how they will vote.
- **Poor:** Having little money; also can mean low in quality.
- **Print readership:** The number of people who read printed newspapers or magazines.
- **Progressive:** Supporting change, improvement, or modern ideas.

- **Comprehensive:** Including everything that is necessary; full and complete.
- **Constituencies:** Areas of the UK that each elect one Member of Parliament (MP).
- **Consumers:** People who buy or consume goods or services.
- **Contend:** To argue or claim something is true; or to compete in a situation.
- **Core:** The most important or central part of something.
- **Cornerstone:** A basic part or idea something depends on.
- **Council seats:** Positions on a local government council that are filled by elected members.
- **Court:** A place where legal decisions are made by judges and sometimes juries.
- **Cradle to grave:** A phrase describing government care or services from birth to death.
- **Crossings** = traversées
- **Customs union:** An agreement between countries to trade goods without extra taxes and to have the same rules on trade with outside countries.
- **Delivery:** The act of putting policies or services into action.
- **Demographic change:** Shifts in the population, such as age, size, or ethnic makeup.
- **Deportations:** Forcing someone to leave a country, usually because they are not allowed to stay.
- **Deterring:** Stopping someone from doing something by warning.
- **Digital outlets:** Online platforms or websites where people read news, watch videos, or get information.
- **Dinghies:** Small boats, often used by migrants crossing dangerous waters.
- **Director of Public Prosecutions:** The head of the UK Crown Prosecution Service, who decides on serious criminal cases.
- **Disentangling:** Separating things that are closely connected or mixed together.
- **Disillusionment:** Disappointment when something or someone is not as good as expected.
- **Dismantling:** Taking something apart or slowly ending a system or policy.
- **Dodge:** To avoid something, often in a dishonest or tricky way.
- **Driven:** Motivated by strong feelings or goals.
- **Earnings:** The money someone earns through work.
- **Easing:** Making something less severe or difficult.
- **Efficiency:** Doing something well without wasting time or resources.
- **Embodied:** Clearly shown or represented in a person, object, or example.
- **Emerged from the ashes:** A phrase meaning to recover or rise again after failure or destruction.
- **Enacted:** Made into law by a government.
- **Encompasses:** Includes or covers a wide range of things.
- **Enforcement:** Making sure laws or rules are followed.
- **English Channel:** The sea between southern England and northern France.
- **progressively shifted:** Gradually moved or changed over time.
- **Prone:** Likely to do something or be affected by something.
- **Proven:** Shown to be true with evidence.
- **Public ownership:** When services or companies are possessed by the government for everyone's benefit.
- **Publicly owned:** possessed by the government, not private individuals or companies.
- **Pushback:** Resistance or opposition to an idea or change.
- **Raised:** Brought up or increased (e.g. issues, prices, or voices).
- **Reach:** How far something spreads or how many people it affects.
- **Reached:** Arrived at a point or decision.
- **Rebranded:** Changed the image of something to make it seem different.
- **Rein in:** To control or limit something that is getting out of hand.
- **Remain in office:** rester au pouvoir
- **Removal:** The act of taking something or someone away.
- **Reset:** A fresh start or change in direction.
- **Resigned:** Left a job or position voluntarily.
- **Riots:** Violent disturbances by a group of people, often in protest.
- **Rollout:** The introduction of a new product, service, or policy.
- **Root cause:** The main / principal cause of a problem
- **Rule:** A guideline or law; also means to govern.
- **Safety net:** Government help or support for people in need.
- **Scaled back:** Reduced in size, amount, or activity.
- **Scrapped:** Cancelled or thrown away because it is no longer useful.
- **Scrutiny:** Close examination or careful inspection.
- **Seize:** To take something by force or suddenly.
- **Shape:** To influence or determine the direction or form of something.
- **Shift:** A change in direction or position.
- **Shifted:** Moved or changed.
- **Shortfall:** A lack or not enough of something expected.
- **Simmering:** Slowly developing anger or tension not yet fully shown.
- **Skilled:** Having special abilities or training.
- **Sliced:** Cut into parts or reduced.
- **Smoking bans:** Laws that stop people from smoking in certain places.
- **Smuggle** = trafiquer, introduire clandestinement
- **Smugglers:** People who move goods or people illegally across borders.
- **Social justice:** Fair treatment and equal rights for all people in society.
- **Sought:** Tried to find or get something.
- **Sound:** Strong, reliable, or based on good judgement.
- **Sparked:** Caused something to begin suddenly, like a debate or protest.
- **Squalor:** Very dirty and unpleasant conditions, especially from poverty.
- **Stabbings:** Attacks involving knives or sharp objects.
- **Stage:** A phase or step in a process.

- **Enhance:** To improve or make something better or stronger.
- **Enshrined:** Protected or made permanent in law or tradition.
- **Erected:** Built or put up (often a structure or sign).
- **EU enlargement:** The process of more countries joining the European Union.
- **Exemplifies:** Clearly shows or is a good example of something.
- **External tariffs:** Taxes on goods coming into a group of countries from outside.
- **Fast-tracking:** Speeding up a process, often for decisions or approvals.
- **Figurehead:** A leader with no real power, only symbolic or ceremonial.
- **Fiscal gap:** The difference between what a government earns and what it spends.
- **Flaws:** Problems or weaknesses in something.
- **Flip side:** The opposite or less positive side of something.
- **Forthcoming:** About to happen or available soon.
- **Frameworks:** Structures or systems used to organise or support something.
- **Free markets:** Economic systems where prices are set by supply and demand, not by the government.
- **Fringe:** The edge of something, or a group with extreme views not part of the main opinion.
- **Globalisation:** The process of countries becoming more connected through trade, culture, and politics.
- **Greater good:** The benefit of most or all people, not just individuals.
- **Greenhouse gases:** les gaz à effet de serre
- **Groundwork:** The basic work or ideas needed before starting something bigger.
- **Half:** 50 percent
- **Health outcomes:** The results of healthcare, such as recovery or illness rates.
- **Heart lies:** Where someone's true passion or focus is.
- **Heat pumps:** Devices that heat or cool buildings by moving heat in or out, often using electricity.
- **Hit hardest:** Suffered the most damage or loss.
- **Hitting consumers:** Causing problems or higher costs for people who buy goods or services.
- **Hold to account:** To make someone take responsibility for their actions or decisions.
- **Holds:** Has or keeps something; in politics, may refer to control over power or a position.
- **Household energy bills:** The money people pay for electricity, gas, and heating at home.
- **Idleness:** The state of doing nothing or not working.
- **Incentivised:** Given reasons or rewards to do something.
- **Income-contingent loans:** Money borrowed from a bank that is paid back based on how much someone earns.
- **Inflammatory:** Likely to make people angry or upset.
- **Stagnant growth:** Economic growth that is slow or not happening at all.
- **STEM fields:** Areas of study or work in science, technology, engineering, and maths.
- **Strained:** Under pressure or stress.
- **Streamlines:** Makes something simpler or more efficient.
- **Strikes:** When workers stop working to protest conditions or pay.
- **Summits:** High-level meetings between leaders to discuss important issues.
- **Surged:** Increased quickly and strongly.
- **Tabloids:** Popular newspapers with short articles and many pictures.
- **Taking office:** Starting a position of power or responsibility, usually in politics.
- **Tap into** = puiser dans
- **Therefore:** As a result; for that reason.
- **Ties:** Connections or relationships between people or organisations.
- **Tightening:** Making something stricter or more limited.
- **Trade policy:** Government rules about buying and selling goods with other countries.
- **Triggered:** Caused something to happen suddenly.
- **Tuition fees:** Money paid for education, especially at university.
- **Two-child benefit cap:** A UK rule that limits child benefits to two children per family.
- **Under the guise of:** Pretending to do one thing while actually doing something else.
- **Underfunded:** Not given enough money.
- **Undergone:** Experienced or been through something.
- **Understaffed:** Not having enough workers.
- **Unemployment:** The state of not having a job.
- **Unrest:** Angry or violent behaviour by groups, usually over political or social issues.
- **Upfront fees:** Costs that must be paid at the beginning.
- **Vested:** Having a strong personal interest in something.
- **Votes of confidence:** Votes in Parliament to show support or lack of support for the government.
- **Wages:** Money paid to workers for their jobs.
- **Walks:** Areas of life or types of jobs or people (e.g. "all walks of life").
- **Waned:** Decreased or became weaker.
- **Want:** A lack or need for something.
- **Watered down:** Made less strong, effective, or important.
- **Welfare state:** A system where the government provides help such as healthcare and benefits to those in need.
- **Whilst:** Another word for "while"; used more in British English.
- **Winter fuel allowances:** Government payments to help pensioners pay heating bills in winter.
- **Xenophobia:** A fear or dislike of people from other countries.