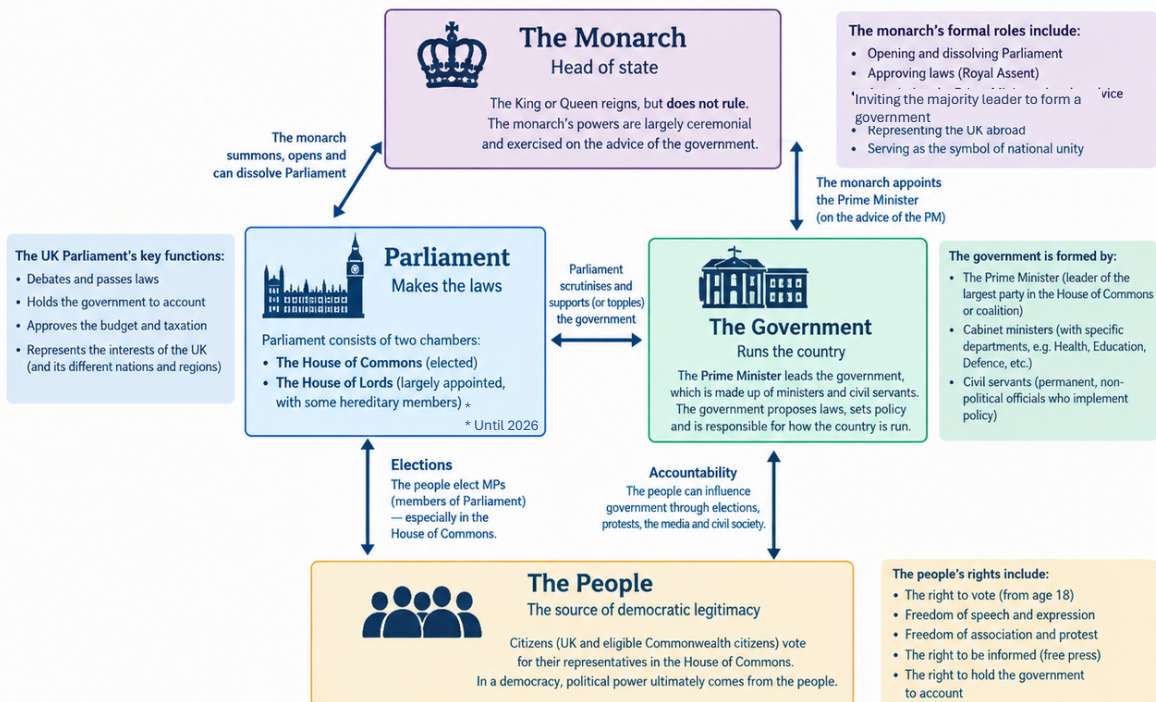


A dis-United Kingdom?

The UK: Monarchy and Democracy – How It Works

The United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary democracy.
The monarch is the head of state, but real political power lies with the elected Parliament and the government.



In summary

A constitutional monarchy
The monarch is the head of state, not the head of government.

Parliamentary democracy
The elected Parliament makes laws and controls the government.

The government
Led by the Prime Minister, implements policy and is accountable to Parliament.

The people
Elect their representatives and have the power to influence and hold the government to account.

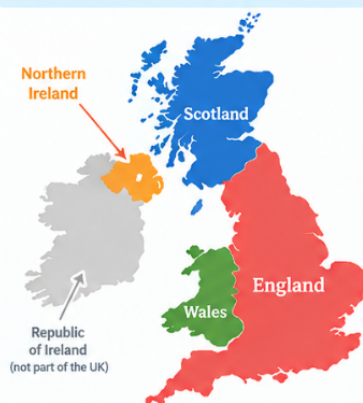
A unique balance
The UK's system relies on a balance between tradition (the monarchy) and modern democracy (Parliament and the people).

UK, Great Britain... what's the difference?

Same region, different meanings. Here's a simple map to clear it up.

The United Kingdom (UK)

A sovereign state made up of 4 countries.



- The United Kingdom (UK) is a sovereign state, meaning it has its own government, laws and international representation.
- It is made up of 4 countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- Capital: London (of the UK)
- Head of state: the King or Queen (of the UK)

Great Britain

The largest island, made up of 3 countries.



- Great Britain is the name for the island that includes England, Scotland and Wales.
- It **does not** include Northern Ireland, which is on a separate island (part of the UK).
- So: Great Britain = England + Scotland + Wales.

The United Kingdom vs Great Britain



United Kingdom (UK)

4 countries

England + Scotland + Wales + Northern Ireland

= a state (with a government, laws and international status)



Great Britain

3 countries

England + Scotland + Wales

= a geographical island (no Northern Ireland)



Ireland

2 countries

Republic of Ireland (independent, not part of the UK)

+ Northern Ireland (part of the UK)

Quick comparison



United Kingdom (UK)

- 4 countries
- a sovereign state
- includes Northern Ireland



Great Britain

- 3 countries
- a geographical island
- does not include Northern Ireland



Ireland (the island)

- 2 countries
- Republic of Ireland (independent)
- Northern Ireland (part of the UK)

DOCUMENT 1



QUESTIONS

- Consider the cartoon and guess the context.
- Watch the videos. PAIRWORK Write down key words and recap with your partner. WHO? WHERE? WHY?

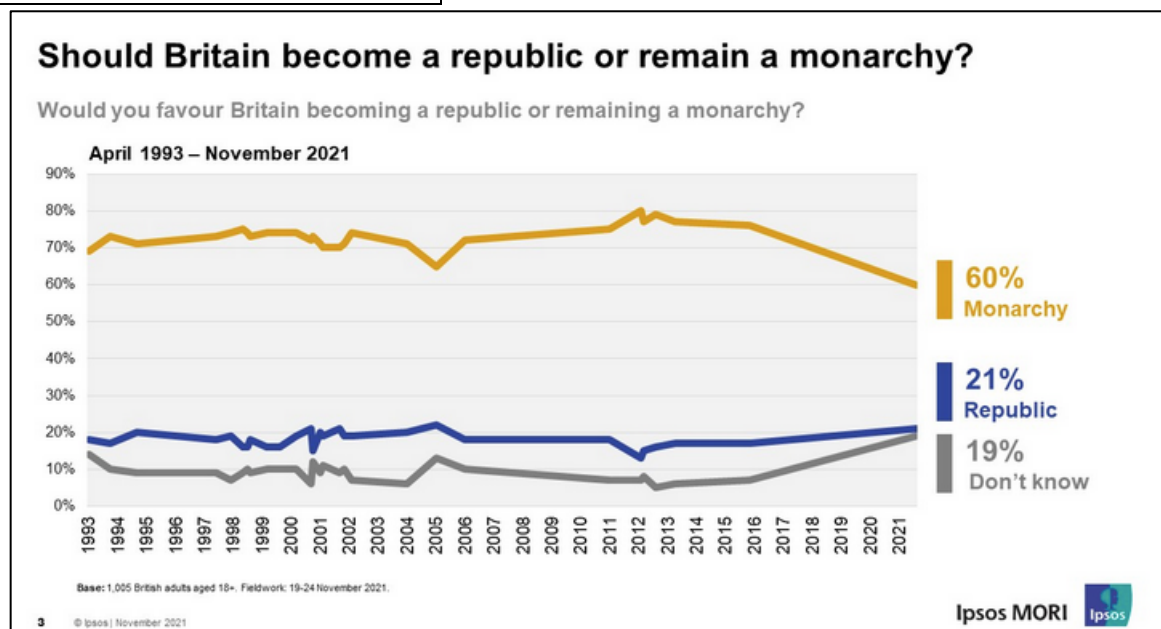


<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/video/2022/sep/13/not-my-king-the-anti-monarchy-protesters-being-threatened-with-arrest-video-report>

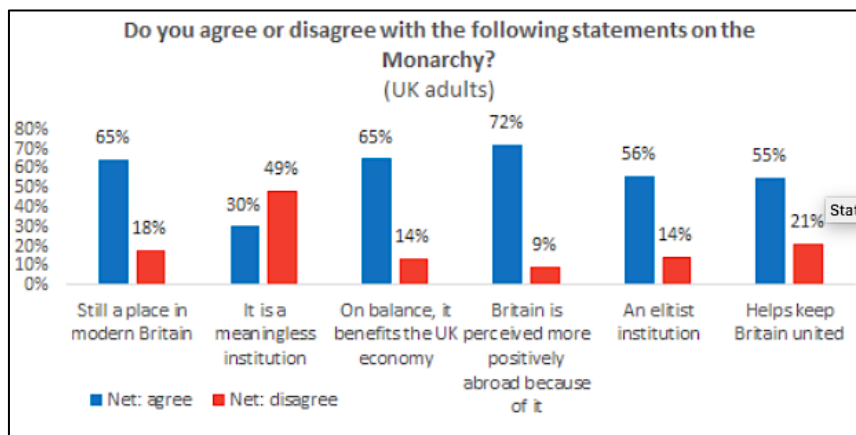


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dEwoAZkfWkM> SkyNews 8th May 2023

DOCUMENTS 2a 2b 2c 2d 2e

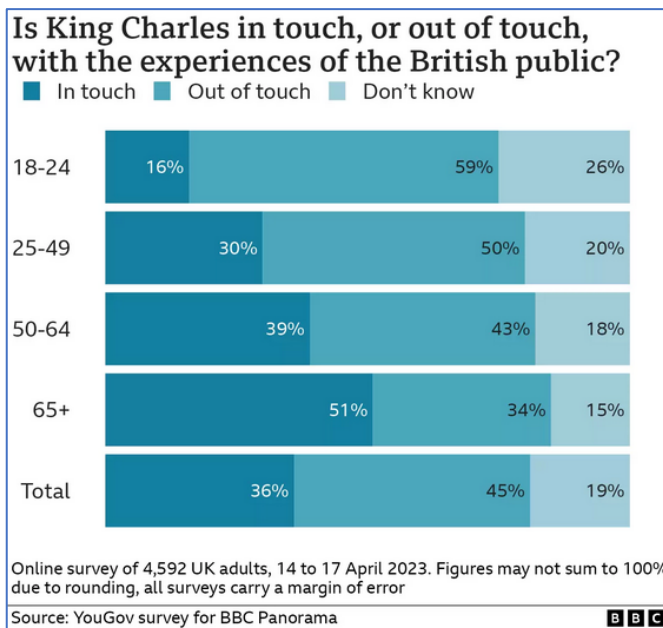


2a



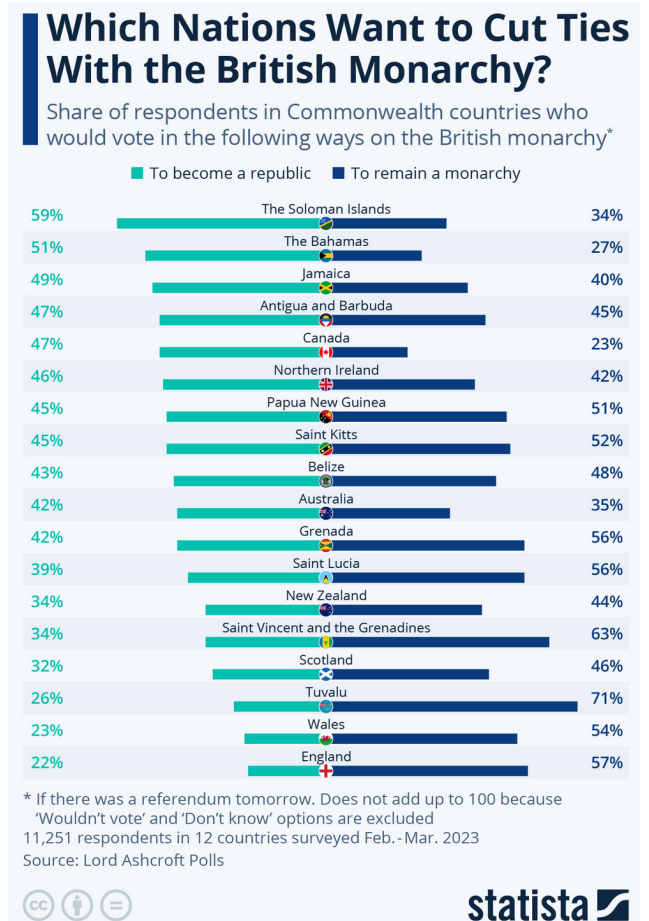
2b

<https://www.opinium.com/our-longest-reigning-monarch/>



2c

2d

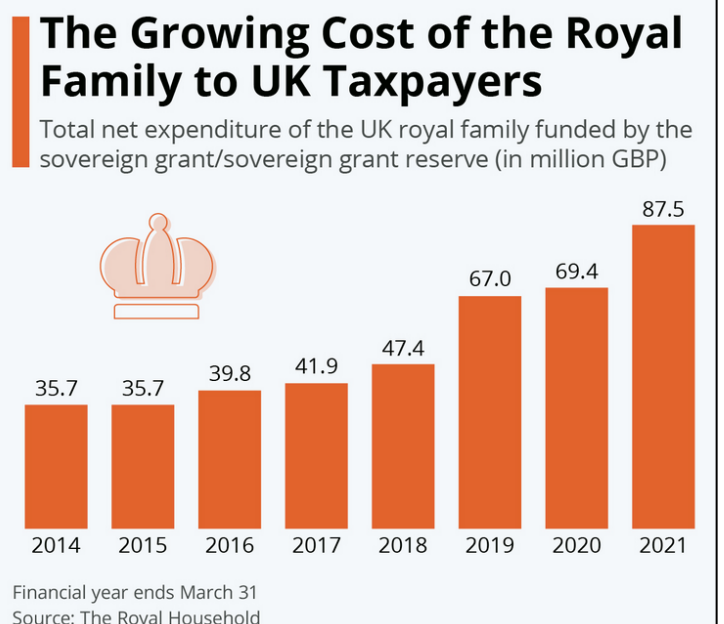


Statistics by YouGov for BBC Panorama April 2023

<https://www.statista.com/chart/30904/commonwealth-countries-who-would-vote-to-become-a-republic/>

2e

<https://www.statista.com/chart/18569/total-cost-of-the-uks-royal-family-by-year/>



QUESTIONS

PAIRWORK : choose two charts to study with your partner and comment

DOCUMENT 3 The House of Lords loses its last hereditary peers

NPR by the AP– March 11, 2026

LONDON — Centuries of British political tradition will end within weeks after Parliament voted to remove hereditary aristocrats from the unelected House of Lords.

On Tuesday night members of the upper chamber dropped objections to legislation passed by the House of Commons ousting dozens of dukes, earls and viscounts who inherited seats in Parliament along with their aristocratic titles. Government minister Nick Thomas-Symonds said the change put an end to "an archaic and undemocratic principle." "Our parliament should always be a place where talents are recognized and merit counts," he said. "It should never be a gallery of old boys' networks, nor a place where titles, many of which were handed out centuries ago, hold power over the will of the people."



The House of Lords plays an important role in Britain's parliamentary democracy, scrutinizing legislation passed by the elected House of Commons. But critics have long argued that it is unwieldy and undemocratic. The case of Peter Mandelson, who resigned from the Lords in February after revelations about his friendship with the late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, drew renewed attention to the upper chamber and the problem of lords behaving badly. The chamber currently has more than 800 members, making it the second-largest legislative chamber in the world after China's National People's Congress.

For most of its 700-year history, its membership was composed of noblemen — almost never women — who inherited their seats, alongside a smattering of bishops. In the 1950s, these were joined by "life peers" — retired politicians, civic leaders and other notables appointed by the government, who now make up the vast majority of the chamber. Roughly 1 in 10 members are currently hereditary peers.

In 1999, the Labour government of then-Prime Minister Tony Blair evicted most of the 750 hereditary peers, though 92 were allowed to remain temporarily to avoid an aristocrats' rebellion. It was another 25 years before Prime Minister Keir Starmer's current Labour government introduced legislation to oust the remaining "hereditaries." The lords put up a fight, forcing a compromise that will see an undisclosed number of hereditary members allowed to stay by being "recycled" into life peers.

The bill will become law once King Charles III grants royal assent — a formality — and the hereditary peers will leave at the end of the current session of Parliament this spring, completing a political process begun a quarter century ago. In Lords terms, that is speedy.

Labour remains committed to eventually replacing the House of Lords with an alternative second chamber that is "more representative of the U.K." If past experience is anything to go by, change will come slowly. "So, here we are at the end of well over seven centuries of service by hereditary peers in this Parliament," Nicholas True, the opposition Conservative Party leader in the Lords, told the chamber.

"Many thousands of peers served their nation here and thousands of improvements to law were made," he said. "It wasn't all a stereotypical history of reaction in ermine. Many of those people, no doubt, were flawed but for the most part, they served their nation faithfully and well."

QUESTIONS

- What exactly changed in the House of Lords in 2026, and what stayed exactly the same?
- Why might critics call this reform "only half a job"?
- DISCUSS: Compare the House of Lords with the French Sénat. Which upper chamber do you find more democratically legitimate, and why?

Translation challenge

- Say in English: *Le Royaume-Uni reste l'une des rares démocraties au monde à posséder une chambre haute entièrement non élue.*
- Find the sentence in the article that is close to your translation.

DOCUMENT 4 Burnham's Britain? Why the UK is set to get its seventh Prime

Minister in 10 years - By Toby Helm – TIME - June 27, 2026

It has become an all too familiar ritual in the United Kingdom. A somber Prime Minister emerges, delivers a list of achievements in office—some real, others less so—and then accepts the game is up. To applause from staff gathered on the pavement, and amid much emotion, the Prime Minister turns, waves, and heads back inside No. 10 to serve the remaining days of another failed U.K. premiership. It was Keir Starmer's turn to partake in this ritual on Monday. Just weeks after the Labour Party's poor performance in local polls, he announced his resignation, clearing the way for Britain to get its seventh Prime Minister in 10 years.

Starmer, a stellar lawyer before entering politics in 2015, failed to inspire or articulate a convincing plan to revive a country held back by creaking, unreformed public infrastructure and an unproductive economy. Despite convincingly winning the country's last general election, his resignation, announced 10 years to the week after Britain's Brexit vote, opens the way for Andy Burnham, the newly sworn-in Member of Parliament (MP) for Makerfield, to become the new Prime Minister. Outsiders might justifiably wonder what's going on: Burnham has only won a local poll, yet because of the quirks of the British parliamentary system, he is overwhelmingly likely to inherit the country's top job.

All of which raises a critical question: If Burnham does succeed in becoming the next Prime Minister, how long can he realistically last, given that he will confront the same deep-seated economic and structural problems as his predecessors? Robert Peston, ITV News' political editor, suggested Monday evening that the omens were not good. "We are now one of those ridiculous countries which are incapable of delivering stable government," he said.

So how did Britain's political system come to be so fractured? (...)

Starmer's fall, though he had endured for almost two years in Downing Street, was arguably the heaviest descent from the greatest heights. He had led the Labour Party to a record general election landslide victory as recently as July 2024, but simply never had a plan.

Anthony Seldon, a political historian of recent times, who has charted the careers of every U.K. Prime Minister since Major, lists a string of reasons why so many have failed. He says too often the choices were either too young or too inexperienced, or both. As a result, if and when they reached No. 10, they turned out to struggle with the job. (...) There is also the added disruption of the social media discourse, Seldon says, noting how it creates intense pressures for instant solutions that are counterproductive.

Hannah White, CEO of the Institute for Government, says: "U.K. Prime Ministers have an ever-diminishing window to deliver perceptible change before the public and fellow MPs lose confidence and begin to contemplate changing them for a more promising candidate."

Politicians and commentators cite a particular structural problem in British politics that builds in instability for leaders and Prime Ministers. This results from the way the Conservative and Labour parties outsource the final choice of their political leaders these days to party memberships, who do not always choose wisely. Nor do they often select the leader their MPs want.

John Stevenson, a Conservative MP until the last general election, tells TIME: "Tory MPs have no buy-in to the choice of leader, which is the decision of members. So the problem occurs in parliament." As for Starmer, the pressure for change from within the Parliamentary Labour Party was the main reason he essentially had no option but to go.

Andrew Haldenby, managing director of the Effective Governance Forum, a cross-party Westminster campaign for better government in the U.K., says Prime Ministers are way more vulnerable than U.S. Presidents. "British Prime Ministers don't sit for a fixed term of four years. They sit as long as they command the confidence of the Members of Parliament in their party," he explains. "If those MPs suspect that they will lose their seats in parliament because the Prime Minister is not good enough, then the pressure for change can become irresistible."

QUESTIONS

- Explain, in your own words, why the UK was able to change prime minister in July 2026 without holding a general election.
- What does the phrase "seventh prime minister in ten years" suggest about the state of British politics since the Brexit referendum? Set a timeline of PMs for the last decade.
- DISCUSS: Is it undemocratic for a country to change its head of government without a nationwide vote? Compare briefly with how the French Fifth Republic or the US democracy work.

DOCUMENT 5 **Pomp and protest for
Trump's unprecedented second UK state
visit** Lauren Frayer – *NPR* – Sept 17th 2025



President Trump and first lady Melania Trump visited the royal family at Windsor Castle on Wednesday for a state visit the British government is using to try to bolster the trade and security relationship between the two countries.

- 5 Trump and King Charles capped off the day with toasts at an opulent state banquet with 160 guests. Earlier, Prince William and Princess Catherine greeted the president and first lady, joining them on a procession around the Windsor Castle grounds featuring dozens of horses and gilded carriages.

10 The spectacle came ahead of a day to be spent handling policy matters, but the two parts of the trip go hand in hand as the British government leverages Trump's admiration for the monarchy as it tries to influence him on policy around topics including trade and Ukraine.

Earlier this year, when Trump met with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer in Scotland, he called King Charles "a great guy — a great person" and said he looked forward to the state visit. "I hate to say, but nobody does it like you people in terms of the pomp and ceremony," Trump said.

15 The king gave Trump the Union flag that flew above Buckingham Palace on the day of Trump's second inauguration. Trump gave the king a replica of a President Eisenhower sword, harkening to the U.S.-U.K. partnership during World War II.

20 The royals toured the Trumps through a special display of historical items from the Royal Collection, including a 1774 letter from King George III about the rebellion in the American colonies, and an 1862 letter from President Abraham Lincoln to Queen Victoria after the death of her husband, Prince Albert.

In speeches at the state banquet Wednesday night, the king emphasized the long partnership between the two nations.

25 "I cannot help but wonder what our forebears from 1776 would make of this friendship today," he said. "We celebrate a relationship between our two countries that surely neither Washington nor King George III could possibly have imagined. The ocean may still divide us, but in so many other ways we are now the closest of kin."

Trump also addressed the two countries' closeness but also spoke at length about his admiration for the royal family, adding that he considered the visit "truly one of the highest honors of my life."

30 He also slipped into a more familiar register for part of the speech, implying that he had saved the United States after the Biden era. "We had a very sick country one year ago and today, I believe we're the hottest country anywhere in the world. In fact, nobody's even questioning it, but we owe so much of that to you and the footing that you gave us when we started."

35 On Thursday, Trump is slated to head to Chequers, the prime minister's country residence, to meet with Starmer. They are expected to sign what the countries are calling a Tech Prosperity Deal. The U.K. government announced that several U.S.-based tech companies, including NVIDIA, Microsoft and Google, will be investing more than \$40 billion in the U.K.

The leaders are expected to talk about Russia-Ukraine policy. There has been no movement on a peace deal since Starmer and other European leaders visited the White House earlier this year to

40 pressure Trump to assist Ukraine more. In recent days, Trump has said that it's up to NATO allies to first stop buying Russian oil.

Not everyone is giving Trump a warm welcome. Protests began even before Trump arrived in the U.K. and polls show more than 60% of Britons have an unfavorable view of Trump. Earlier this week, on the lawn outside Windsor Castle, protesters unfurled a giant photo of Trump and the late Jeffrey Epstein, the financier and sex offender. Four people were arrested after videos of Trump and
45 Epstein were projected onto the outer walls of Windsor Castle. Demonstrators were also expected to march in Windsor and London.

Lynn Iliffe, a retired National Health Service worker, drove to Windsor from the English Midlands with a big protest sign in the blue and yellow colors of the Ukrainian flag. "I've never been to a demonstration in my life before, but I felt so strongly that I felt I needed to come down and show my
50 dislike for Mr. Trump," Iliffe told NPR, describing how she felt during Trump's contentious meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in the Oval Office earlier this year. "I just feel really angry about so many of the things he does — his lies, his craze for power, and the way he's treated everybody really around the world," she said.

But Alana Burnett, a college student from Windsor, donned a red MAGA ballcap, telling NPR she
55 supported Trump's tough immigration policies. "I just think he's such a great man, I like his policies and views on things, and I think our country could take a few notes from him, really," Burnett said.

QUESTIONS

- a. PREPARE: Why was the upcoming US state visit seen as diplomatically difficult for the King?
- 60 b. What evidence is presented in the article to suggest that the King may have successfully defused tensions over Trump's relations towards the UK?
- c. What role did the Royal Family embody there?

65 **DOCUMENT 6** Jamaica takes its case for reparations for Britain's role in slavery to King Charles III September 07, 2026 - By The Associated Press - CP24

Jamaica is taking its campaign for Britain to pay reparations for the ravages of the trans-Atlantic slave trade to King Charles III. Using legal traditions that stretch back to the early days of the British Empire, Jamaica petitioned the king on Monday to refer a series of questions about slavery, and the U.K.'s responsibility to pay
70 damages, to a committee of the Privy Council, which serves as the highest court for former colonies that retain ties to the British legal system.

While the petition is formally addressed to the king, Charles has no personal say on whether it will be referred to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and he will act on the advice of the government.

The filing was timed to coincide with the anniversary of the day in 1781 when the Liverpool-registered ship Zong set sail from West Africa with 442 enslaved Africans on board. When water supplies ran low on the way
75 to Jamaica, the crew decided to throw 132 men, women and children overboard, calculating that it would be more profitable to file an insurance claim for the lost "property" than to sell their weakened and dehydrated captives for a reduced price.

Publicity about the Zong massacre helped fuel the campaign to end slavery in the British Empire. Britain
80 abolished the slave trade in 1807, but it wasn't until Aug. 1, 1834, that the enslavement of human beings was outlawed. "In relation to the wrongs that were done, we want answers," Jamaican Culture Minister Olivia Grange told The Associated Press on Sunday before a church service in south London, the first in a series of events

scheduled around the filing. “Once we get those answers, then our attorneys, our lawyers, will determine what the next move is,” she added.

85 Jamaica is a leader of the effort to get Britain and other European nations to apologize for their role in the trans-Atlantic slave trade and pay reparations, both for the enslavement of individuals and for the continuing impact on their descendants around the world. Jamaica said the Caribbean Community, which includes 23 states from the Bahamas to Guyana, endorsed the petition.

90 Although he has stopped short of endorsing reparations, the king has repeatedly expressed his personal commitment to addressing the historic wrongs of slavery. In a 2024 speech to leaders of the Commonwealth, the voluntary association of countries that succeeded the British Empire, Charles said that the “most painful aspects of our past continue to resonate.” “None of us can change the past,” he added. “But we can commit, with all our hearts, to learning its lessons and to finding creative ways to right inequalities that endure.”

95 Buckingham Palace said Monday that it has been working closely with the governor-general of Jamaica, the king’s representative on the island who is appointed on the advice of the Jamaican government, to ensure the petition is “properly lodged.” While acknowledging that slavery was “abhorrent,” the British government has so far rejected demands for either an apology or reparations.

100 When the United Nations General Assembly in March passed a resolution endorsing reparations as a “concrete step” toward addressing the wrongs of slavery, the U.K. abstained. That was partly because the U.K. believes in the internationally recognized legal concept that the law governing any event is the law of the relevant time, British representative James Kariuki told the U.N. “There is equally no duty to provide reparation for historical acts that were not, at the time those acts were committed, violations of international law,” he said.

Jamaica’s petition is an effort to expand the political campaign for reparations into the legal realm, Grange said.

105 The petition asks the Judicial Committee to rule on three questions:
-- Was the forced transport of African people to Jamaica and their subsequent enslavement illegal because it was contrary to English common law?
-- Were the forced transport and enslavement of African people crimes against humanity for which the U.K. bears responsibility?
110 -- Does the U.K. have an obligation to “provide a remedy” to the people of Jamaica for the forced transport and enslavement of their ancestors?

Craig Prescott, an expert on constitutional law and the monarchy at Royal Holloway, University of London, said the move was “quite clever” because it seeks to use an obscure constitutional procedure to address one of the biggest issues in Jamaican society.

115 The right of British people to petition the crown with grievances about the administration of justice stretches back to the Norman conquest of England in 1066, when the king was considered the “fountain of justice throughout his Dominions,” the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council says on its website.

120 Jamaica’s petition is based on an 1833 law that made the committee the highest court for civil and criminal appeals in the British Empire. When the Empire became the Commonwealth of independent nations after World War II, the committee retained that role for the countries that maintain their legal ties to the U.K.

Prescott expects the petition to be referred to the Judicial Committee, where a panel of U.K. Supreme Court justices will review it and make a ruling.

But, he said, the justices are usually very cautious about granting such petitions because they sidestep standard legal procedures.

125 “I think, at the very least, the board will look at this with a skeptical eye, not because of questions of whether slavery is wrong or right or otherwise, but just this is a very peculiar legal procedure that is sort of just one on the statute books that rears its head from time to time.”



But rejection of the petition could still be a win for Jamaica.

Prime Minister Andrew Holness has announced plans to sever ties with the British crown and transform his country into a republic.

“It does raise the question of why have a head of state who really does not share the positions that are widely held in Jamaica,” Prescott said. “If those residual links (to Britain) don’t deliver an answer that is what they’re looking for in Jamaica, then you might be looking at severing those links.”

QUESTIONS

- What is the main issue raised in the text? Who is concerned?
- Consider the cartoon and the information given in the article. Draw conclusions.
- DISCUSS:** What can British institutions do to face their controversial ties to the slave trade?

Translation challenge

- Say in English: *Aucune excuse formelle n’a encore été présentée pour l’implication majeure de la Grande-Bretagne dans la traite des esclaves.*
- Find the sentence in the article that is a rephrasing of your translation.

MINES-PONTS : “King Charles should apologize”. Discuss (180 words, ±10%) Illustrate your answer with relevant examples.

DOCUMENT 7 The SNP may have won again but Scottish politics has been upended

Libby Brooks and Severin Carrell Sat 9 May 2026 The Guardian

Long before the final votes were counted in Scotland, veteran Labour politicians said it was a defeat made in Downing Street. When the Scottish Labour leader, Anas Sarwar, strode into the Glasgow count arena on Friday afternoon flanked by sombre-faced activists, the scene was a mirror image to the same venue in 2024, when his resurgent party won 36 seats from the Scottish National party, playing a significant part in Keir Starmer’s landslide victory.

Two years later, Starmer’s unpopularity proved an insurmountable obstacle for Sarwar, despite record donations to Scottish Labour and a formidable electoral machine, honed over the past five years. And with only a handful of constituencies declared, he decided to concede defeat before the real scale of Labour losses across the country was known.

More than 12 hours later, when the final regional results were declared after 1am, it was clear that Holyrood politics had been upended. Scottish Labour had tied in second place behind the SNP with Reform UK, the party that previously attacked Sarwar’s loyalty to Scotland in a racist ad. And a party that the SNP leader, John Swinney, has described as an acute threat to devolution.

While, unlike Westminster, Holyrood has no “official” opposition, the second-placed party leads first minister’s questions every week. A tie has not happened before, but the assumption is that Scottish Labour and Reform UK will take turns.

The newly elected SNP MSP Ivan McKee thanked voters in his Glasgow constituency “for rejecting those that seek to divide our communities”, but despite making fewer inroads than some polls had predicted, Reform picked up 17 seats on the regional list allocations. It failed, however, to make any breakthroughs on the constituency vote, with its Scottish leader, Malcolm Offord, trailing in third place in his native Inverclyde.

In fourth place, the buoyant Scottish Greens secured what its co-leader Gillian Mackay described as a “seismic” result, gaining MSPs in every area of the country. Thanks to a successful strategy of standing candidates in only a few potentially winnable constituencies and funnelling support on to the regional list vote, they harnessed a Green surge that was the result not just of the Zack Polanski bounce south of the border, but progressive dissatisfaction with both Scottish Labour and the SNP, especially over the war in Gaza.

For the SNP, it was a muted victory, its support plunging across the country to result in its lowest constituency vote share, at 38.3%, since 2007, and much slimmer majorities for incumbents. There were losses to the Liberal Democrats, and a surprise defeat by Labour in Na h-Eileanan an Iar (the Western Isles), against the background of local fury at Scottish government failures to deal with an ongoing ferries crisis.

While voter anger at the SNP government’s public service failures was evident on the campaign trail, at the ballot box it benefited from the fracturing of the pro-union vote.

Craig Hoy, the Scottish Conservatives chair, who held the seat of Dumfriesshire – one of three southern seats the party won despite dire polling – said Reform had allowed the SNP to win many of its constituency seats by splitting the anti-independence vote.

The result is a Holyrood chamber with a very different character. At the helm of Reform is Offord, a billionaire financier and former Tory peer with no experience of leading a party in parliament, whose MSPs, as second-place tie, will take key roles in Holyrood committees. These MSPs include Senga Beresford, who has stated support for Tommy Robinson and the deportation of Muslims, and Amanda Lindsay, who was accused of using an antisemitic trope, which the party later denied.

The new Scottish Greens groups includes Iris Duane, the parliament’s first trans woman member, Q Manivannan, a non-binary Tamil immigrant, and Kate Nevins, who was berated as “dangerously naive” by opponents when she called for the abolition of prisons.

One-third of SNP MSPs stood down at the end of the last term, including trusted veterans and women sick of juggling political commitments and family responsibilities, but today saw their new cohort boosted by experienced players from Westminster, including the current Commons leader Stephen Flynn, who is known to have leadership aspirations, as well as respected figures such as Alison Thewliss, Kirsten Oswald and Stephen Gethins.

This had been the most unpredictable Scottish election for more than a decade, with a record number of undecided voters, and one defined by public apathy and frustration. No party put forward the big ideas needed to fix Scotland’s most pressing problems, be that its looming budget black hole or the depopulation crisis. This was reflected in a turnout of 53.1%, 10 points down on 2021, and surely demanding every new MSP’s attention on how to re-engage half the Scottish public.

QUESTIONS

- What does the 2026 Holyrood election result tell us about the state of Scottish party politics?
- In what way can this election be described as another episode in the UK's story of “disunity”?
- DISCUSS: Should Westminster ultimately decide whether Scotland gets to hold a second independence referendum, or should that be for the Scottish Parliament alone?

Translation challenge

- Say in English: *Même sans majorité absolue, le SNP reste, pour la cinquième fois consécutive, le parti arrivé en tête des élections écossaises.*
- Find the sentence in the article that is closest to your translation.

DOCUMENT 8 Bresignation: British people are ready to turn a page on the EU referendum vote - Adapted from *The Conversation*, November 19th, 2024

Much is made of the alleged state of Bregret – the idea that even those who voted for Brexit now regret their decision. It is true that a majority (54%) now think Britain was wrong to vote to leave the EU. According to a YouGov poll, 62% of people think Brexit has been more of a failure than a success. We even know that 18% of leave voters would now vote remain if they could have another go at the 2016 referendum.

But conjuring up the past is a logical impossibility. A “rejoin” option would not be the same as the “remain” option. The European Union would have understandable hesitations about readmitting the UK without greater commitments than in the past – and might, for example, expect the UK to join the euro.

When studying attitudes towards rejoining the EU, it quickly becomes apparent that voters see this clearly.

The feeling of having made one’s bed and now having to lie in it is quite widespread.

When polled about a potential referendum on rejoining the EU, only 48% of the UK public solidly supported it.

Both leavers and remainers are in an impossible bind. They recognise that the process of leaving the EU was very far from the pipe dream sold by the Leave campaign but neither can do anything about it.

For leavers, the idea that Brexit was a mistake triggers discomfort. They are in what behavioural scientists call a state of cognitive dissonance. When we cannot change a past action, we often decide to change how we see and interpret new evidence about that action in order to avoid the cognitive inconsistency and the psychological discomfort of being wrong about it. For leavers, this means joining the 47% who think that Brexit is not done, or the nearly 30% who think it could have been a success if the UK had better politicians and negotiators.

To overcome this state of “bresignation” and truly trigger a reset in UK-EU relations, the UK government first needs to gather information on how the current arrangement - the Trade and Cooperation Agreement - is going, and to communicate this evidence in a unifying way.

Public opinion is still very much in favour of retaining control over UK regulations and trade deals. But there is significant support for a closer relationship with the EU and for the removal of most – if not all – trade barriers on goods and services. There is, therefore, scope to sell regulatory alignment by focusing on its flexible, conditional nature and on the perks of easing trade with the world’s largest trading block. People are also less fussed about conditional freedom of movement than the government thinks. They favour flexible immigration quotas to dynamically deal with sectoral shortages, such as in the NHS, or for high-skilled talent.

A reset is in the realms of possibility, therefore. But the UK government first needs to break us free from the state of bresignation.

QUESTIONS - Recap Brexit key dates. Answer in your own words, then discuss with your partner.

- According to recent polls mentioned in the article, how do most Britons now view Brexit, and how many Leave voters say they would vote Remain if the referendum were held again?
- Why is a “rejoin” option not seen as equivalent to the original “remain” vote, and what might the EU expect from the UK if it wanted to rejoin?
- What is meant by the term “bresignation”, and what steps does the article suggest the UK government should take to move past this state and reset relations with the EU?

Translation challenge - Find the equivalent in French in the article to :

an impossible bind (line 14) a pipe dream (line 15) to make your bed and lie in it (line 11)
there is scope (line 28) the perks (line 29)

MINES-PONTS 1. According to the journalist, why are British people resigned over Brexit? (80 words, ±10%). Answer the question in your own words.

2. In your opinion, is freedom of movement an essential element of European agreements? (180 words, ±10%) Illustrate your answer with relevant examples.

French	English	French	English
Chap3 Politics and Citizenship		une scission	a split/a rift
un gouvernement	a government	Un homme politique	a politician [p]
un homme d'état	a statesman [ei]	Un représentant du parti	a party official [a]
un chef d'état	a head of state [ei]	un programme	a platform
un dirigeant	a leader [i:]	l'adhésion	membership
un citoyen	a citizen	le militantisme	Θ activism [izəm]
un ressortissant	a national [ʔ]	un congrès du parti	a party conference
un Etat-nation	a nation-state [ei] - [ei]	fonder	(to) found
diriger un pays	(to) rule/lead [i:] / /govern...	une tendance	a political leaning [a]
en place, au pouvoir	in power [au]	la gauche/droite	the left/right wing
la démocratie	representative democracy [i]	(désap)probation	(dis)approval [s][ai]
représentative			
démocratie populaire	a people's democracy [i]	une pomme de discorde	a bone of contention [a] [chan]
légitimité	Legitimacy [z]	le jusqu'au-boutisme	A hard-line approach [ai] [a]
fraternité	fraternity/brotherhood [a] [E]	un volte-face	a turnaround/a U-turn
un souverain	a sovereign [cʰcopʔ]/[ln]	préconiser	(to) advocate [a]
un couronnement/sacre	a coronation [cʰcopʔ] [ei] [chan]	Ceux qui soutiennent	(the) advocates of ...
abdication	abdication [chan]	Inciter (qqn à V)	(to) urge (sb to V) [Erdʒ]
destitution	deposition [chan] (att° destitution = gde misère /dénuement) dc faux-ami	prendre parti pour	(to) take sides with [ai/z]
succéder à qqn	(to) succeed sb [a] [i: d]	se plaindre	(to) complain [a] [ei]
de droit divin	by divine [i] [ai] right	faire marche-arrière	(to) back-pedal
impératrice	Empress	remettre en question	(to) call into question
un cheik	a sheik [èk]	appeler aux urnes	(to) call an election [chan]
la lutte des classes	class struggle	un rival	an opponent [a]
conservateur	Conservative [a]	la cote de popularité	popularity rating [o] [ei]
travailleiste	Labour [ei]	se pster à des élec°	(to) run for office [o]
de gauche	left-wing	faire cpagne	(to) campaign [ei]
de droite	right-wing	prendre un bain de foule	(to) press the flesh

le parti au pouvoir	the ruling [u:] party	courtiser les électeurs	(to) woo [u:] voters
une dictature	a dictatorship [ei] [a]	un abstentionniste	a stay-away voter
un coup d'Etat	a coup [p] (silent 'p')	un vote par procura°	a proxy [o] vote
une liste électorale	an electoral roll	1 ^{er} /2 ^e tour	first/second ballot
un vote blanc	a blank vote [av]	l'ordre du jour	The [i:] agenda [a] [di]
un isoiloir	a voting [av] booth	un parlementaire (uk)	a Member of Parliament
la participation	the turnout	un porte-parole	a spokesman/woman
Abstention	Abstention [a] [chan]	une controverse	a controversy (2 ^e syll pour uk)
une victoire	a landslide victory [ai] [a]	une q° a débattre	an issue [ch]
écrasante		une patrie	a homeland
Soudoyer	(to) bribe [ai]		
arriver au pouvoir	(to) come into power [E] [av]		
les vacances parlementaires	Recess [i][s]	l'Occident	the West
La Ch des communes	the House of Commons [o]	l'Orient	the East [i:]
la Ch des lords	the House of Lords	le Moyen-Orient	the Middle-East [i:]
le ministre de la justice (uk)	the Lord Chancellor	l'Extrême-Orient	the Far East [i:]
le ministre des finances (uk)	the Chancellor of the Exchequer	les pays dypés	the developed [t]
le min des affaires étrangères (uk)	the Foreign Secretary [foʀn] [a]	les pays en dvyt	the developing countries [E]
le min de l'intérieur (uk)	the Home Secretary [a]	le Tiers-Monde	the Third World
un maire	a mayor [ei] [a]	un hymne national	a national [ʔ] anthem [s] Cyprus [ai] [as]
la mairie	the city/town hall	Chypre	
un remaniement	a reshuffle [E]	un hymne national	a national [ʔ] anthem [ai] [as]
un gpe de pression	a lobby	Le Danemark / la Norvège / la Suisse	Denmark / Norway / Switzerland
TVA	a tax haven [ei]	un britannique	a Briton / a Brit
un paradis fiscal	a tax haven [ei]	hollandais	Dutch
La sortie de l'UE par le RU	Θ Brexit (=British exit) [gz] or [x]	Pologne	Poland [paw]
A la suite de	In the wake [ei] of / in the aftermath of (idée de csq)	un Polonais	a Pole [paw]
Un référendum sur le maintien de l'adhésion	An in-or-out referendum [è][a]	un Espagnol/ un Allemand	a Spaniard/ a German
Sortir de l'UE	(to) leave [i:] / exit the EU	Un français	A Frenchman
Couper les liens avec l'UE	(to) cut ties [aiz] with the EU	le tx de natalité/mortalité	the birth/death rate [ei]
Se retirer de l'UE (le retrait)/ quitter l'UE	(to) withdraw from (the withdrawal) / leave [i:] the EU	Un habitant	An inhabitant
Déclencher le processus du Brexit	(to) trigger the Brexit process	Perfidious [fəs] Albion	surnom de la GB
Une réaction en chaîne	A chain reaction [chan] [ei]	Uncle Sam	personnifica° des EUnis
Différer le Brexit	(to) postpone [av] [av] /	The Celtic Tiger	= (nickname of the Rep of Ireland)

	(to) delay Brexit		
Les conséquences du Brexit	The Brexit fallout [aʊt] (the fallout of/ from Brexit)	The Four Dragons	= Taiwan, South Korea, Hong kong + Singapore
Tirer profit de	(to) take [ə] <u>advantage</u> of	marque de fabrique	<u>trade</u> [ei] mark
Un moyen pour atteindre une fin	A means to an <u>end</u> [z]	s'efforcer de	(To) strive [ai] to V
La politique étrangère	Ø <u>foreign policy</u> [fɔrn]	en conflit permanent	at loggerheads
L'Europe	Ø-Europe Eu=[you]	L'UE	THE [i:] EU
Les anti-Européens/EU	(The) Euroskeptics/sceptics – Europhobes/ Little Englanders / Brexit(e)rs Eu=[you]	s'efforcer de	(to) strive to V [ai]
Les pro-Européens / ceux qui voulaient rester ds l'UE (remain)	<u>Europhiles</u> [=you][ai] / Remainers	un député européen	a Euro [=you] MP
L'union fait la force (vs : les divisions causent notre chute)	Union makes strength / we are stronger together/ vs divided we fall	le SME (syst monétaire européen)	The [i:] EMS
Un Etat composé de 4 nations	A four- <u>nation</u> <u>state</u> [ei]	la BCE	the [i:] ECB
N'être pas prêt de V	(to) be <u>nowhere</u> near <u>ready</u> to V	la PAC	the CAP
Etre historique	(to) make history [e]	régner en maître/décider	(to) call the shots
Avoir d'importantes csqs/ considérables	(to) have <u>far-reaching</u> [i:] csqs	décroître	(to) wane [ei]
Déclencher des peurs de contagion	(to) spark fears of <u>contagion</u> [ə][ei][dʒən]	Les électeurs sont partagés	<u>Voters</u> are split
N'être qu'un rêve	(to) be a <u>pipe</u> [ai] dream [i:]	L'Européen réticent, à reculs	The reluctant European (the UK)
Etre un coup rude pour	(to) be a severe blow to [i] [i]	Exiger	(to) demand (attention faux-ami)
Qqch qui change la donne	A game-changer [ei] [ei]	Séparation	<u>Break-up</u>
Ne va pas sans poser pb	Is <u>not</u> without <u>problems</u> [o]	La composition de	The <u>makeup</u> of
jouer son joker	(to) opt out	Une situation gagnant-gagnant	A win-win <u>situation</u> [chan]
adopter une politique attentiste	(to) sit on the fence	Le statu quo	The status quo [ei]
Influence	Clout [klaʊt]	Faire partie de	(to) be part of
le pouvoir de	the power of/ the <u>might</u> of [aʊ]	L'héritage (sens figé)	The <u>legacy</u> [ə]
Voisin	<u>neighbo</u> (u)r [ei] [ə]	A l'étranger	<u>Abroad</u> [ə]
(re)négociation	(re) <u>negotiation</u> [i] [ei] [chan]	Etre/rester sur la ligne de touche	(to) be/stand on the <u>sidelines</u> [ai] [ai]
Un accord	An <u>agreement</u> [ə] [i:] / a <u>settlement</u>	Au dernier moment	At the [i] <u>eleventh</u> hour
Les 27 (de l'UE)	The [i:] EU 27	Décentralisation (du pvr)	Devolution [chan]

Etre mieux ds l'UE	(to) be <u>better off</u> in the [i:] EU	Etre mieux hors de l'UE	(to) be Better off out of the EU
Sauter dans l'inconnu	(to) step into the unknown	Les négociations du Brexit	<u>Brexit talks/negotiations</u> [chanz]
Faire l'autruche	(to) keep [i:] one's head [e] in the sand/ (to) be in denial	Un Brexit sans accord (avec l'UE)	A <u>no-deal</u> Brexit
Courir à la catastrophe	(to) be on course for disaster	Une victoire impéorative	A must-win
Avoir le beurre et l'argent du beurre	(to) have the <u>cake</u> and <u>eat</u> it I	Le temps presse	The <u>clock</u> is <u>ticking</u> [o]
un compromis	a compromise/ a trade-off	Une union douanière	A customs union
La supervision de Bruxelles	<u>Oversight</u> from Brussels [əʊ] [E]	Une date butoir	A <u>deadline</u>
Reprendre contrôle des frontières	(to) take back control of borders	Tourner le dos à l'UE	(to) turn its back on the [i:] EU
Prendre une décision	(to) make a <u>decision</u> [ʒən]	La libre circulation des biens et personnes	Free movement of goods and people
Suffisant	Enough/ <u>sufficient</u> [E/ch]/ <u>adequate</u>	la croissance démographique	population growth [o] [chan]
Bruxelles	<u>Brussels</u> [E]	consensuel	Consensual [ə] [chai]
Mener les électeurs en bateau	(to) gaslight voters	expatriés	Expats
Faire passer un accord de force	(to) force through a deal	démisionner	(to) resign/ (to) quit/ (to) step down
Une recession imminente, qui s'annonce	a <u>looming</u> recession	Un vide au niveau du pouvoir	a power vacuum
De sombres perspectives	a grim outlook	Direction, qualités de dirigeants	Ø leadership
En cette période sans précédent	<u>During/in these</u> unprecedented times	La crise de l'énergie / la hausse des prix de l'énergie	The energy crisis/ surging energy prices / the rise in energy prices
Laisser qqch/ qqn en suspens/ dans les limbes/ dans l'incertitude	<u>Leave sth/sb in limbo</u>	Dans les coulisses	Behind the scenes
La GB a bien des problèmes	Britain faces its fair share of problems	La chute de/ causer la chute, la perte de ...	The downfall of/ (to) be the downfall of
Héritier d'un pays en crise / ruine	(to) inherit ef a country in crisis / in shambles	pénuries	Shortages
Une trahison / trahir	a betrayal / (to) betray	Une confrontation / une épreuve de force	a showdown
Routeurs	Lorry (uk) drivers / truck (us) drivers	Une mise à l'épreuve	a litmus test
Pêcheurs / l'industrie de la pêche	Fishermen / the fishing industry	Une bataille perdue d'avance / une cause perdue	a losing battle
Remettre le pays sur les rails	(to) get the country back on course / on track	Une bataille ardue / une lutte difficile	An uphill battle

Le Royaume dés-Uni	The dis-United Kingdom	Demandeurs d'asile	asylum-seekers [e-saĩ-lem][i :]
Le Royaume désenchanté	The disenchanted Kingdom	migrants	migrants [aĩ]
Déclencher-provoquer de la violence / la polémique / des manifestations	(to) spark violence / spark controversy / spark demonstrations	Une attaque	an attack [e]
L'extrême droite	The far right	Une attaque au couteau / poignarder quelqu'un	a stabbing / (to) stab someone
Des manifestations de l'extrême droite	far-right demonstrations	L'escalade dans un conflit	The escalation in a conflict
Des émeutes	riots [ra-ĩets]	Un crime de haine	a hate [ei] crime [aĩ]
Des heurts avec la police	clashes [iz] with the Police	L'islamophobie	Ø islamophobia
Des grèves	strikes [aĩ]	Une bombe à retardement (au sens littéral ou figuré)	a ticking time bomb
Des coupures de courant	Blackouts	Un bouc-émissaire	a scapegoat [ei]
Le mécontentement	Ø discontent	Eclater (violence)	(to) break [ei] out -> violence broke out in Southport...
Rejeter/ mettre la faute sur qqn pour ...	(to) put the blame on ... for [ei]	Accuser qqn de	(to) [e] accuse sb of Ving / (to) blame [ei] sb for Ving
Des moments difficiles / compliqués	challenging times	Relever des défis	(to) take up challenges [ei] taik-ep
Le bilan du Premier Ministre / d'un homme politique	The PM's record / A politician's record	Le fait de regretter le Brexit (jeu de mots sur Brexit et regret)	Ø Bregret
Être sur le point de V / N	(to) be about to V / (to) be on the verge of N	C'est écrit, qqch de négatif arrive	The writing is on the wall
La chute de ...	The downfall of...	Causer la chute de ...	(to) be the downfall of ...
Avoir le beurre et l'argent du beurre	(to) have the cake and eat it too		