

A Level Politics

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**MONTPELIER
HIGH SCHOOL**

1891



A



B



C

Task: Discuss with a partner. Which news story does each photo link to? What do you know about this story already?



D

Why choose A Level Politics?



- Particularly good if you are intending to study Law.
- Also good for future journalists, civil servants, and, of course, politicians.
- Combines particularly well with History, English, RS and Sociology – but government touches on literally every aspect of society.



Why choose A Level Politics?

- Edexcel specification
 - Unit 1: UK politics and core political ideologies, such as liberalism
 - Unit 2: UK government and non-core political ideologies, such as Multiculturalism
 - Unit 3: Global Politics
- Assessment is by three 2-hour exams, at the end of year 13.
 - The exams are a mixture of short and long essays.



Why study Politics at V6

- Enthusiastic teachers and excellent lessons
- We encourage wider reading in the subject
- A strong tradition of student democracy, through the student council and leadership team, mock elections
- Links with Bristol University, UWE and local political organisations – attending hustings, MPs in school
- Expertise in assisting students to obtain places at Russell Group universities
- A wide variety of trips and extra-curricular opportunities – Parliament, Churchill War Rooms, Foreign Office



Is the UK a fair country to live in?



What advances have been made in recent years that makes the UK a fair country?

What areas require further change?



Who should be allowed to vote in the UK?

In UK general elections, the following people are allowed to vote:

- 18+
- British citizen
- British citizens who live overseas
- Irish citizens resident in the UK
- Some Commonwealth citizens resident in the UK.

Does this need revising?



The image shows a screenshot of the Electoral Commission's website for the 2017 general election. It displays a list of registered voters for a specific constituency, including their names, addresses, and dates of birth. The list is organized into columns and rows, with some rows highlighted in yellow. The website header includes the Electoral Commission logo and the text 'Electoral Commission 2017'.



Is the UK in a participation crisis?

Only 67% of the British public voted in the 2019 General Election (57% of young people aged 18-24)

However, are people participating in new ways?
What impact will this have?



Are referenda the best way to make decisions?

Referenda are when voters decide 'yes' or 'no' to a political question.

Although Brexit is the most famous, there have been nearly 12 since 1997.

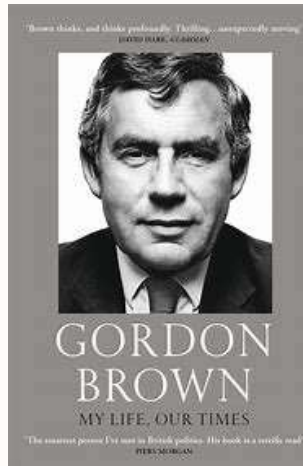
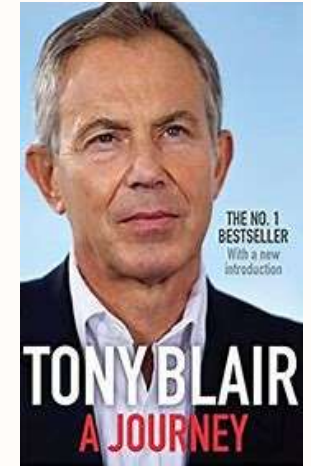


Summer Reading

We recommend that you get used to reading about politics. Although news articles are fine, it is far more beneficial to read political autobiographies.

Former prime ministers are a good place to start: they inform you of the historical context and their own rationale behind the decisions they made. Most can be bought for very low prices as second-hand books on Amazon.

Read two political biographies over the summer holidays.

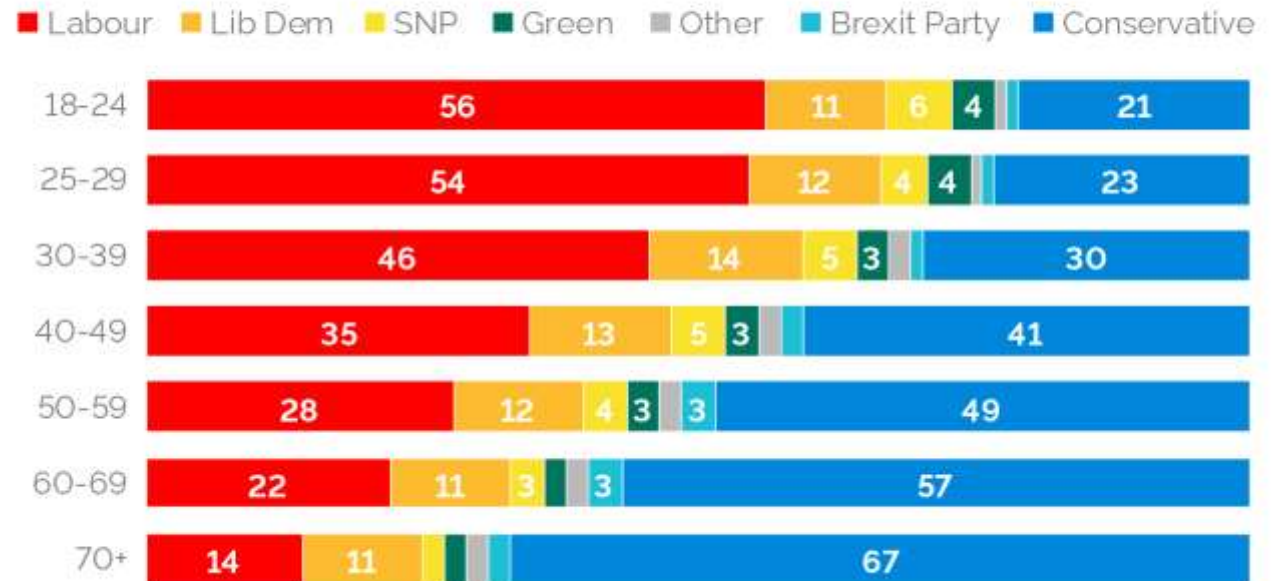


Has there ever been a more relevant place?

- Are young people in the UK fairly represented by their government?

Vote by age

% of 41,995 adults who voted at the 2019 general election



YouGov

13-16 December 2019

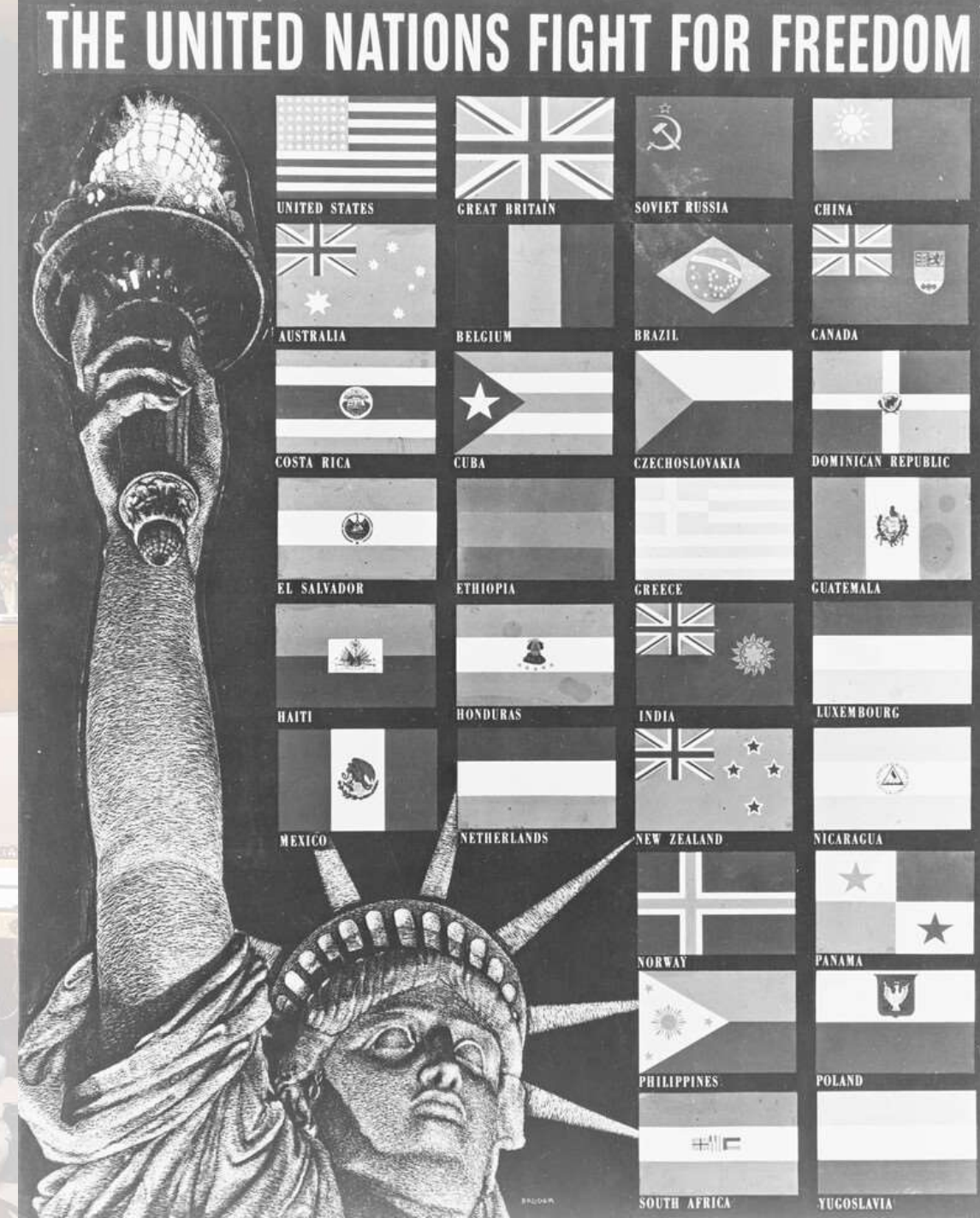
What are the criticisms of the UN and UNSC?

Do now – 8 mins

1. What is the word for a key UN body starting with 'o'?
2. What does UNSC stand for?
3. What does the UNSC do?
4. In 3-4 bullet points, explain the UNSC issue of Palestine
5. In 3-4 bullet points, explain the UNSC issue of Syria

This is one of the earliest surviving pieces of memorabilia relating to the UN, dating from the early 1940s.

Q: What can we infer from this poster about the UN's aims/ideals?





A precursor organisation, the UNIO (Information Organisation) published these images. Why do you think they did this?



How about
this set of
images?

Why were
they
published?



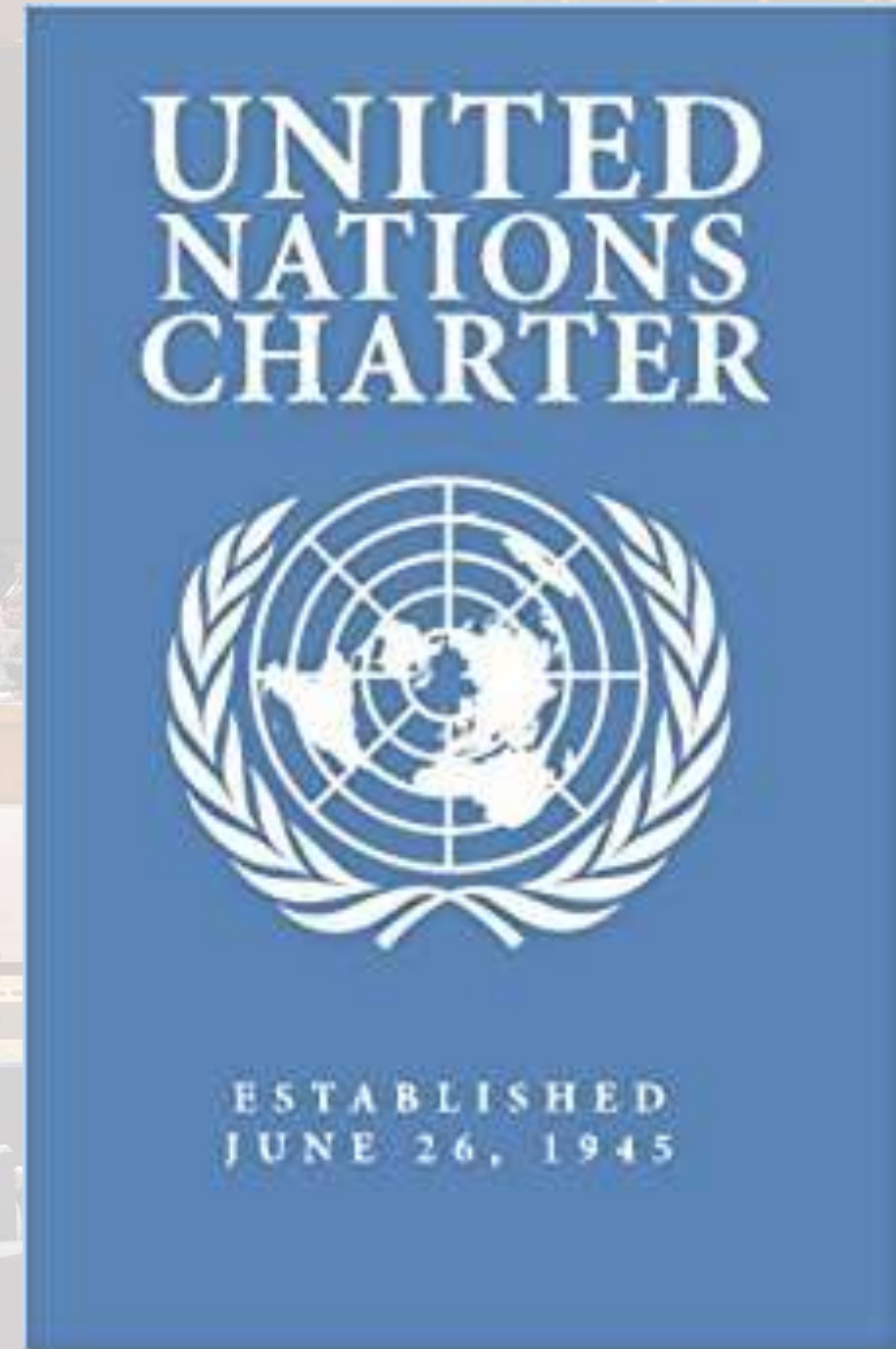
To find out more
<https://isc1944.omeka.net/exhibits/show/the-first-un--the-united-natio/the-first-un>

The UN Charter

The UN Charter outlines the rights and duties of the Member States and establishes the United Nations organs and procedures

The UN has 4 main purposes – what do you think they are?

1. To keep peace throughout the world
2. To develop friendly relations among nations
3. To help nations work together to improve the lives of poor people, to conquer hunger, disease and illiteracy, and to encourage respect for each other's rights and freedoms
4. To be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations to achieve these goals



How effective is the UN?



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gCOkMWv5TB0&feature=emb_logo&ab_channel=UnitedNations

What are the criticisms of the UN and UNSC?

Current challenges of the UN

Match the problem to the function, solutions and assessment			
Problem	Function of the UN	Solutions	Assessment
Climate change	Provides a forum for conflict resolution or military intervention, particularly since the end of the Cold War in 1991	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)- The UN General Assembly has a dedicated Disarmament Commission- There is a UN Office for Disarmament Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The US and Canada are not signed up to the Kyoto Protocol, prioritising economic development over environmental concerns.- 196 countries agreed at the Paris Summit to limit global warming to below 2°Celsius- The US have given notice to withdraw from the Paris Agreement by 2019
Nuclear weapons	Aims to get a majority of member states to agree on the existence and impact of climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Chapter 6 of the UN Charter provides for the UN to resolve disputes using peaceful means- Chapter 7 sets out the powers of the UN to resolve disputes between nation-states and non-state actors using military means	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The five permanent members of the UNSC have signed NPT- They agree to not share nuclear technology- Four UN member states have not signed the treaty, including India and Pakistan
Peace and security	Has taken a leading role in raising living standards in the developing world.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Created the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change- Organises key international summits- Created the 1992 treaty, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change- Created the Kyoto Protocol to limit greenhouse gases- Held the Paris Summit in 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Extreme poverty has been reduced from 1.9 bn in 1990 to 836 m in 2015- Primary school enrolment increased from 83%-91% from 2000 – 2015- Child mortality reduced by more than a half- Many argue that China's rapid development has been the main reason for the eradication of poverty
Reducing poverty	Plays a leading role in getting states to sign up to treaties limiting nuclear weapons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Agreed Millennium Development Goals at the UN's Millennium Development Summit in 2000- Agreed upon Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 after the MDG's reached their endpoint	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- There was UN-approved military interventions in Somalia, Rwanda and Bosnia in the 1990s- The UN failed to prevent genocidal massacres in Bosnia and Rwanda- The UK and US launched the Iraq invasion despite not having secured a UNSC Resolution
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. In what area has the UN been most successful? Explain.2. In what area has the UN been least successful? Explain.3. What is the main limiting factor on the further success of the United Nations? Explain.			

1. Complete table
2. Use link to research progress against MDGs
3. Answer questions at bottom of sheet

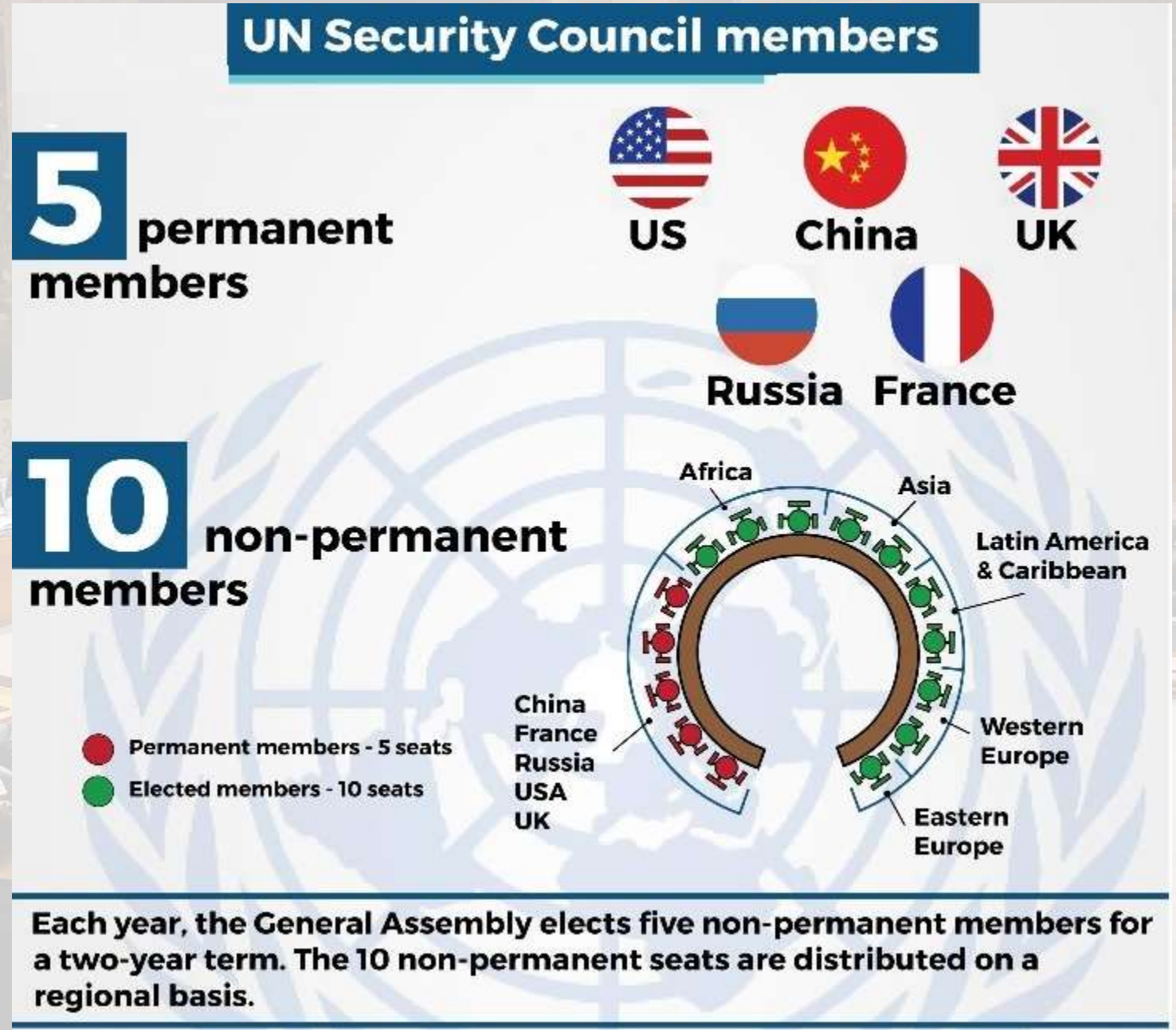


What are the criticisms of the UN and UNSC?

Current members

Non-permanent members

- Algeria (2025)
- Ecuador (2024)
- Guyana (2025)
- Japan (2024)
- Malta (2024)
- Mozambique (2024)
- Republic of Korea (2025)
- Sierra Leone (2025)
- Slovenia (2025)
- Switzerland (2024)



How does the veto work?

- Under the Charter, the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote. Under the Charter, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions. 9 votes are needed to pass a resolution.
- The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.

Time for reform?

- It was announced that the Security Council reform must be accomplished in time for the 50th anniversary of the world organisation in 1995, but this hadn't been achieved by the 75th anniversary of the organisation.
- The five permanent members (P5) (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) enjoy veto powers over any Council resolution or decision, merely by virtue of having won a war 76 years ago.

Do you think the UN needs urgent reform?

What are the criticisms of the UN and UNSC?

The UNSC has passed several important resolutions when the P5 have agreed:

- Following Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait in 1990, UN Resolution 678 authorised member states to deploy 'all necessary means' to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation. This provided the legal justification for the first US-led Gulf War.
- Following Iraq's defeat in the first Gulf War (1991), Iraqi Shia Muslims and Kurds revolted against Saddam Hussein. As a result of Saddam's brutal suppression, UN Resolution 688 established no-fly zones within Iraq to protect these groups from Iraqi military action.
- In 2011, because of prompting by the Arab League, UN Resolution 1973 authorised a no-fly zone and the use of 'all necessary measures ... to protect civilians and civilian populated areas under threat of attack' from the forces of Colonel Gaddafi.
- In 2023, 12 UN peacekeeping operations were active, all of which had been authorised by Security Council resolutions.
- The biggest of these missions are in South Sudan, where 17,000 UN personnel are responsible for consolidating 'peace and security', and the Democratic Republic of Congo, where 15,000 UN peacekeepers are authorised 'to use all necessary means to carry out its mandate' to protect civilians and deliver humanitarian aid.

What are the criticisms of the UN and UNSC?

Criticisms of the UNSC today

- Security Council reflects the geopolitical realities of 1945 and not of today.
- Poor representation: Out of 193 member-states of the UN, and only 15 members of the Council (fewer than 8%) have membership in the UNSC. This comes after amendment to original Charter was in 1965 that expanded membership from 11 members to 15.
- For instance, Europe (excluding Russia), which accounts for only 5% of the world's population, still controls 33% of the seats in any given year.
- Unjust for countries such as Japan and Germany whose financial contributions to the UN outweigh those of four of the P5 members
- Japan and Germany are the second and third largest contributors to the UN budget for decades, but still mentioned as 'enemy states' in the United Nations Charter.
- India, given its huge population size, share of the world economy, or contributions to the UN (peacekeeping operations) has not been given an opportunity by the organisation.

Which of these issues are the most significant and why?

How effective is the UNSC?

Strengths

- Multilaterally diplomacy is legally and morally binding
- Sovereignty protected, decisions reached through compromise and concession
- Non-partisan states can offer creative solutions, forge alliances
- Peacekeeping in nations in transition, building rule of law

Weaknesses

- Security council outdated? P-5 too powerful?
- Process is difficult, results are slow
- Miscommunication due to language and cultural differences
- Budget deficits
- Limited jurisdiction
- Peace-making in sovereign nations

What are the criticisms of the UN and UNSC?



How effective is the UNSC?

1. Assess one criticism of the UNSC (reading 5 mins)
 - Adapting to Ukraine
 - Africa seizes the day
 - Squabbling over seats
2. Summarise the criticism it in no more than 100 words
3. Work together to explain your criticism example to a partner

Examine the effectiveness of the UNGA and UNSC in international peacekeeping. (12 marks)

15 mins to write

- No need for an introduction
- Look at the institutions 'UNGA' and 'UNSC' named in question
- At beginning of each para, clearly identify the factor you are going to discuss (x3)
- Use examples
- Add analysis
- 1 point must consider both