**Knowledge Organiser Pro-Forma (Paper 1 KT1 )**

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| Subject Specific Vocabulary | Short-hand definitions |
| Safe Seat |  |
| Marginal Seat |  |
| Proportional Representation |  |
| First Past the Post |  |
| Wasted Vote |  |
| Coalition Government |  |
| Minority Government |  |

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| Is First Past the Post fit for purpose?  Strong stable government with clear mandate with no policies decided after election v This comes at the expense of unrepresentative government, winners bonus, 1951/74 elective dictatorship on minority of votes. Blair 1997, Lib Dems, votes do not weigh the same, SNP 81% seats of vote on 45% , 23 way marginals, 10 seats under 400 votes, AMS stable gov, 2019-24 unstable. AMS can break up the monopoly as SNP did in Scotland  Strong constituency link, surgeries, David Amessv Other systems have a good constituency link like AMS, STV choice of rep, FPTP not really representative  Extremist parties kept out, winner’s bonus and because to win you need broad support which means narrow issue based parties do poorlyv All third parties are disadvantaged, Greens, Lib Dems 2019, UKIP 2015 12 %, Brexit not standing 2019,  Two party format mirrors natural divide in society, can get unwanted govts out easily, transformational govts like Thatcher/Blair v Two party system limits choice – parties no longer represent divide in society, wasted votes heartlands, 22.6m out of 32m, tactical voting undermining legitimacy of govt, partnership politics not adversarial politics  FPTP is simple and produces quick results, Newcastle Central v Not a good reason and other systems also produce quick results, STV |

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| What are the strengths weaknesses of AMS/STV/SV  AMS  AMS has best of both worlds constituency link and proportionality, possibility of single party govt, every voter has at least one effective vote, wider choice (2016 Cons won 7 constituency MSPs and 24 list ones, 2016 Wales UKIP no single member constituencies but 7 top ups  AMS has bigger single member constituencies so link not as strong as FPTP, multi member constituencies have no accountability link to people and no constituency votes,  STV  Highly proportional, choice of representatives, few wasted votes, no safe seats, no complacency, need first and low preference votes means less negative campaigning  Strong stable unlikely, huge geographic constituencies in sparsely populated areas, donkey voting, slow, some spoliled ballot papers  SV  Slightly fewr wasted votes, marginally proportional , extremist parties out    Artificially gaining a a majority, wasted votes etc. |

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| How have different electoral systems in the UK produced different results?  FPTP – almost always majority Conservative or Labour govts with the exception of 2010 and 2017  AMS Scotland. 1997-2011 Labour Lib coalitions. 2011 SNP majority govt, since there have been minority SNP govts and currently an SNP Green coalition. Conservatives became the official opposition in 2016.2003 The [Scottish Socialist Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_Socialist_Party) and the [Scottish Senior Citizens Unity Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_Senior_Citizens_Unity_Party) won seats  AMS Wales: Labour led coalitions or minority govt. Coalitions with Lib Dems early years and Plaid Cymru once. UKIP performed well 2016  STV: Initially UUP/SDLP led coalitions. Since 2007 led by DUP and Sinn Fein and now by Sinn Fein DUP. Currently a five party coalition In the past . The Alliance party, The People before Profit Alliance and the Green Party  Why have referendums have been held in the UK and what were the results including turnout  1997 Scotland 2 questions 74, 63, T60 , Wales 50-49 T50  1998 GFA 71-29 T81 London mayor/assembly 72/28 T33  2011 Wales more powers 64 – 36 T35 AV 32-68 T42  2014 Scot Ind 45-55 T85  2016 Brexit 48-52 T 72 |

Evaluate the view that referendums since 1997 have been a success

Addressing the democratic deficit participation / Turnout

Legitimacy/Counterweight to executive power

Education

Evaluate the view the impact of new electoral systems has made the case for reform of FPTP in Westminster elections?

Party representation

Wider representation due to PR systems:

Green 1 seat W, 6 in Scotland, 2 in GLA - UKIP 12% vote in 2015 no seats 24 seats in European elections 2014 using List same in Wales in 2016 BUT BNP in European elections – SNP 2016 81% of constituency seats on 47% of vote but List system moderated this 45 % 0f seats vote

V Coalitions 2019 AMS Cons 284 with no partners therefore Labour on 188 with Lib Dems. Same with others

Voter choice

Greater choice even with SV preferential. Especially so STV. AMS sees voter back a main party in constituency but minor in regional. STV especially so

V Simple. No spoiled papers

Type of government

Coalitions are stable and consensus building. Apart from 2011 in Scotland all devolved assemblies have coalitions. 5 parties in NI. Also leads to different type of politics. In NI First Minister and Dep are same roles. 2010 shows what can be done.

V disproportionate influence in gov. Undemocratic that third parties and fourth get policy control

Note. 2022 British Social Attitudes survey 51 – 44 in favour of PR.

Evaluate the view that referendums should be used more widely in UK democracy?

Allow public to be consulted on issues that occur between elections or legitimise big decisions devolution decrease the democratic deficit, politicians too connected to parties and whip system making them aloof v undermining parliamentary sovereignty tying hands of parliament (experts) Brexit – huge problem – divisive country divided into tribes, no place for nuance or compromise Allows politicians to absolve themselves of responsibility for taking difficult decisions. Questions too difficult

Are they divisisve or are divisions there?

Create more engaged citizenry Scottish independence and Brexit. Much greater understanding of EU and how it worked, media coverage by impartial broadcasters V propaganda and misinformation mean people end up less educated also problems over clarity of what people are voting for – Scotland pound, Brexit Soft/Hard, voting on different issue – Clegg 2011

Can create a more responsive government. Case with Brexit. No consultation since 1975 despite huge changes in EU. Long over due V Questions and political circumstances manipulated. AV was not the system Clegg wanted Cameron refused ref on STV, Cameron called EU referendum to solve a political problem, gov can use funds and civil service machinery to ‘ win ‘ argument, called when they will win

Provide an answer to contentious questions : GFA, Brexit, Devolution V None of these are solved. Scotland had refs in 79-97 and 2014