

# Y11 TRANSITION TO POLITICS

Section	Time
Section A: What is Politics?	5 Hours
Section B: Why is there a rise in populism?	5 Hours



Work through this pack . Email [james.william@paddington-academy.org](mailto:james.william@paddington-academy.org) for help.

# Section A:

## What is Politics?

**Politics** is the set of activities that are associated with the governance (leadership) of a country, state or area. It involves making decisions that apply to groups of members and achieving and exercising positions of governance—organized control over a human community.

In modern nation states, people often form political parties to represent their ideas. Members of a party often agree to take the same position on many issues and agree to support the same changes to law and the same leaders. An election is usually a competition between different parties.

Politics is hard to define – these are few:

According to **Harold Lasswell**, politics is "who gets what, when, how"

For **David Easton**, it is about "the authoritative allocation of values for a society"

To **Vladimir Lenin**, "politics is the most concentrated expression of economics"

**Bernard Crick** argued that "politics is a distinctive form of rule whereby people act together through institutionalized procedures to resolve differences, to conciliate diverse interests and values and to make public policies in the pursuit of common purposes"

# Part 1: What is Politics?

A huge part of your course will be to keep up to date with political events as they happen. You will mainly need to look out for events in UK politics and USA politics.

**Task (45mins):** I would like you to update a diary of political events by noting down at least 3 political events each month. To start you will create a back log from November 2019. I will do the first one for you.

## November 2019

- *Members of the UK House of Commons vote to elect a new Speaker of the House, replacing the retiring John Bercow. The Labour Party's Sir Lindsay Hoyle defeats Chris Bryant in the fourth and final ballot.*
- *Nigel Farage announces that his Brexit Party will withdraw its candidates in the 317 seats that the ruling Conservative Party won in the last general election. The move is expected to increase the chances of a Conservative majority in parliament.*
- *Former Mayor of New York City Michael Bloomberg announces he's running for the presidency as part of the Democratic ticket.*

## December 2019

## January 2020

## February 2020

## March 2020

## April 2020

**You will also need to do one each month until we are back at school in Y12!**

Useful websites to use:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/politics> – 24 hour news

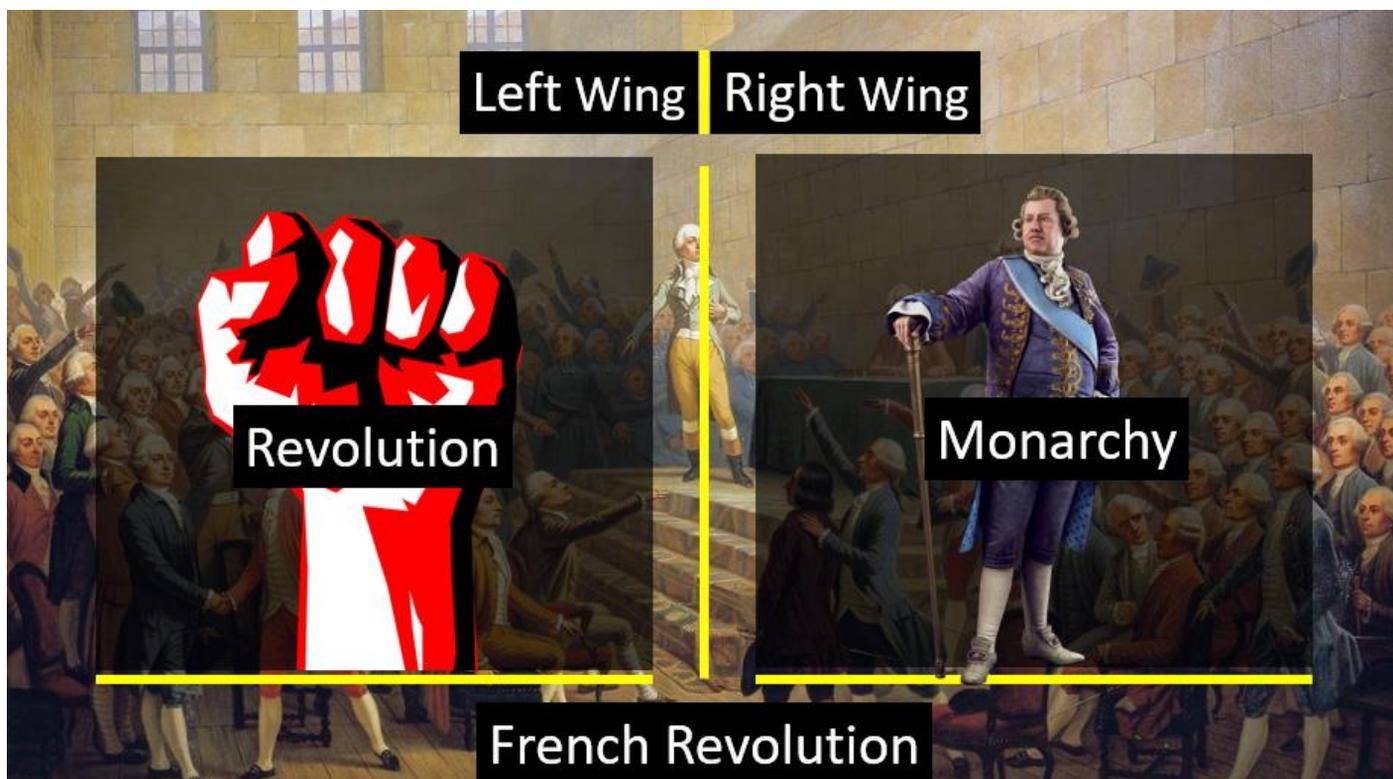
<https://www.lbc.co.uk/> - good radio shows about politics

<https://www.channel4.com/news/> - good news channel for longer stories

## Part 2: The Political Spectrum

We are going to study the '**political spectrum**' which helps to understand the different types of political parties as well as the different forms of government.

A **political spectrum** is a system to characterize and classify different political positions in relation to one another. Most of them include a left–right wing dimension, which originally referred to seating arrangements in the French parliament after the Revolution (1789–1799), with radicals on the left and aristocrats (pro-monarchy) on the right.

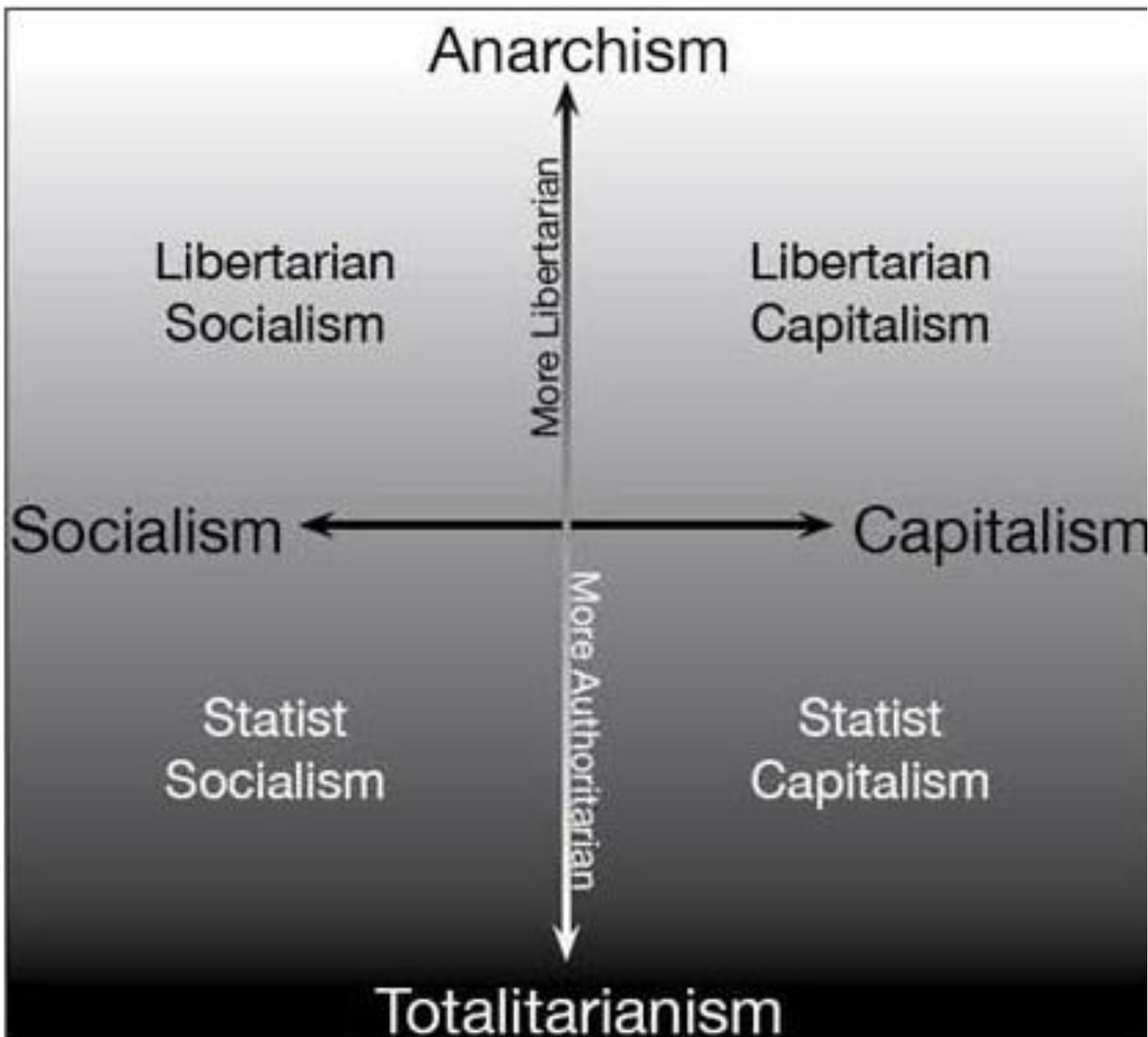


## Part 2: The Political Spectrum

Below is the most used 'political spectrum' – I say most used as there is a lot of debate about whether it is even possible to neatly classify political ideologies on a spectrum!

**Task:** Copy and paste this link into your web browser (it is an introduction explaining the table below)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JlQ5fGECmsA>



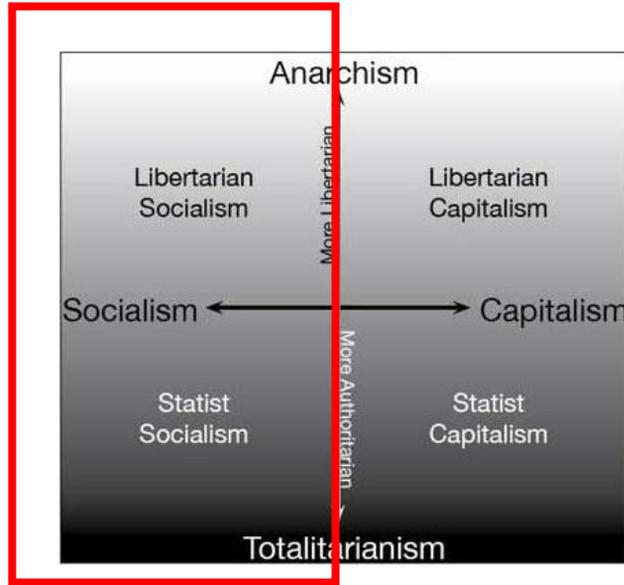
## Part 2: The Political Spectrum

### The Left Wing:

Libertarian Left



Authoritarian Left



### Key Words

**Authoritarian** – this is when the government play a large role in both the economy and peoples lives. For example, the government may tax people very highly or may own businesses or industries.

**Libertarian** – this is a belief that the government should have little to do with the economy or peoples lives. Instead, government is to ensure individual freedom.

### Authoritarian Left: **Big government to redistribute wealth**

**Communism:** They believe capitalism should be abolished and instead all land and resources should be owned by the state (government). They are the very radical.

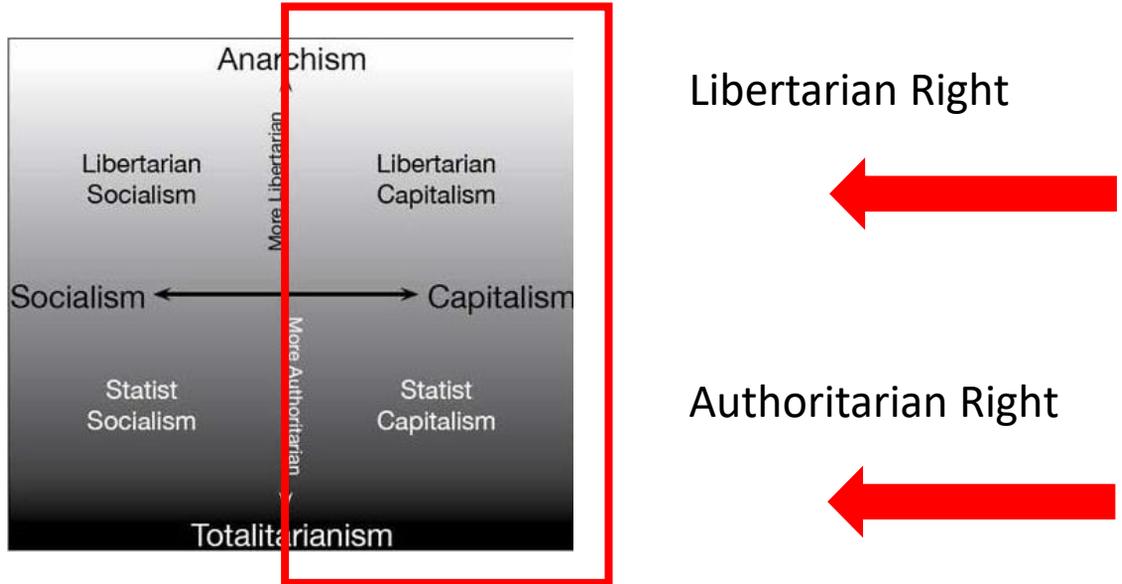
**Socialism (statist):** Socialists want to improve the quality of life for all members of society. They believe in a government which has a strong interference in the economy and peoples lives. Another key idea is the redistribution of resources to redress inequalities.

### Libertarian Left: **Smaller government to redistribute wealth**

**Social liberalism:** They believe in smaller government and a free economy. However they also believe the government should redistribute wealth to help with social justice.

# Part 3: The Political Spectrum

## The Right Wing:



### Libertarian Right:

**Classical liberalism:** Classic liberalism held to the doctrine of **laissez-faire**, which holds that the government should be small and keep out of most areas of people's life (such as the economy, community life, and personal morality).

### In the middle!

**Conservatism:** Conservative thought is colored by the belief that – over time – history has produced institutions and modes of government that function well, and which should be largely preserved for the future. They also believe that political change should be organic and gradual, rather than revolutionary. Socially they believe in an authoritarian government but economically they believe in a small government.

### Authoritarian Left:

**Fascism:** They believe in smaller government and a free economy. However they also believe the government should redistribute wealth to help with social justice.

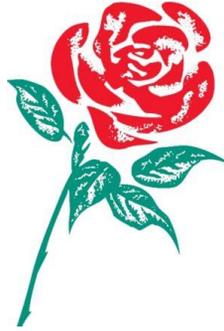
## Part 2: The Political Spectrum

Below are three examples of political parties of the UK which all sit somewhere on the political spectrum. You have two tasks:

1. Research and create a fact file of UK political parties (1h 30m)
2. Create a political spectrum and place the UK political parties on it. (30min)



Conservative Party



Labour Party



Brexit Party

### Task 1: (success criteria)

- In a format of your choosing (detailed flashcards, notes in your book, poster etc.) create a fact file of political parties in the UK.
- In the fact file please ensure you research the following:
  1. Background (history)
  2. Ideological ideas
  3. Current Policies
  4. Key individuals (including the current leaders)
  5. Factions (are there disagreements within the parties)

### Websites:

Policies at the last election: <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/ng-interactive/2019/nov/26/bitesize-guide-uk-election-manifestos-2019-labour-conservative-liberal-democrats>

For Conservative Party: <https://schoolhistory.co.uk/notes/the-tory-party/>

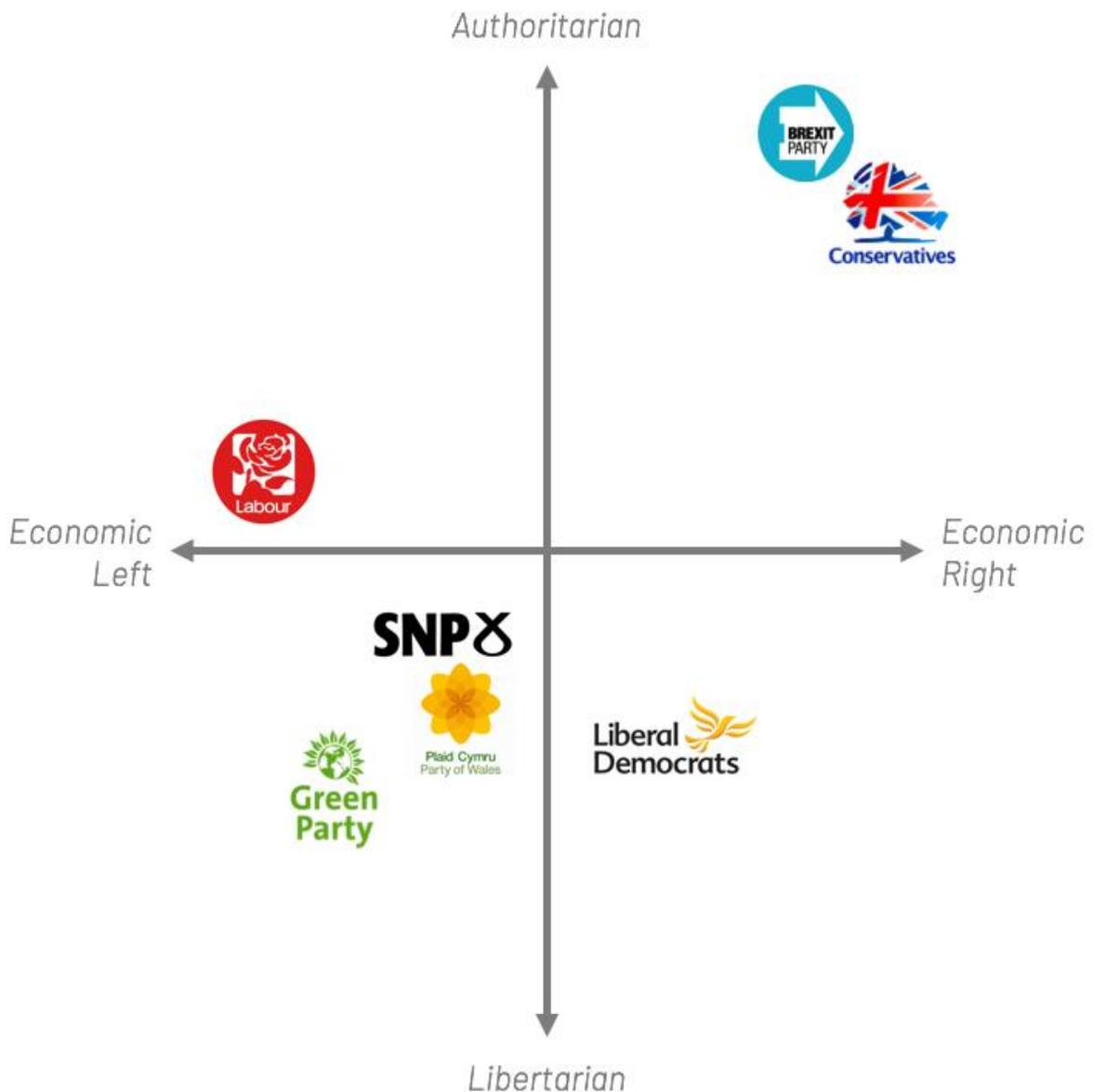
For Labour Party: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Labour\\_Party\\_\(UK\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Labour_Party_(UK))

For Brexit Party: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brexit\\_Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brexit_Party)

## Part 2: The Political Spectrum

### Task 2: (success criteria)

- Below is the political spectrum of the UK's political parties. Brexit Party is represented by UKIP (similar policies)
- Copy a diagram into your books (you can change the position if you disagree e.g. Are the Conservatives really that Right-wing?).
- Annotate the Brexit Party, Conservative Party and Labour Party with reasons for why they are placed in that position on the political spectrum. Use their policies to support your answer.



## Part 3: Political Leaders

We are now going to gain a basic understanding of the history of political leaders. The head of the government in the UK is called the Prime Minister. The PM is head of his or her political party which also has a majority rule in the House of Commons (where laws are made and debated).

**Task (1hr30m):** Create a timeline of all the PM's post 1945.

For each PM on your timeline you must research the following information:

- 1) Their political party
- 2) Time in office (as PM)
- 3) 5 main events which took place during their premiership

### Example:



#### Tony Blair

**Political party:** Labour

**Time in office:** 1997-2007

#### **Political Events:**

- 1) Devolution which gave powers to Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish parliaments (1997)
- 2) Good Friday Agreement which brought peace between the Republic and Northern Ireland (1998)
- 3) Declared a 'War on Terror' in the wake of 9/11 (2001)
- 4) Invaded Iraq (2003)
- 5) London Bombings (2005)

# Section B:

## Why is populism on the rise?

### Introduction

In section A you have learnt about political ideologies which sit on a political spectrum – however this is not always the reality of politics. Politicians can be very ideological or sometimes not at all.

Next year, as part of your UK Politics course, you will be studying UK voting behaviour. For this transition work we will focus on a particular trend in voting across Europe and the USA – namely the rise of so called ‘populist’ voting.

In political science, populism is the idea that society is separated into two groups at odds with one another - "the pure people" and "the corrupt elite". It is a political approach that strives to appeal to ordinary people who feel that their concerns are disregarded by established elite groups. It has been used to describe the politics of Trump and the Brexit ‘leave’ campaign who argued a vote for them is a vote against the ‘establishment’ – the traditional people in power. However, it has also been used to describe Left wing politicians such as Corbyn and his slogan ‘for the many, not the few’.



# Part 1: What is populism?

Copy and paste this link - <https://theconversation.com/what-actually-is-populism-and-why-does-it-have-a-bad-reputation-109874> into your web browser.

**Task (1hr):** Read through the article and write bullet point answers for each of the following questions:

1. What are the core principles of 'populism'?
2. How are Left-wing and Right-wing populist politicians different?
3. Why does populism get a bad name?
4. Why is Trump viewed as a 'populist'?
5. Why is Brexit viewed as a 'populist' movement?
6. Is populism always used by Right-wing politicians? *Use Hugo Chavez as an example of a Left-wing populist leader.*

**Optional challenge:** 'Aren't all politicians populist by definition' – why might someone say this?

**Key question:** What is the difference between Left-wing and Right-wing populism?

Both right-wing populism and left-wing populism object to the perceived control of society and government by elites; however, populism of the left also objects to the power of large corporations and their allies, while populism of the right normally supports strong controls on immigration.

## Part 2: Why are people voting for populist parties?

### Explanation

As you have discovered populist governments can come from anywhere on the political spectrum. However, Right-wing populist politicians have had a lot of success in Europe over the last few years. They have two main messages:

1. They represent the 'ordinary voter' and have an 'anti-establishment' stance (anti-establishment means anti traditional elites and institutions)
2. They blame globalisation and multiculturalism for problems in society (anti-immigration)

The task and video link below interviews a number of these 'ordinary voters' who have turned to voting for populist parties for the very first time. Their reasons for voting are interesting and you should listen with an open mind despite potentially disagreeing with a lot of what is said.



## Part 2: Why are people voting for populist parties?

**Task (2hrs):** Watch the following documentary on BBC I Player:

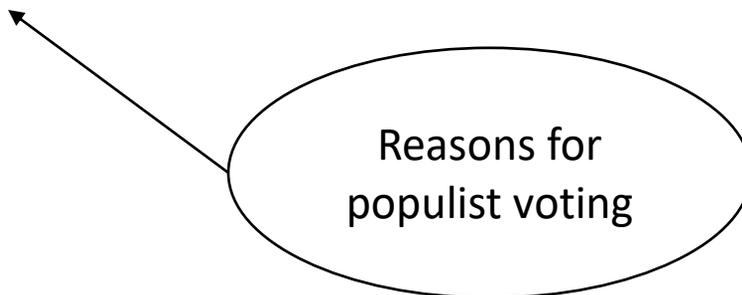
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000dl8q/travels-in-euroland-with-ed-balls-series-1-episode-1>

The documentary involves several interviews and insights into why many people in Europe have voted for Right-wing populist parties.

During the documentary **create a spider diagram detailing as many reasons as possible**. Please remember these reasons people give are not facts but opinions (however we often vote based on opinion rather than fact, so they matter in political science!)

E.g.

**Immigration** – The Dutch man said he felt his culture was being taken away.



## Part 3: What is the cause of populism?

**Task:** Write a short essay exploring why there has been a rise in populism:

*“People vote for Right-wing populist parties because they hold racist views” – to what extent do you agree?*

The statement is just an opinion made by some people. However, through the knowledge you have gained, you should be able to put forward a more complex reason for the rise in populism across Europe.

### Success Criteria (1hr to plan and 45min to write)

- Type your essays on word.
- Write an introduction explaining what populism is.
- Write 3 PEEL paragraphs
- Each paragraph must have a different reason for the rise of populism, some examples, an explanation and then an evaluation of the extent to which it is a good argument.
- Write a conclusion (refer to the statement)

### Ideas you may use:

- The main political parties have converged. They are all one and the same.
- Global financial crash (gives voice to argument the elites have messed things up)
- Refugee Crisis (gives voice to criticism that the establishment allowed open borders).
- Globalisation (has benefitted the elites and middle class – skilled manual jobs have disappeared)
- Multiculturalism – (many feel their sense of national identity is being lost)
- Corruption of elites – (the countless lies told by politicians)

### Websites and articles

- Use ideas from your spider diagram
- <https://www.theguardian.com/world/political-science/2018/nov/20/why-is-populism-suddenly-so-sexy-the-reasons-are-many>
- <https://www.forbes.com/sites/iese/2017/01/24/why-populism-is-rising-and-how-to-combat-it/#3eccf70c1d44>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ekc5EAPPPgk&t=261s>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-pP3EcdC1VU>