

Unit6 recap: UK POLITICS IN TURMOIL

STEP 1: THE UK POLITICAL SYSTEM:

THE UK is a constitutional monarchy made up of Wales, Northern Ireland, England and Scotland.

-The official head of state is the monarch (now Charles III) but his/her powers are limited by the constitution (especially after the Magna Carta from 1215 and the glorious revolution in 1688)

The King / Queen **cannot vote**

The King / Queen **appoints the PM**

The King / Queen is the **head of State**, of the Army, the Fountain of Justice, the Head of the Church of England and the Head of the Commonwealth

In the UK political system, there are **three branches, with the King at the top (theoretically at least!)**

- **The legislative power** = the British Parliament in Westminster:

The House of Commons (= a bit like the National Assembly in France: it's an elected chamber in which members are elected for 5 years (after the general election)

Its role is to examine and approve laws

The House of Lords: made up of non elected peers, the members are appointed for life

- **The executive power:**

-theoretically the King but in practice the PM and his Cabinet

-the PM= is the head of government (currently Rishi Sunak [= Ri-shi Sou-nak] for the conservative party = the Tories) / the PM lives and works at "N°10", Downing Street

the Cabinet=PM+21 ministers (especially the home secretary, the foreign secretary, the chancellor of the exchequer and the Lord chancellor)

-the government is a larger body=101 people (80 ministers +The Cabinet(20)+ the PM)

- **The judiciary power :**

- Is independent of the executive and the legislative branches = UK courts of law

•Fusion/separation of power:

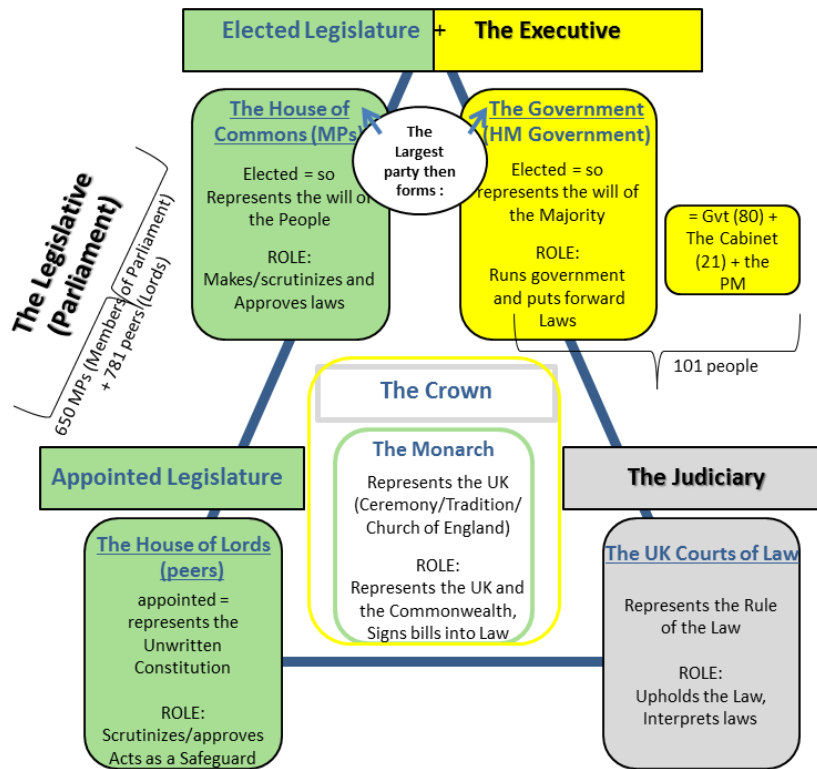
In the US (cf Unit2) there was a double separation of power (horizontal and vertical) / here it is different :

= **Fusion/separation of power:**

-there is apparently a separation of power with three different branches

-but there is also **some fusion of power**: the executive and legislative branches work together (contrary to the US or France in which the three branches are strictly separated), especially because the Prime Minister is appointed after the general election (=the legislative election): the PM is the leader of the party who won the election

UK Fusion/Separation of Powers



The Tories : The Conservative Party



* A center-right party which focuses on defense and economic austerity.

* Advocates + provides right-wing policies (tax cuts, freedom of choice of education and health)

* generally in favor of Brexit



the leader: **Rishi Sunak**



former leaders :

Liz Truss

← **Boris Johnson**

Theresa May →



* A center-left party

* Focuses on social equality and social justice
 * defends the middle class-and the working class
 * Promotes public spending, social programs, a better education + healthcare

* Corbyn was against Brexit but Labour is usually in favor of the EU (so AGAINST Brexit)

the leader: **Keir Starmer**



former leader : **Jeremy Corbyn** →



Liberal Democrats

The Lib Dems : Liberal Democrats



- * focuses on social and economic liberalism (=progressisme)
- * pro-EU/ against Brexit

the leader : **Edward Davey**

former leader
Joe Swinson



UKIP / The Brexit party



- * The UK Independent Party
- * UKIP = "you keep" the pound (the currency)
- * a far-right party
- * a Euro-skeptic party
- * in favour of Brexit

the leader : **Neil Hamilton**



Former leader
Nigel Farage



The SNP : The Scottish National Party



- * a left-wing party
- * in favor of social programs and Scottish independence
- * pro-European (against Brexit)

the leader was **Nicolas Sturgeon**
has just resigned!



but she

former leader :
Alex Salmond



DUP : The Democratic Unionist Party

- * a Conservative party
- * right wing/ far right
- * against abortion, same-sex marriage
- * Euro-skeptic / pro-Brexit



the leader :
Jeffrey Donaldson



former leader
Arlene Foster



The Green Party

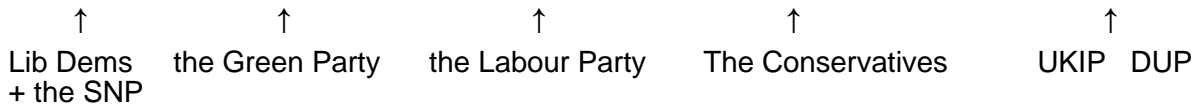
- * left-wing party
- * supports ecological programs
- * social programs

The leader: **Siân Berry and Jonathan Bartley**
Denyer



former leaders : **Adrian Ramsay and Carla Denyer**





STEP 2: PRIME MINISTERSHIP IN CRISIS : ROUNDABOUT, MERRY-GO-ROUND, REVOLVING DOOR AT NUMBER 10

famous former prime ministers (from the Conservative Party) :

Winston Churchill, « the British Bulldog »
= PM in the 40s and 50s



Margaret Thatcher,
« the Iron Lady »
= PM from 1979 to 1990



David Cameron, « Dave the Chameleon »
= from 2010 to 2016
(he resigned after the Brexit referendum)



Theresa May,
« Theresa MayBe »
= from 2016 to 2019

Prime Ministership in crisis : roundabout, merry-go-round, revolving door at Number 10 :
« **number 10** » = the residence of the British Prime Minister (10, Downing Street/ in London)

Boris Johnson
"bojo"
prime minister :
from 2019 to July 2022



He is a conservative

Liz Truss
Prime minister :
From 6 September 2022
To 25 October 2022



She is a Conservative

Boris Johnson was Theresa May's successor

- during his term in office Boris Johnson helped during the war in Ukraine and encouraged British citizens to be vaccinated against the COVID 19
- he was a Brexiter (a politician in favor of Brexit) and was in charge of making Brexit official
- a scandal-filled term such as partygate during covid 19, when he hosted parties during the lockdown, and there were accusations of sexual misconduct against politicians of his Cabinet

“Bojo” is often compared to a clown because he is amateurish / he even compared himself to Moses and mentioned Peppa Pig in a speech!

Liz Truss became the first female working as Lord Chancellor and the Foreign Secretary in 2021.

- She won in 2022 against Rishi Sunak to replace BJ
- LT left the PM office/ resigned as Prime Minister after 44 days in power
- She left because she was really unpopular and she tried to pass a controversial financial reform helping the rich!
- She earned the title of « shortest-serving PM in British history ».
- Liz Truss was even comparED to a lettuce because she was outlasted by it! (la salade a duré plus longtemps qu'elle !)
- Keir Starmer, the leader of Labour and the opposition, said that her resignation was a farce

Rishi Sunak

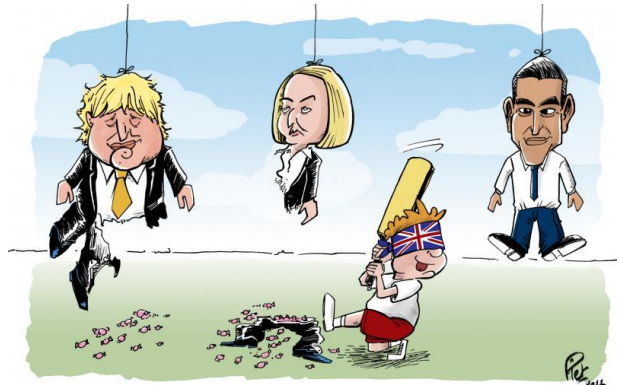
Has been prime minister since October 25, 2022

he is a conservative

all over the world people speak about the new PM



- He was born in 1980 in Southampton (= British with Indian descent)
- He studied at Oxford and Stanford (prestigious universities).
- he studied philosophy, politics and economics
- he was a Conservative MP for a constituency three times
- he was the richest MP
- he is the sixth richest man from India
- His fortune is estimated at 740 million pounds
- he said he never wanted to be PM in an interview
- He is a modern politician because he is in favor OF new technologies.



this document was drawn by Pitet on 25 October , 2022

- we can see the three latest PMs: BJ,LT,RS
- and they are hanging and we can understand that they are not doing a good job ;
- we can see a little boy with a bat in his hand wearing a Union Jack bandana smashing pinatas
- it means that their journey were not good and they were much criticized
- the two smashed pinatas look like the two former PM and Rishi Sunak might be next!
- I suppose that BJ, LT lost their body because they didn't finish their term as PM

The cartoon denounces the failure of PMs in strategic in office. They failed as Prime Ministers and were highly unpopular.

-Compare and contrast the three **latest** Prime Ministers (= les 3 PM les plus récents)

like (comme)

unlike / contrary to (contrairement à)

whereas (alors que)

on the one hand / on the other hand (d'un côté/ de l'autre)

Rishi Sunak is a modern politician **contrary to** Boris Johnson and Liz Truss.

Rishi Sunak is liked by **MOST** Britons / **MOST OF THE** Britons unlike Boris Johnson
 BJ hasn't finished his term, like Liz Truss. They **BOTH** had to resign.
 BJ has been **confronted with/faced with** scandals compared to RS or LZ
 Liz Truss is the shortest-serving PM **whereas** BJ was PM **FOR** three years.

Pendant = + période/ saison = during : during the break
+ durée = for = for 6 weeks

Step3 : The UK in turmoil (en plein trouble)

<p>Doc3a: The Brexit fallout: "6 Brexit problems 6 years after the EU referendum" (The Independent)</p>	<p>Doc3b: "Rishi Sunak inherits a country in crisis" (CNBC)</p>
<p>6 years on/6 years after Brexit, the UK is faced with a lot of problems because of Brexit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agriculture/ farming in difficulty - A huge inflation rate, especially on food prices - British fishermen face ruin because taxes - Shortages (=penuries) of workforce (=main d'oeuvre) in airports, hospitals or lorry drivers (= routiers) = the Brexit fallout (= repercussion/impact) is huge / tremendous - Brexit is like the "elephant in the room", a pressing issue that nobody wants to discuss (un sujet tabou) 	<p>Rishi Sunak is confronted with a very difficult situation: there are A lot OF pbs with the British economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - politicAL problems + economic problems : a 10% inflation rate + a lot of strikes (= des grèves) from nurses and railroad workers (= cheminots) <p>The current situation is compared to the seventies/the 1970s with stagflation. = the media are saying that a new "winter of discontent" is coming (it's an expression from Shakespeare and it reminds us of the terrible political and economic crisis in Britain in the 70s). Inflation is the loss of purchasing power (=pouvoir d'achat) over time. It has reached an annual rate of 9.9% because of the pandemic lockdown and the war in Ukraine.</p> <p>The households(les ménages) need higher incomes to buy food, petrol or energy.</p> <p>BJ resigned (=ClownFall) because of a lot of scandals about him and his ministers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Partygate -Wallpapergate of Unit6 + unit11 -eco difficulties -Brexit <p>He was replaced by Liz Truss (Mary Elisabeth Truss) who resigned too!!</p>

<u>Doc3c: "How will 2022 be remembered?"</u>	<u>Doc3d: The beginning of "The Sword in the Stone": an allegory for the current atmosphere in Britain?</u>
<p>3 journalists from the Guardian analyze the best and the worst of 2022: 2022 has been nothing but boring (= tout sauf ennuyeuse) politically. "hasta la vista, baby" BJ "I know that we will deliver, we will deliver, we will deliver" LZ "some mistakes were made" RS</p> <p>Political fragmenting / no stability / Brexit has put the UK in a difficult situation / a sluggish economy = "a perfect storm" with strikes, 3 Prime Ministers = chaos in domestic policy = the twilight (= le crépuscule, la crise) of the Conservative party = everything has fallen over! = the UK has hit rock bottom (= a touché le fond)</p> <p>Three prime ministers. Two heads of state. One crisis after another. That, in short, is the story of 2022. = things can only get better now!</p>	<p>This video deals with the beginning of the Disney movie entitled « The Sword in the Stone ». England was prosperous/booming. But the King died so it was chaos. They tried to find a new king, as good as the former one but they couldn't find one. The nation is divided and the country is in crisis. So we can compare this to the current situation because of the Queen's death. Indeed now they have to find a new leader as powerful as Queen Elizabeth was and a new Prime Minister to deal with the Brexit fallout. Britain is waiting for a hero to save the economy. Thus, "the sword in stone" is an allegory of the current situation of England. « a country without a king/ without order » a dark atmosphere = a new winter of discontent</p>

Translation practice:

Suite à la démission des trois derniers Premiers Ministres conservateurs, le leader du Parti Travilliste a dit que le parti conservateur était une farce.

IN THE WAKE OF/ FOLLOWING the **resignation** of the three **latest** (+récents) Conservative PMs, the Labour party leader said that the Conservative party was a farce.

Le RU est en crise DEPUIS le Brexit.

The United Kingdom HAS BEEN in crisis since O Brexit. (attention DEPUIS-> BILAN donc present perfect dans la principale / Since + date ou point de départ, FOR + durée / O Brexit car concept)

Avec le Brexit et le Covid, le RU était déjà en crise.

What with O Brexit and O Covid, the United Kingdom was already in crisis. (Brexit and Covid = concepts -> O)

Le PM Rishi Sunak est confronté à beaucoup de problèmes depuis qu'il est devenu PM.

O Prime Minister Rishi Sunak HAS BEEN confronted/faced with a lot of problems SINCE he became PM. O fonction + nom (O PM Rishi Sunak vs THE Prime Minister) / DEPUIS => PRESENT PERFECT dans la principale / Since + date ou point de départ dans le passé donc prétérit

Contrairement à Boris Johnson, Liz Truss est restée PM pendant peu de temps.

UNLIKE Boris Johnson / **CONTRARY TO** Boris Johnson, Liz Truss **remained** Prime Minister **FOR a short time / for a short period of time.** cf expression du contraste Units 3+6 / stay (littéral) vs remain (figuré) / pendant + durée = FOR

Le parti conservateur a touché le fond en 2022 avec trois premiers ministres en moins d'un an. Quelle honte !

The Conservative Party **HIT ROCK BOTTOM** in 2022 with three Prime Ministers in less than a year. **What a shame/ disgrace!** ("shame on" them!)

Recap created by Malo and Charles