

Do Now:

1. Who is the prime minister?
2. Who is the leader of the opposition?
3. Who is the leader of the Liberal Democrats?
4. Who is the leader of Reform?
5. Who is the leader of the Greens

Challenge:

Give one argument in favour and one against giving 16-18 year olds the right to vote

Answers

1. Keir Starmer.
2. Kemi Badenoch
3. Ed Davey
4. Nigel Farage
5. Zak Polanski

Challenge:

Give one argument in favour and one against giving 16-18 year olds the right to vote

- **Politics affects young people – tuition fees, they can join the military at 17, age of consent is 16**
- **They do not pay tax, polls indicate most young people have little interests in politics**

What will I be studying and how will I be assessed?

Paper 1: UK Politics and Core Ideologies

Democracy and Participation

Political Parties

Electoral Systems

Voting Behaviour and the Media

Liberalism Conservatism, Socialism

Paper 2: UK Government and Non Core Ideology

The Constitution

Parliament

The PM and Executive

Relations between branches including the UK Supreme Court

Feminism

Paper 3: Comparative Politics: The USA

The Constitution

Congress

The Presidency

The Supreme Court and Race relations

Democracy and Participation

Comparative Politics

Paper 1: 2hr examination

Paper 2: 2hr examination

Paper 3: 2hr examination

No coursework

What are the strengths and weaknesses of First Past the Post?

Learning Objectives:

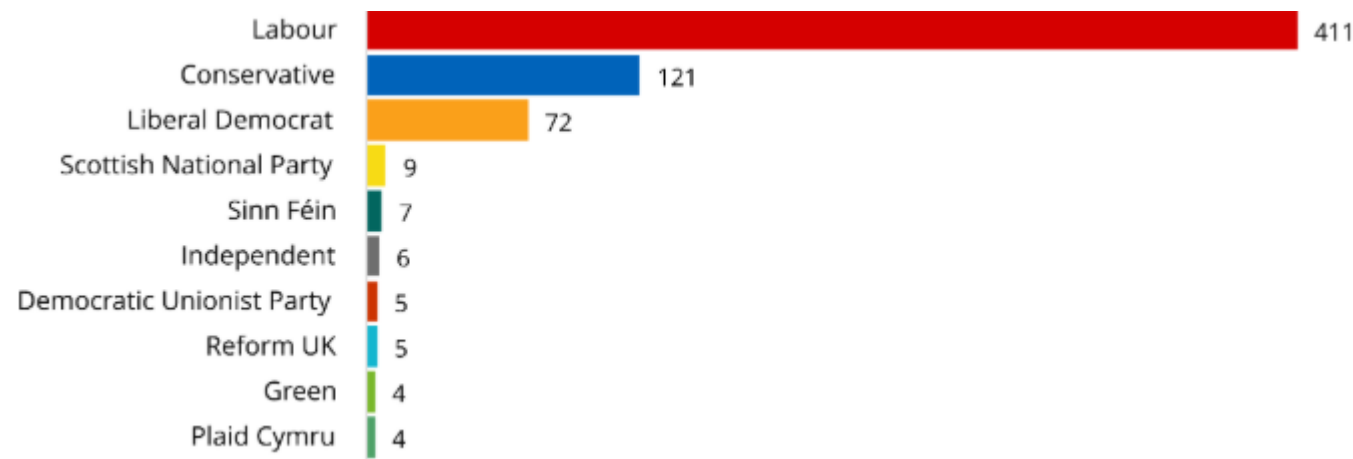
1. Understand how FPTP works
2. Identify some of its strengths and weaknesses as an electoral system
3. Be developing your own view on whether it should be retained

TASK 1: Calculate the size of the Labour majority at the 2024 election

What is the size of the Labour majority?

$$411 - (121 + 72 + 9 + 7 + 6 + 5 + 5 + 4 + 4 + 4)$$

174 (This means they would normally win every vote in the House of Commons)



How does it work?

- The country is divided into 650 geographical areas called a constituency
- Each constituency has an election to decide who will be the Member of Parliament (MP)
- The party that wins the most MPs nationally wins the election and the leader of the party becomes Prime Minister
- If a party wins more than 325 out of the 650 seats they have a majority in the House of Commons

Green Pen Challenge

What might the size of this majority mean to the power of the Labour government?

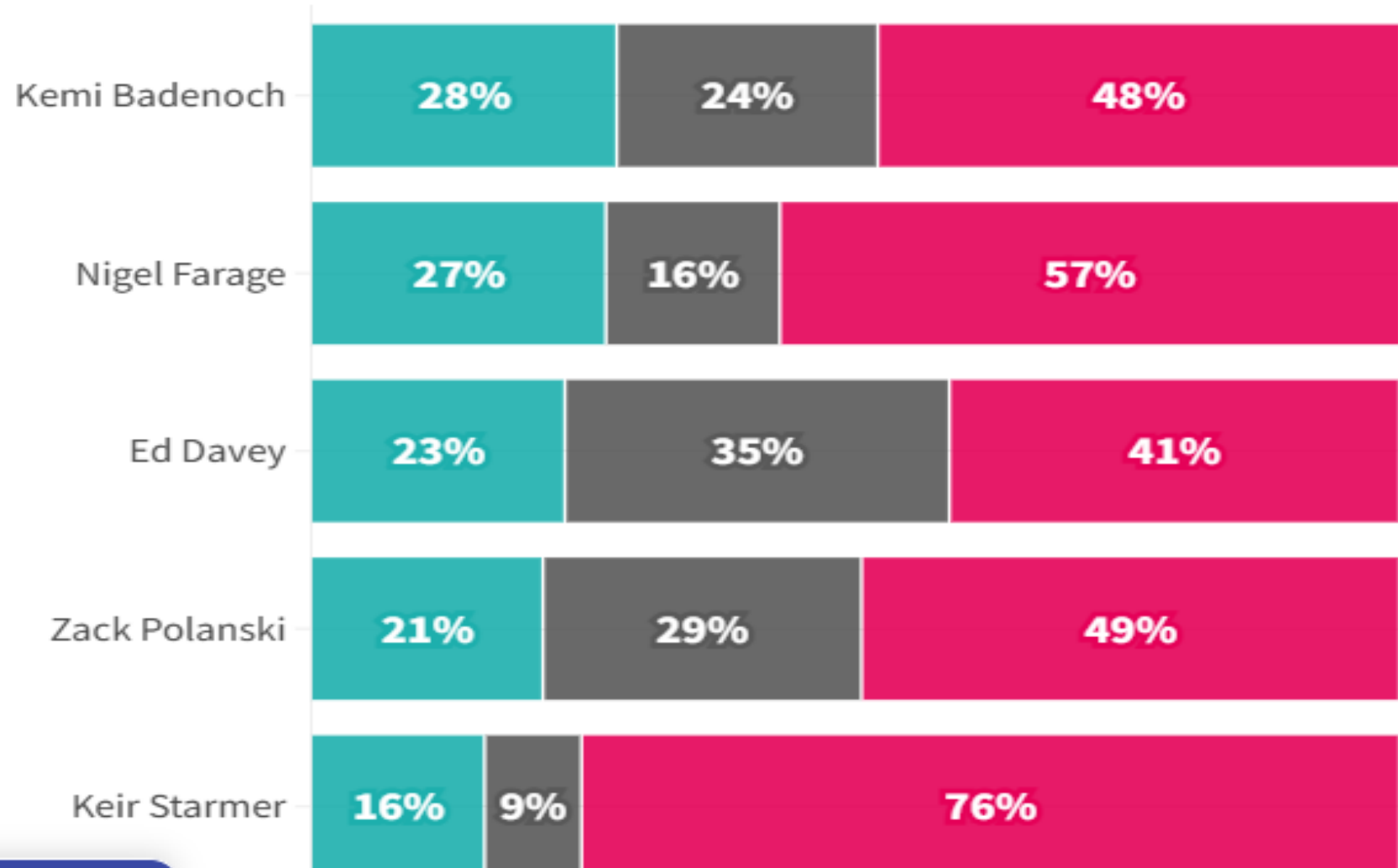
What are the latest leader opinion polls?

What: How can you explain how in May 2024 Starmer won a 174 seat majority and in May 2026 only 16% are satisfied with his performance and 76% are dissatisfied?

How Long One minute

How In Pairs

■ Satisfied ■ Don't know ■ Dissatisfied



What are the advantages and disadvantages of FPTP

Learning Objectives:

- To comprehend the features of FPTP.
- To successfully analyse the strengths and weaknesses of FPTP – is it fit for purpose?

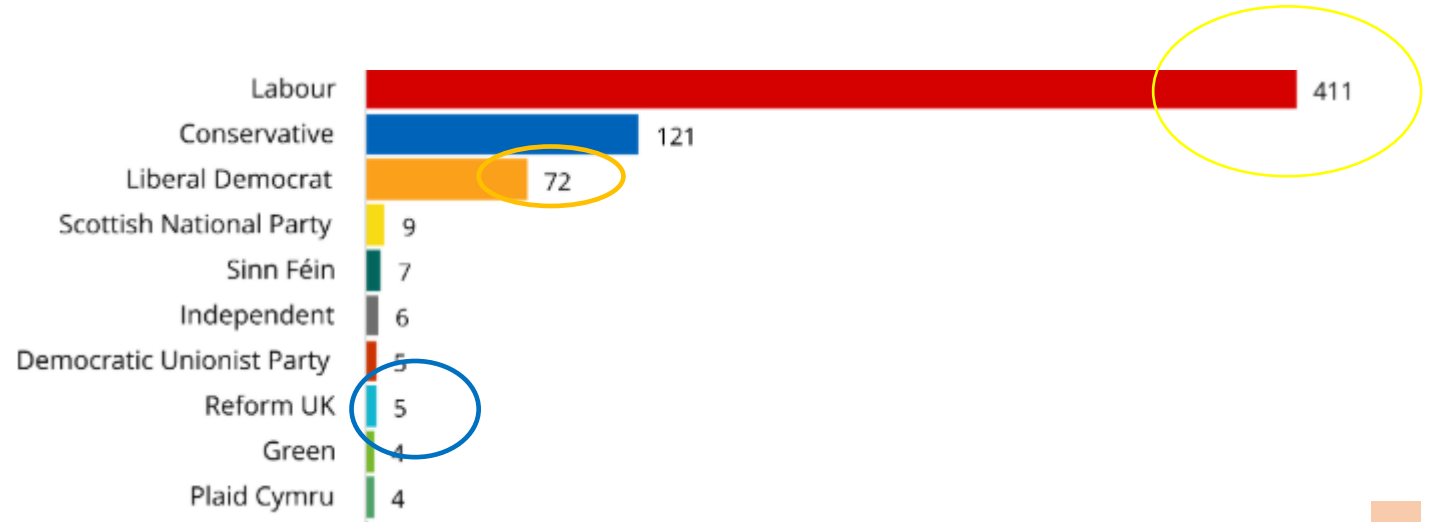
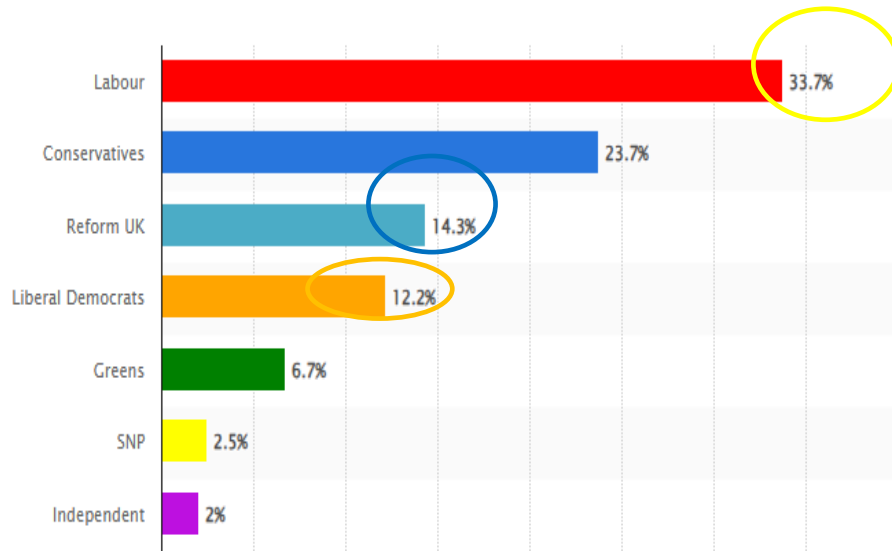
Constituency	Winner		Second		Third		Votes Required	
Halesowen	Conservative	11,349	Reform	11,179	Labour	11,144	205	0.30%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	Labour	11,907	Reform	11,677	Conservative	11,675	232	0.34%
Scarborough and Whitby	Labour	13,217	Conservative	13,187	Reform	12,789	428	0.57%
Blackpool North and Fleetwood	Conservative	12,888	Reform	12,877	Labour	12,458	430	0.59%
Plymouth Moor View	Labour	13,183	Conservative	12,907	Reform	12,742	441	0.59%
Wellingborough and Rushden	Labour	13,203	Conservative	13,084	Reform	12,574	629	0.81%
Erewash	Labour	12,815	Reform	12,201	Conservative	12,168	647	0.90%
Sherwood Forest	Reform	14,716	Conservative	14,262	Labour	13,969	747	0.95%
Rossendale and Darwen	Labour	13,607	Conservative	13,490	Reform	12,879	728	0.98%

What are the strengths and weaknesses of First Past the Post?

Learning Objectives:

1. Understand how FPTP works
2. Identify some of its strengths and weaknesses as an electoral system
3. Be developing your own view on whether it should be retained

TASK 2: What do you notice about the relationship between the percentage vote share and the percentage of seats in the House of Commons gained by the Labour Party, Lib Dems and Reform?
Does it seem fair? Does this help to explain the opinion polls on the previous slide?



Green pen Challenge:

How does the SNP get 4.2% less votes than the Green Party but gets over 200% more seats in the House of Commons?

Labour get 33.7% vote but 63% of the seats
Lib Dems 12.2 % of the vote but 11% of the seats
Reform get 14.3 % of the vote but 0.7 % of the seats

What are the strengths and weaknesses of First Past the Post?

Learning Objectives:

1. Understand how FPTP works

TASK 3: How does this happen under FPTP?

Imagine a country with five constituencies not 650. In this fictional example there are 5 constituencies and ten voters in each constituency so 50 votes in total. In order to win the election a party needs to win 3 out of the 5 constituencies. Which party wins this election, which comes second, which comes third?

Green Pen Challenge:

What do you notice about the overall vote share of each party? Why could this be seen as unfair?

	Constituency A	Constituency B	Constituency C	Constituency D	Constituency E
Con	6	4	4	2	2
Lab	2	3	3	5	5
Lib Dem	2	3	3	3	3

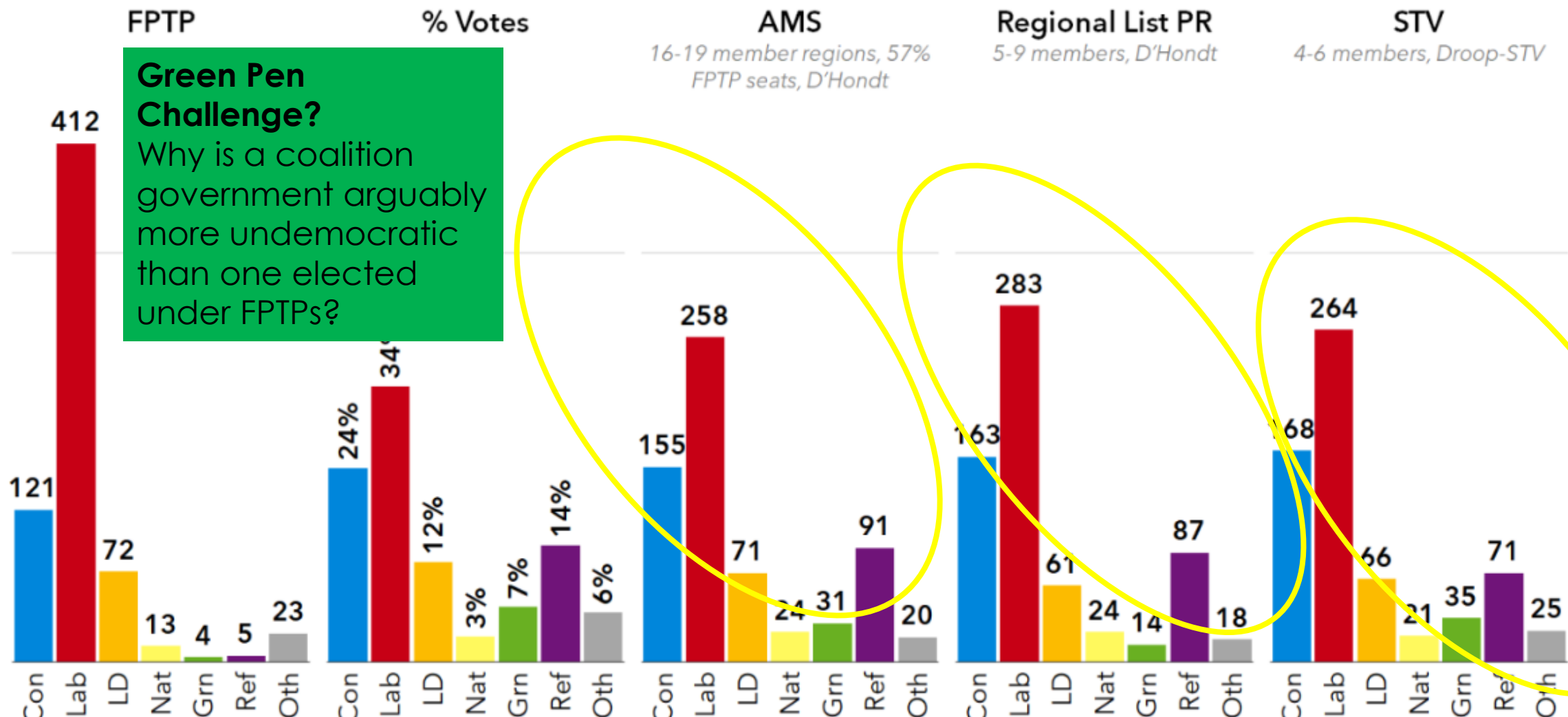
What are the strengths and weaknesses of First Past the Post?

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify some of its strengths and weaknesses as an electoral system

TASK 4: Below are the 2024 results using more proportional electoral systems – the d'Hondt formula

General election 2024 under PR



What are the strengths and weaknesses of First Past the Post?

Learning Objective

3. Be developing your own view on whether it should be retained

TASK 4: Based on the information you have would you keep FPTP

Strength:

Stable government. FPTP usually produces a clear winner , not a coalition meaning there is a clear line of accountability

But

Weakness:

Smaller parties are disadvantaged and the House of Commons does not reflect the way the nation voted

Strength

Parties that come third or fourth do not get a share of government that is disproportionate to their vote. There is never a mandate for a coalition government

But

Weakness:

Some safe seats have been held by one party for over 50 years. What is the point of voting in these constituencies?

Green Pen Challenge?

Why is a coalition government arguably more undemocratic than one elected under FPTPs?