

Year: 10
Term: 3
Topic: Politics beyond the UK

Lesson Concepts

1. Comparing systems of Government / Democracy rankings
2. Switzerland case study direct democracy
3. China case study non-democratic political system
4. Comparing the UK, Switzerland and China review
5. Revision
6. Key Assessment

Core Text:
 Citizenship Studies OCR GCSE 9-1;
 Steve Johnson & Graeme Roffe;
 Hodder Education

Key Words:			
W1 Democracy	Rule of the people	W3 Pluralism	Where different groups of people coexist within the same society.
Civil Liberties	Every person has rights connected to their personal freedom, tolerance and respect, equal opportunity and the rule of law	Direct democracy	The type of democracy where the citizens are dominant and have a key role in decision-making.
Gender equality	Women and men being treated the same in all areas of society.	Federation	A union of partially self-governing states or regions under a central (federal) government.
Press freedom	The media can freely express itself without censorship or restriction	Republic	A country which power is held only by elected representatives. There is no monarch.
Corruption	Unfair political and business deals	Political culture	The attitudes and beliefs that underpin practices and behaviour in the political system.
W2 Consensus	General agreement	W4 Political participation	Involvement in decision-making
Tyranny of the majority	A majority of people making decisions that discriminate against the minority	Politburo	The main policy-making committee of a communist party.
Communist	A system of government in which the community rather than the individual is seen as more important. In theory each person is expected to contribute to the community according to their ability and, in return, the community should be prepared to meet their needs.	Unicameral	A parliament with a single chamber, in contrast to the bicameral parliament of the UK and Switzerland.
Indirect election system	Citizens elect representatives who then take responsibility for electing delegates to a higher layer of government.	Authoritarian regime	Citizens elect representatives who then take responsibility for electing delegates to a higher layer of the government.

W5 China (non-democratic Republic):

Citizens over 18 can apply to join the Communist Party's and become one of its 60 million members. Membership is not automatic.

All applicants must have the support of two current party members. If their application is successful, new members must prove themselves suitable for membership by serving a probationary period.

All members must make an oath of loyalty to their party in which they swear loyalty and promise to be "ready at all times to sacrifice my all for the Party and the people".

All citizens over 18 have the right to vote by secret ballot in 'general elections' for local people's congresses.

Citizens have their political voting rights removed if they are in custody, being investigated, charged or tried because of 'endangering national security or other serious criminal activities'.

Members of the Communist Party have more power than citizens who are not party members.

Communists can stand for office and vote in elections to choose the party's top local officials.

The three sources of power in China are the Communist Party, the NPC and the People's Liberation Army.

W6 Switzerland (Direct Democracy):

Federalism and direct democracy reflect the great importance that the Swiss political system places on the freedom of choice and self-determination. The capital city of Switzerland is Bern.

Three political levels share power in Switzerland: the Confederation, the 26 cantons and over 2,250 communes.

The Swiss federal government, (the Federal Council), is made up of seven members, who are elected by parliament.

The Swiss parliament, or (Federal Assembly), has a total of 246 members, who are directly elected by the people. Switzerland has a bicameral parliament: the National Council (200 members) and the Council of States (46 members).

15 political parties are represented in the Swiss parliament. Those parties with the largest share of the popular vote are represented on the Federal Council.

Some 5.3 million citizens, roughly 63% of the total population, are eligible to vote at federal level. This right is granted to all Swiss nationals on reaching the age of majority (18 in Switzerland).

