



Knowledge Organiser Pro-Forma Paper 1 KT3 Elections Referendums

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

Key question 1: How does FPTP work?

Key question 2: How does AMS work.

Key question 3: How does STV work?

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% , 2 and 3 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 Amess v 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 poorly v 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get unwanted govts out easily, transformational govts like Thatcher/Blair v Two party system limits choice – parties no longer represent divide in society, wasted votes heartlands, 22.6m out of 32m, tactical voting undermining legitimacy of govt, partnership politics not adversarial politics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

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 spoiled ballot papers

SV

Slightly fewer wasted votes, marginally proportional , extremist parties out

Artificially gaining a majority, wasted votes etc.

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 and the 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 Féin and now by Sinn Féin 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 the impact of new electoral systems has made the case for reform of FPTP in Westminster elections?

Evaluate the view that referendums since 1997 have done little to enhance democracy?

