British politics

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
INTERMEDIATE | B1-B2

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Tick the correct category for each politics word.

Word | Institution | Process | Role | Concept

1 backbencher [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
2 manifesto [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
3 devolution [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
4 coalition [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
5 cabinet [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
6 constituency boundary [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
7 opposition [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
8 referendum [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

2 Correct the mistake in each sentence.

1 He is backbencher of MP. _____
2 The party released manifesto of before the election. _____
3 Devolution give powers to regions. _____
4 They formed coalition of government. _____
5 The cabinet meet every week. _____
6 They redrew the constituency of boundary. _____
7 The opposition criticise the policy. _____
8 A referendum was held of independence. _____

3 Choose the more suitable description.

1 For an MP without a government or opposition leadership role: backbencher / cabinet minister.
2 For a party's official document of promises before an election: manifesto / private diary.
3 For transferring powers from central to regional government: devolution / centralisation.
4 For a government formed by two or more parties together: coalition / single-party majority.
5 For senior ministers who meet to decide government policy: cabinet / general public.
6 For a direct public vote on a specific issue: referendum / opinion poll.

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4 Complete the reports with words from the box.

backbencher | cabinet | coalition | constituency boundary | devolution | manifesto | opposition | referendum

Report A: The party published its 1 _____ ahead of the vote, outlining plans for greater 2 _____ to give regions more control over local decisions.
Report B: After no party won a majority, they formed a 3 _____ with a smaller party, and the 4 _____ met to agree senior appointments.
Report C: A 5 _____ MP criticised the plan publicly, while the 6 _____ called for the policy to be scrapped entirely.
Report D: Officials proposed changing a 7 _____, sparking local controversy ahead of a possible 8 _____ on the issue.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

How coalition government works

When no single party wins a clear majority in an election, forming a government often requires cooperation between parties, resulting in a coalition. This arrangement can bring a wider range of perspectives into government, but it also requires compromise, as coalition partners must agree on shared policy priorities despite differing manifestos. Backbenchers within coalition parties sometimes find themselves torn between loyalty to their own party's original commitments and the practical need to support a compromise agreement. Critics argue coalitions can produce weaker, more diluted policy, while supporters counter that the resulting compromise better reflects the genuine diversity of voter opinion.

1 When does forming a government often require cooperation between parties? _____

2 What can this arrangement bring into government? _____

3 What does it also require? _____

4 What might backbenchers find themselves torn between? _____

5 What do critics argue about coalitions? _____

6 What do supporters counter? _____

6 Rewrite each phrase using the word in capitals.

1 The party published its official election promises. MANIFESTO _____

2 Powers were transferred to regional government. DEVOLUTION _____

3 No party won a majority, so they worked together. COALITION _____

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4 The public voted directly on the issue. REFERENDUM _____

OVER TO YOU

Write a 100-120 word account of how coalition or devolved government works, using a specific example. Include benefits and challenges.

[ ] Use at least ten target expressions. [ ] Include polite, precise wording. [ ] Organise the account clearly.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Categories

1 Role 2 Process 3 Concept 4 Institution 5 Institution 6 Concept 7 Institution 8 Process

2 Corrections

1 a backbench MP 2 released its manifesto 3 gives powers to regions 4 formed a coalition government
5 cabinet meets 6 the constituency boundary 7 opposition criticises the policy 8 referendum on independence

3 Suitable descriptions

1 backbencher 2 manifesto 3 devolution 4 coalition 5 cabinet 6 referendum

4 Reports

1 manifesto 2 devolution 3 coalition 4 cabinet 5 backbencher 6 opposition 7 constituency boundary 8 referendum

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 When no single party wins a clear majority.
2 A wider range of perspectives.
3 Compromise.
4 Loyalty to their own party's original commitments and the practical need to support a compromise agreement.
5 That coalitions can produce weaker, more diluted policy.
6 That the resulting compromise better reflects the genuine diversity of voter opinion.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 The party published its manifesto. 2 Powers were transferred through devolution.
3 They formed a coalition. 4 There was a referendum.

Over to you

Answers will vary. Check range, respectful register and clear organisation.