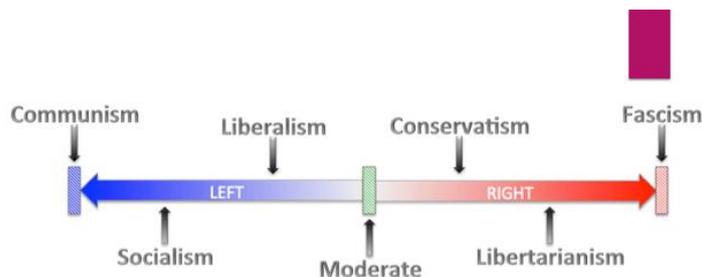


A level Politics - Are you more left or right wing in your views?

The basics...

- ▶ A **political ideology** provides a description and interpretation of contemporary society. The labels 'left' and 'right' can be used to classify these ideologies and to describe the position of politicians and other political groups.
- ▶ Historically in the UK, the **Labour Party has been seen as left wing**, the **Conservative party as right wing** and **Liberals, including the Liberal Democrats, have been placed in the centre** of the spectrum.
- ▶ However, **ideologies do not remain fixed**. All three main parties have moved closer to the centre ground in the last 20 years. Political commentators argue that former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, pushed back the party towards the left in the last few years. Whereas Sir Keir Starmer has brought the party back towards the centre.



Here we can see the political spectrum in a line from left to right.

What are your basic political beliefs? Take the Quiz!!

Tick which description best applies to you and then decipher whether you are more left or right wing.

- A Education should not be based on selection, it should teach us to help each other, create a sense of community and help us to develop as rounded people.
- B Education should be about competition. Schools should be able to select students. This means the best will be able to achieve and weaker students will be given the specific help they need.
- A Rich people should pay a high tax rate to help those less fortunate than themselves. There should be as little difference as possible between rich and poor.
- B There will always be differences between rich and poor, it is natural. Rich people have worked hard to get where they are and should be allowed to keep as much of their money as possible.
- A Schools should teach students about the multicultural nature of British society and we should learn to respect people choosing to live different lifestyles.
- B 'British' culture is important and should be emphasised and preserved in order to maintain stability and unity in society.

A Education and healthcare should be free. This encourages equality in society. Why should someone with money get better/different treatment than someone else?

B If you wish, you should be able to pay for better education and healthcare. This takes the burden from the welfare state, which can then help those in need and it also provides freedom of choice.

A The state should intervene to protect poorer people, provide services such as healthcare, prevent unemployment, encourage equal rights etc.

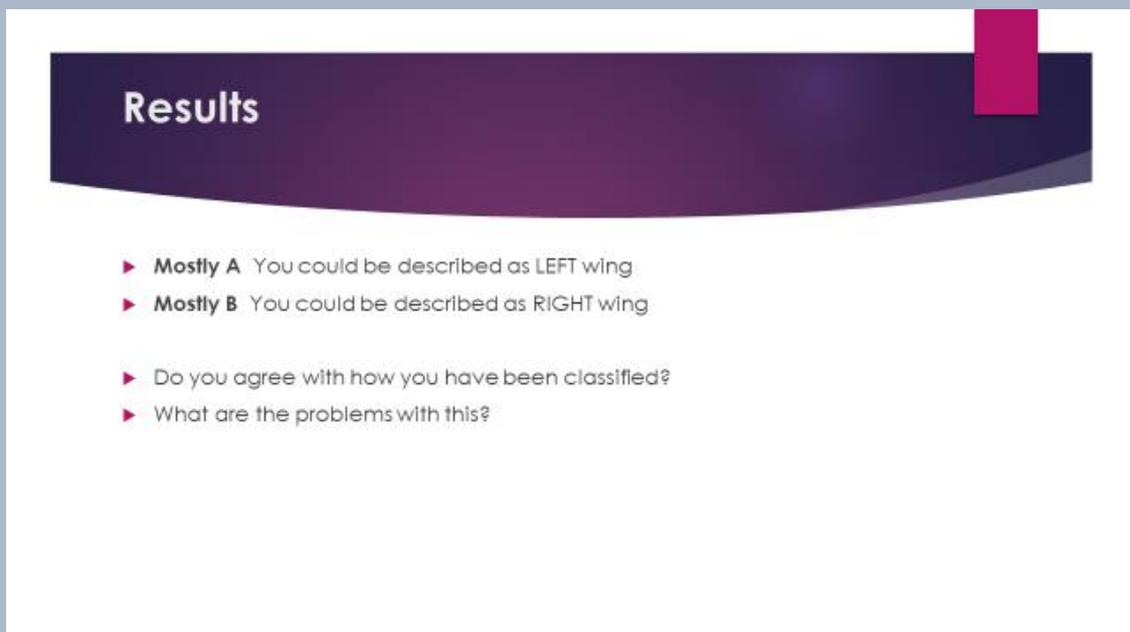
B People should be self-reliant; they should be left alone as much as possible and should not expect the state to support them or they will become lazy.

A The family can take different forms, such as single-parent families, gay families, step families and this should be accepted and celebrated

B The nuclear family (mum, dad, kids) is the best way to bring up children. Other forms of family should not be encouraged as they may lead to moral degeneration and youth crime.

A There should be strict legislation on employment conditions, such as minimum wages and limits on working hours, to prevent employers exploiting their workers for maximum profits. Workers should be able to strike if they are treated poorly.

B Employers should be left alone to manage their workers as they see fit. They create jobs and wealth for society. If they treat their workers badly, the workers will get jobs elsewhere.



Results

- ▶ **Mostly A** You could be described as LEFT wing
- ▶ **Mostly B** You could be described as RIGHT wing
- ▶ Do you agree with how you have been classified?
- ▶ What are the problems with this?

This is just a sample of an activity that explores political ideologies. We explore all the main ideologies in the UK (conservatism/liberalism/socialism) and we also explore anarchism.

If this has got you talking and thinking about what your own views are – maybe A-level Politics is for you!