

Policy, Politics & the Professional

Introduction to the module

Module aims

- To consider the key policy changes in the last parts of the 20th century and focus upon the way these have affected education, together with detailed exploration of the nature of professional identity in education.
- To provide an analysis of the ways in which governmental ideology has made itself felt in the shaping of education policy; the way in which education policy is subject to international pressures and agendas; and the way in which education at a local level is affected by both of these.

Reflect and write down...

- What do you hope to learn from this module?
- What areas of education policy (if any!!) interest you in particular?
- What concerns do you have about this module?

Outcomes for today's session

- To consider the relationship between ideology and politics
- To develop an awareness of different ideological frameworks
- To explore how ideology can influence policy making decisions

Some initial questions...

- Who is involved in the creation of policy?
- To what extent does a policy reflect the values and assumptions of its creators?
- To what extent does the implementation of policy differ from the original intentions?
- How is the value of a policy initiative recognised and/or adapted in practice?
- How do we judge success of failure in respect of policy



Some of the headlines

- **Head teacher turns rebel over funding** – BBC News (28/09/17)
- **Tuition fee repayment earnings threshold to rise to £25,000** – Guardian (01/10/17)
- **Millions of pupils 'missing out on trips away' owing to cost** – TES (29/09/17)
- **Lauren Stocks** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-41401263>

The Changing face of Britain

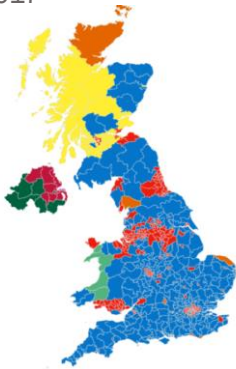
2010



2015



2017



So what's the difference?



What do we mean by ideology?

- What are ideologies?
- Political ideas not a passive reflection
- The influence of ideology (with thanks to Heywood 2012)
 1. Structure political understanding and so set goals and inspire activism
 2. Shape the nature of political systems
 3. Act as a form of social cement



Ideology in transition

- The development of ideology in the 19th century - a way of shaping emerging industrial society
- Economic focus
- Significance of the 1917 Russian Revolution & Cold War period



Political Ideology in Context

- Conservatism
- Liberalism
- Socialism, social democracy and Labour
- Nationalism

Liberalism

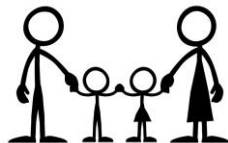
- Breakdown of feudalism in Europe and the growth of a market society
- Represented the views of rising middle classes
- Challenged the notion of privilege
- Questioned the role of the church
- 19th century was an ideal breeding ground for liberalism
- An incoherent ideology?

Some key ideas

- The individual is supreme
- 20th century developments – a morally neutral doctrine
- Freedom – John Stuart Mill '*On Liberty*' (1859)
- Reason
- Justice
- Tolerance
- Liberal democracy

Conservatism

- Traditionalist in nature
- Have been influenced by liberal views in recent years
- Tradition
- Human imperfection
- Organic society
- Hierarchy and authority
- Property



Socialism

- 19th century reaction against conditions brought on by capitalism
- Gradual improvements in 19th century
- Reform vs Revolution
- Community
- Cooperation
- Equality
- Class politics
- Common ownership

Nationalism

- Nation should be self directing
- Community
- Self-determination
- Culturalism



Task

- Look at the websites of the major political parties e.g. Labour, Conservative, Liberal Democrats, SNP, Plaid Cymru
- Can you clearly identify their core values and if so where?
- To what extent do you agree or disagree with their perspectives on education? Why?
- To what extent do you see their ambitions for education as realistic?

Further reading

- Heywood, A. (2012) *Political Ideologies: An Introduction*. Fifth edition. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan
- Fitz, J., Davies, W.B. and Evans, J., (2005) *Education Policy and Social Reproduction: Class Inscription & Symbolic Control*. London: RoutledgeFalmer.
- Leach, R. (2015) *Political Ideology in Britain: Third Edition*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan
- Lingard, B. and Ozga, J., (ed) (2006) *The RoutledgeFalmer Reader in Education Policy and Politics*. London: Routledge
- Ward, S., Eden, C., (2009) *Key Issues in Education Policy*. London: Sage.
