



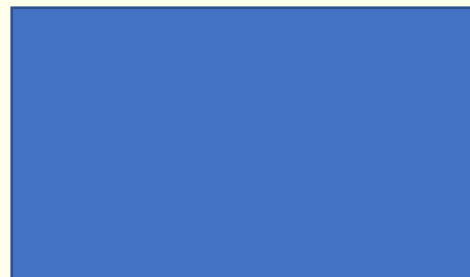
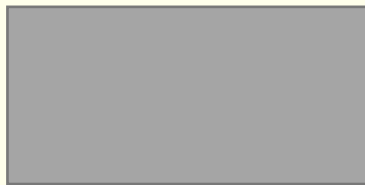
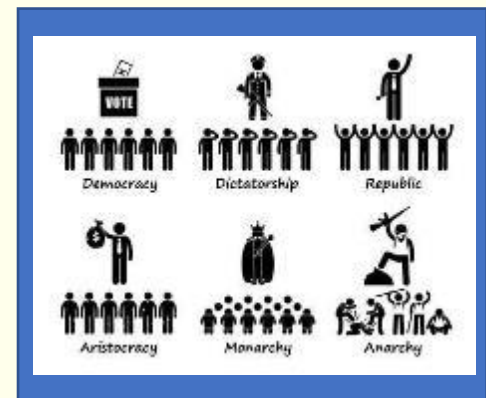
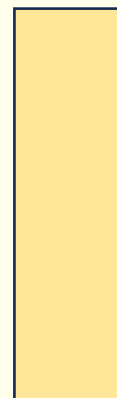
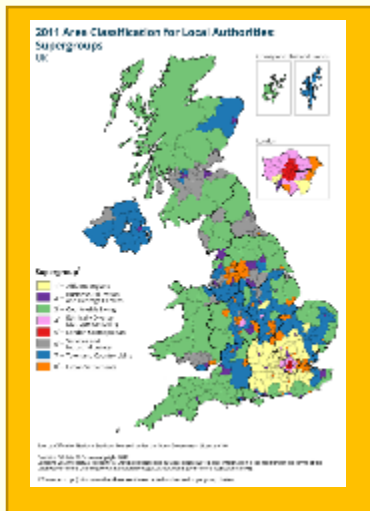
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Transforming Education, Transforming Lives



ECED7007: Political Influences in Inequality & Diversity

Tutorial : Module Introduction and Assessment briefing

What does 'Politics' mean to you?



We will first look at your posts on the Moodle Forum under this Topic.

This will help to set the scene for our discussions and explorations in this Module.

What is Politics?

- Politics derives from the Greek root *polis* meaning city/state
- It therefore literally means *affairs of the city/state*
- It shares this root with the following words in English;
 - **Cosmopolis** – a capital city
 - **Metropolis** – any large, busy city
 - **Police** – the civil force of a state or city
 - **Policy** – the conduct of public affairs

(based on Shorter Oxford English Dictionary, 2007)

What is Politics?

- However, the concept of politics is, as we shall see, far more complex in its modern usage
- Taken at face value it can be seen to be ‘the practice of the art or science of directing and administering states or other political units’ (Brown *et al*, 2018).
- The definition of politics is, perhaps, one of the most contested concepts in sociological debate
- There are almost as many views on what constitutes the ‘political’ as there are theorists

What is Politics?

- On one side of the debate we would find those, such as feminist Carol Hanisch (1970), who argue that the 'personal is political' i.e. that everything is a matter of politics
- Others would take an opposing view that the political only refers to the level of government and the state and usually involves party competition.
- If we visualise this as a continuum, where would you place yourself?



What is Politics?

- Over the course of this Module we will explore not only this debate but also the many approaches to politics that exist in contemporary society
- Each of us will have political views and we will share these with respect and sensitivity
- However, for the rest of this session we will look at the Module Outline and the Assignments.
- Please note that you can ask any questions about the Assignments, outside of lectures in the General Forum at the top of the Moodle Page



Module Documents on Moodle

- Module Outline – the Module Outline gives you the basic information regarding the Module.
- This is available on Moodle in the relevant tile
- We will also look at the Assignment briefings that are also available on Moodle
- We will take time to look at each of these in turn now.

Any Questions?



Please post any questions that are not raised in this first session in the General Forum on Moodle



References

Brown, Garrett W, McLean, Iain & McMillan, Alistair, (2018) *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Politics and International Relations* Oxford: Oxford University Press Available at: [Politics - Oxford Reference](#) [Last Accessed 07/01/2026]

Hanisch, C. (1970) 'The Personal is Political' in Firestone, S. [ed.] *Notes from the Second Year: Women's Liberation* Available at: [Notes from the Second Year: Women's Liberation / Women's Liberation Movement Print Culture / Duke Digital Repository](#) [Last Accessed 07/01/2026]

Shorter Oxford English Dictionary (2007) Oxford: OUP