

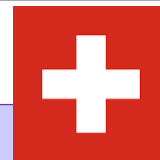
Revision Summary Sheet – Politics beyond the UK

Direct Democracy	A type of democracy where citizens are dominant and have a key role in making decisions.	Federation	A union of partially self-governing states or regions under a central (federal) government.
Republic	A country in which power is held only by elected representatives. There is no monarch.	Political Culture	The attitudes and beliefs that underpin practices and behaviour in the political system.
Consensus	General agreement	Political Participation	Involvement in decision-making
Tyranny of the majority	A majority of people making decisions that discriminate against a minority.	Politburo	The main policy-making committee of a Communist Party
Communist	A system of government in which the community rather than the individual, is seen to be more important.	Unicameral	A parliament with a single chamber, in contrast to the bicameral parliaments in the UK and Switzerland.
Indirect election system	Citizens elect representatives who then take responsibility for electing delegates to a higher layer of government.	Authoritarian regime	A government that uses its power to enforce strict obedience to its policies and practices. As a result, personal freedom is restricted.

Democracy Ranking

Democracy ranking measures the quality of politics and the quality of society to decide how far a country is democratic. The two tables below show the measurement of the quality of democracy

Quality of politics – Including freedom and civil liberties 50%		Quality of society – the effects of government 50%	
Criteria	% Weighting	Criteria	% Weighting
Political rights - Is everyone able to vote regularly and in secret, stand as a candidate and join a political party?	12.5	Economy – Wealth, inflation, government debt and employment	10
Civil liberties - Legal rights connected with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal freedom • Tolerance and respect for diversity • Equal opportunity • The Rule of Law 	12.5	Environment – CO2 emissions and sustainable use of energy	10
		Gender equality - This includes political empowerment. Are women fairly represented in the executive, legislature and judiciary?	12.5
Press freedom - Can the media express itself freely without censorship or restriction	5	Health – Infant mortality, % of country's wealth spent on health care	10
Lack of corruption - Are there laws against unfair political and business deals? Are the laws enforced in all cases?	5	Knowledge – School and college enrolment, internet access, personal communication.	10
Peaceful changes of government - Do political parties and heads of state respect election results?	2.5		



Switzerland – A Direct Democracy

- Relatively small but influential and wealthy country. It is not a member of the EU, but has strong trade relationships with Europe. It is known as a **direct democracy**. Switzerland is also a **federation**
- It has no defence agreements and has not fought a war for over 200 years
- It is also a **Republic** and has no monarch.
- Authority in Switzerland is shared between the **Confederation (central State), 26 Cantons (federal states) and the 2,929 municipalities (town or village councils.)**
- Every 4 years, citizens elect 200 members of the National Council and 46 members of the Council of States using a system of proportional representation
- All citizens over 18 can vote
- Swiss citizens are generally called on 4 times a year to vote in referendums on federal proposals.
- One of the criticisms is that it can be a '**Tyranny of the majority.**' For example, a referendum vote can pass a law discriminating against a minority group. It can also limit the actions of elected representatives.

The People's Republic of China (PRC) – a non-democratic political system.

- Founded in 1949 by the victorious Communist Party.
- The world's second-largest economic power, one of five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the only **Communist** state in the G-20 grouping of major world economies.
- In 2015, the UK and China became close trading partners, even though the two countries have very different approaches to politics and human rights.
- It has a complex political system. **The Chinese Communist Party** is the prime authority. It is led by its 370-person Central Committee and a Politburo of 25 people. Within the Politburo is the seven-person Standing Committee. The Standing Committee includes the General Secretary/President.
- **The National People's Congress (NPC)** is a unicameral parliament and China's legislature. It is dominated by the Communist Party. The NPC appoints the judiciary and elects the President.
- People's congresses make decision in China's provinces and towns. These interpret Communist Party policy to fit local circumstances.
- Delegates to the NPC are elected for 5 year term by an indirect election system.
- All citizen over the age of 18 can vote on secret ballot 'general elections' for local people's congresses.
- Citizens have their political voting rights removed if they are in custody, being investigated, charged or tried.



Criticisms of the Chinese approach

- Authoritarian regime
- Human rights are not fully respected and people do not have enough say about how their country is run
- Those who campaign for democracy are not tolerated
- News media is controlled by the Chinese State
- Minority groups are repressed if they are seen as a threat to China's stability
- People have limited political influence especially if they are not Communist Party members.

