APCG Wilton

Name: Basic facts for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| Unitary or Federal  Unitary although devolution- giving power to Wales, N. Ireland, Scotland, England (creating regional parliaments) | Year(s) of revolution (for our purposes) or founding (for our purposes)  There was a Glorious Revolution (b/c it was bloodless, late 1700s) but in general our term is Gradualism- a slow development of their politics over time; also “Constitution of the Crown”- a series of documents that are their written laws (starting w/ Magna Carta, Bill of Rights, etc.) |
| Head of State title, name, last elected, party, how did they get their position  Queen Elizabeth II, nonpolitical, hereditary, b/c her dad died suddenly, Figurehead (no real powers, (even though she could, she won’t)) | Head of Government title, name, last elected, party, how did they get their position  PM Theresa May Parliamentary System—lower house is elected, the Majority forms and choses the PM (majority is called The Government---cabinet is party leaders) (loyal opposition is 2nd largest party, shadow cabinet is their leadership) |
| Lower House name and electoral system  House of Commons; FPTP (aka winner take all, pluarality🡪 usually results in a two party system, but in UK there are strong regional parties (SNP, Plaid Cymru, Sienn Fien that take away from any party receiving a majority.) | Upper House name and electoral system  House of Lords; not elected (hereditary peers, Anglican bishops, life peers—Tony Blair removed most life peers in his Third Way reforms in his 1997 campaign.) |
| Judicial Review? (yes, no, or on paper (procedural)  Nope- no written constitution (Supreme Court created in 2009 to appear more “democratic”) | Evidence of transparency or lack of transparency?  Yes; free media, BBC🡪 state owned media but still reliable |
| Relevant political parties and necessary details-  Consertative (formally tories)  Labour  Lib. Dems (created in 1980’s—losing power, wants to switch to PR electoral system)  Regional Parties🡪 SNP, SUP (both Scotland) Plaid Cymru (Wales), Sinn Fein (N. Ireland) | Significant historical political players-  Churchill- during WWII; created Welfare State  Thatcher- changed them to pluralism from corporatism (wouldn’t deal with Trade Union Congress)  Blair (Labour—the rest are conservative)- created a more moderate Labour party  Cameron- brought about Brexit vote, stepped down once it passed in ‘16  May- Has to negotiate Article 50 w/ EU for Brexit |
| Significant cleavages:  White collar (conservative)  Blue collar (labour) | Significant historical events that shape system-  Magna Carta  WWII (Battle of Britain devastated them they come up w/ collective consensus---noblese oblige---idea that they should do some stuff together.) |
| Key Terms  Welfare state- created after WWII; social services (NHS- national health service, some college paid for, maternity benefits) | Key Leaders (need two) and policies  See the playa’s section |