

## Week 4: Tony Blair

### Task 1: Watch this video from Andrew Marr 'New Britannia'

<https://clickv.ie/w/wWm>

The first 22 minutes of this video look at the Conservative government of John Major 1990-97. You might want to watch it as it does provide amazing information on the following topics:

- First Gulf War 1990-91
- Osama bin Laden
- Creation of the Internet
- Maastricht Treaty 1991 – a key EU treaty (you will study the EU in the L6 course).
- 1992 General Election
- ERM Black Wednesday 1992 (13-18 minutes – you will see George Soros. This is also good if you want to study economics)
- Jamie Bulger 1993
- Back to Basics sleaze scandals

### Tony Blair questions: after 22minutes

1. Who was the leader of the Labour Party before Blair? He died in	John Smith
2. In which restaurant did Blair and Brown make their leadership deal?	The Ganita
3. Alastair Campbell was an important figure with Blair's New Labour as campaign director (1994-97) and the Director of Communications. What job did Campbell have before going into politics?	journalist
4. Peter Mandelson was another New Labour 'spin doctor'. He had a background in which form of media?	television
5. Which politician did Blair controversially praise which upset many people in the Labour Party?	Margaret Thatcher
6. After the death of Princess Diana, Tony Blair's approval rating rose above what figure?	90%
7. The first scandal of the New Labour government involved their decision to stop ban on tobacco advertising on F1. This came after a £1 million donation to Labour from which figure?	Bernie Ecclestone
8. In 1998 New Labour helped seal the Good Friday Agreement. This saw devolved power given to Northern Ireland, in which Ian Paisley (unionist leader) share power with which former IRA member?	Martin McGuinness
9. Which extra power was given to the Scottish Parliament after the 1997 referendum (initially Wales did not have this power, but has recently got it).	Tax varying power
10. Which Labour minister was put in charge of the Millennium Dome	Peter Mandelson

11. Where was Tony Blair as 9/11 unfolded?	TUC Conference in Brighton
12. Who was the USA President during 9/11, who forged a 'special relationship' with Blair?	George W Bush
13. Who was the weapons inspector who was exposed as the source for a BBC report claiming the government exaggerated the threat of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction?	David Kelly
14. Which independent body is credited with helping British economy in 2000s	Bank of England
15. Blair and Brown supported PFI – what is it (you might need to research)	Private Finance Initiative

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#### Task 4: Prechewed

- Login: [politics@reigategrammar.org](mailto:politics@reigategrammar.org)
- Password: Learn@Home294
- UK Politics member – political parties – video 5

#### How far was New Labour a break from the party's ideological roots?

1. For decades the Labour Party has had divisions between Democratic Socialism and which other group?	Social Democracy
2. What does Democratic Socialism think about Capitalism?	It is inherently exploitative and must be abolished
3. What is a mixed economy?	Some nationalism but mostly private businesses
4. Who was the radical left wing leader of the Labour Party between 1980 and 83?	Michael Foot
5. What did the Gang of Four do in 1981	They left the Labour Party to form the Social Democratic Party (SDP)
6. What did Gerald Kaufman call the Labour manifesto of 1983	The Longest Suicide Note in History
7. After 1983 some commentators said that Labour had to change and become moderate, as there had been the growth of what class of people after 1945?	Middle Class
8. Who became Labour leader after Michael Foot?	Neil Kinnock
9. In 1992 John Smith became Labour leader and sought to limit the power of which group within the party?	Trade Unions
10. In 1994 Tony Blair became leader and rebranded the party as what?	New Labour
11. What was the Third Way?	Blair's attempt to combine Socialism with Thatcherism (social justice and economic efficiency)
12. Why did the Blairite Peter Mandelson say he was relaxed about people getting 'filthy rich'?	As they would pay more taxes which would fund public services and welfare
13. What party of the Labour Constitution did Blair reform?	Clause IV – a commitment to nationalisation. "common ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange"
14. What did Blair promise to do with income tax in the 1997 election?	Not to raise it.

15. In 1997 Blair won a landslide election victory. How many seats did Labour win?	418
16. What are Public Finance Initiatives?	Private companies build public projects and rent the services back to taxpayers at a profit.
17. What did Blair do to university tuition fees?	Introduced fees in 1998
18. What did Blair do the Bank of England in 1997?	Made it independent from political control. Could set interest rates.
19. What type of equality do you associate with Blair?	Equality of opportunity (not outcome)
20. In which year was the National Minimum Wage introduced?	1998
21. In which year was Section 28 repealed?	2003
22. How did New Labour feel about the European Union?	Supportive – signed the Lisbon Treaty 2007 (Old Labour had been sceptical because the EEC promoted capitalism.)
23. In which year was the Human Rights Act passed?	1998
24. What authoritarian policy did Blair attempt to pass in 2006?	Identity Cards
25. New Labour brought Constitutional Reforms. How many hereditary peers were allowed to stay in the House of Lords?	92

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### Task 3: Clause IV

In 1918 the Labour Party formed its constitution (Rule Book). A lot of it was the work of Sidney Webb. Read the original Clause IV (source 1) and then compare it to the reformed Clause IV (source 2) that was adopted under Tony Blair's leadership in 1995.

#### Source 1: The old Clause IV (1918)

The Labour party's object is...to secure for the workers by hand or by brain the full fruits of their industry and the most equitable distribution thereof that may be possible upon the basis of the common ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange, and the best obtainable system of popular administration and control of each industry of service.

#### Source 2: The new Clause IV (1995)

The Labour party works for:

- A dynamic economy, serving the public interest, in which the enterprise of the market and the rigour of competition are joined with the forces of partnership and cooperation to produce the wealth the nation needs and the opportunity for all to work and prosper, with a thriving private sector and high quality public services, where those undertakings essential to the common good are either owned by the public or accountable to them;
- A just society, which judges its strength by the condition of the weak as much as the strong, provides security against fear, and justice at work; which nurtures families, promotes equality of opportunity and delivers people from the tyranny of poverty, prejudice and abuse of power;
- An open democracy, in which government is held to account by the people; decisions are taken as far as practicable by the communities they affect; and where fundamental human rights are guaranteed;

- A healthy environment, which we protect, enhance and hold in trust for future generations.

- Watch this clip of after Blair's new Clause IV speech to the Labour Conference:  
<https://youtu.be/MLAMOGNpuCA>

- Using this material, prepare for a discussion on whether Blair betrayed Labour roots to win elections?

**Task 4: Labour under Corbyn**

- Between 2015 and 2020, Labour has been led by Jeremy Corbyn. He has been a very controversial leader. Which 'Blairite' Labour figures were unhappy with his leadership and why?

<b>Person</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Hilary Benn (2016)	
Chuka Umanna	