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Political Ideology and Action

Read and précis Chapter 6 of 'AS Citizenship' by Holden-Rowley and Blewitt.

Please take your précis notes and these notes to class with you.

Liberalism

- Key concern individual freedom
- Protection of individual rights from state or other bodies interference
- Strong belief in devolving power
- Want a tolerant and pluralist society
- Liberals believe there is essential goodness, rationality and humanity in individuals -- that there is no need to restrict the rights of others.

Conservatism

- Developed as a reaction to tide of reforms.
- Preference for gradual change
- Leadership by experienced elites
- Assertive nationalism
- Strong commitment to law and order
- Property the basis of freedom - law and order needed to protect property interests

Socialism

- Optimistic about human nature
- Equal distribution of wealth, income and power (if achieved co-operation will be more human).
- Democratic socialism - gradual reform via electoral consent.
- Radical socialism change via revolution.

Feminism

- Challenge to male domination
- Radical feminists argue for direct action and protest.
- Liberal feminists argue for the continuation of gradual reform.

More recent ideologies

- **The New Right** - Thatcherism (Howard and Bush?).
- Free market forces, lower taxes, reduce state intervention in welfare and economic management.
- Strong law and order approach.
- Nationalism.

More recent ideologies

- Third Way and Communitarianism - adaptation of socialism, liberalism and some components of new rights ideas.
- 'a new social democracy'.
- Erzioni says its is 'fuzzy at the edges' and not yet fully defined.
- Capitalism is the economic base - requires an inclusive society - society working together (not people selfishly working for themselves). Blair a supporter.

Labour and ideological change

- The Party which has had a massive ideological change over recent years is the Labour Party. They have effectively abandoned 'socialism' and adopted the 'Third Way'.
- The Old Clause IV 1918 abandoned. Replaced by the New Clause IV 1996. What is the difference (see page 132)?

Old Labour up to the 1990s

- Appeal to Working Class
- Importance of Public Ownership
- Redistribution of wealth - middle to working class through taxation-spending
- Central role for TU's
- Party Leadership subject to Party decisions
- Campaign through party activists
- Little interest in constitutional reform

New Labour since mid 1990's

- Appeal to all voters
- More emphasis on free market
- Redistribution as and when economy grows - lower taxes
- Good business relations - limited TU
- Party leadership has more power
- Campaign thru the media
- Constitutional reform central to policy

Manifesto's

Break into six groups and then read and present (see pages 133-134 of 'AS Citizenship')

- The Conservative and Labour Manifestos of 1983
- The manifestos from 2001 of New Labour, Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Green Party.

Present/Discuss

Break into groups to explain the manifestos in relation to:

- Europe
- Family
- Regional Government
- Electoral Reform

Finally - break into groups to read, discuss, and present:

Three case studies

- The Countryside Alliance
- Stop the War Coalition
- Anti-Globalisation Protests.

What next?

- Prepare to answer the 'mock examination' questions on Page 141 of 'AS Citizenship'.
- Read and précis for the next class (see the Intranet).