

## Copyright ...

- Strode's College Laws students are free to make use of this 'Pdf Print files' for study purposes (they should print them off and take them to class).
- **Others should ask before copying or using these 'Pdf Print Files'.**
- Copyright of Dr Peter Jepson - [law@peterjepson.com](mailto:law@peterjepson.com)

## Pressure Groups

Produced by Dr Peter Jepson



Prior to the class Lecture students should read & précis Chapter 5 of 'The Essentials of UK Politics' by Heywood. Précis notes will be checked.

1

## Lecture rules

- Turn off your mobile
- Annotate your lecture notes
- Raise your hand if you have a question.

2

## Pressure groups

- Should they be called pressure groups or interest groups? Is there a difference?
- How - if at all - do they differ from political parties?

3

## Types of pressure groups

- **Sectional groups** - defending their own economic interests TU's etc.
- **Cause or promotional groups** - animal rights (no economic interest)
- **Local groups** - e.g. opposing gypsy site
- **National Groups** - Countryside Alliance
- **Transnational groups** e.g. Greenpeace

4

## Types of pressure groups

- **Peak or umbrella groups** - CBI or TUC
- **Temporary Groups** - set up to do a particular thing - e.g. Campaign for the Abolition of Capital Punishment (1955-69) wound up when suspension became permanent.
- **Permanent groups** - Oxfam was founded in 1942 and sadly world poverty seems permanent.

5

## Pressure group strategies

Direct forms ...

- Lobbying key policy makers (EU, London or locally).
- Funding political parties - can you think of any examples?
- Boycotting firms - anti-apartheid
- Breaking controversial laws

**6**

## Pressure group strategies

Indirect forms

- Writing to MP's or local councillors
- Distributing leaflets
- Using the media and new technology
- Demonstrations (these could be direct)

**7**

## Insider or outsider groups

- What is the difference between an insider and an outsider group?
- How - if at all - can an Act of Parliament establish a group as an insider group?

**8**

## Terrorism

Break into small groups and discuss:

- Is a terrorist group a pressure group?

Report back to class.

**9**

## Pressure groups and democracy

- What is corporatism?
- Why do Marxists dislike corporatism?
- Are pressure groups elitist or pluralist?
- The RSPB had over 1m members in 1997 - yet political parties together could not reach more than 700,000. Why are pressure group numbers growing - while the membership of political parties is declining?

**10**

## Task to be done ...

- Write down - in a chart design - the differences between Insider/Outsider & Sectional/Cause groups. (pages 133 and 136)

**11**

### A Debate ...

- Break into pressure groups.
- Some presenting arguments 'FOR' **pressure groups** and some 'AGAINST' - this will be followed by a class debate.

**12**

### Success or failure

Collectively discuss each of the below and consider if they are clear factors that help establish success or failure (see page 142-146 of 'Essentials').

- Wealth
- Climate of opinion
- Size
- Membership

**13**

### Success or failure

- Organisational factors
- Quality of leadership
- Relationship with Government
- Quality of campaigning
- Strength of opponents
- *Respect for the law?*

**14**