

Conservatism: Activities

Applying conservative ideas (A01, A02)

Stated below are a series of different political situations. Carefully read through the descriptions and then consider how conservatives would choose to respond to them. Remember to consider also whether different conservatives - Authoritarian Conservatives, Traditional Conservatives and different members of the New Right (the neo-conservatives and neo-liberals) - would be likely to agree or disagree upon their response. Give reasons to explain your conclusions in the different situations and try to refer back to some of the key elements of conservatism (e.g. tradition, pragmatism, hierarchy, authority, property etc) in doing so.

A government holding a referendum to decide whether the traditional royal family of the country should be abolished..

A government introducing legislation to legalise same-sex marriage.

A government that strongly believes in law and order and emphasises punishment for offenders, for instance giving a long sentence of imprisonment for even relatively harmless offences.

A government transferring electricity, gas or railways to private companies.

A government creating measures which limit people's freedom of expression and also their freedom to gather in a public place following terrorist attacks.