



# AS Politics

## Unit 1

### Booklet 2: Pressure Groups



Powerpoints  
Handouts

[www.alevelpolitics.com](http://www.alevelpolitics.com)



## Types

### Classification by aim

1. Sectional (e.g. UNISON, BMA, CBI)
2. Cause or Promotional (e.g. RSPB, NSPCC, UKUNCUT)

### Classification by status

3. Insider
  - \* Core insider - e.g. BMA
  - \* Specialist insider - e.g. WWF
  - \* Peripheral insider - e.g. The Dogs Trust
4. Outsider
  - \* Potential insiders
  - \* Outsiders by necessity
  - \* Ideological outsiders



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---





















---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Difference between pressure groups and political parties?

- Do not seek power
- Usually have a narrow range of issues
- Do not have to be accountable
- Some pressure groups may act illegally or promote civil disobedience



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Arguments for Pressure Groups and Democracy

- ☑ Allows government to be aware of public opinion
- ☑ Governments use PG's expertise
- ☑ Allows wider participation in politics
- ☑ Provides a vent for frustrations
- ☑ Diverse range of views are heard through PG's
- ☑ Monitor government, highlight problems, hold government to account
- ☑ Contributes to **Pluralism**



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Are pressure groups good for democracy ?

### Pluralism

- The pluralist model of democracy emphasises popular participation in politics **between** elections not just **during** elections.
- In such a democracy no single group can dominate politics because for every force exerted by one group there is an equal and opposite force exerted by another group.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Arguments against Pressure Groups and Democracy

- Radical methods (direct action) may harm the cause
- Only represent minority views
- Some PG's represent interests of rich (money) so have unequal influence
- Unelected - no mandate to influence government policy
- Party donations 'buy' influence
- Increases the power and influence of the media
- Elitism
- Internally undemocratic



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---