

BY THE REQUEST OF HER MAJESTY

BREXIT

HOUSE OF COMMONS

GMUNC

Dear Delegates,

Both Anun and I are excited to introduce you to our GMUNC XI committee on the greatest political debate of modern British politics: BREXIT. We welcome all levels of skills, and we expect most of you to be beginners of Crisis. GMUNC is a beginner-level conference so we do not expect you to be Antonio Guterres. Please try your best to participate in the committee, and if you need help do not hesitate to either motion for a point of inquiry or come up to us during unmoderated caucus'.

Keep in mind you will have to juggle your backroom and front room information, but do not be scared of stretching the bounds of possibility (within reason). If you are not sure whether you are capable of something, simply ask either of us in committee, or if you have questions beforehand, please reach us at gmuncbrexitcrisis@gmail.com.

We are both incredibly excited to see you all and I will end this letter by setting the scene:

Almsot 3 years post-referendum newly elected Prime Minister Boris Johnson meets with the Queen and is asked to form a new government in her name. Johnson campaigned with the goal of getting BREXIT done and will stop at nothing to achieve her promises. His opponents in both Parliament and within her own party have different ideas about the way things should go.

You shall work together, or not, in order to achieve the best outcome possible for the future of Britain. There is no going back, Britain has received a mandate from the people and you are the ones who need to figure it out.

Warm Regards,

William Norwood

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Conference Information

Welcome to the Background guide for the crisis committee on Brexit in the British Parliament. GMUNC XI will be held at Henry M. Gunn High School in Palo Alto, CA on October 19th, 2024. You are expected to arrive for the opening ceremony at 8:30 AM. We will lead you to our room from the opening ceremony so do not rush to find the room.

Position Paper Guidelines

We expect your position papers to come in by October 12th, 11:59 PM for research awards, and October 18th, 11:59 PM to be accepted for any award. If you wish for an extension please contact the chairs at least 48 hours in advance. Send all extension requests and position papers to gmuncbrexitcrisis@gmail.com.

The background guides should be double-spaced and 12-point font. We are asking for at least one page and no more than 4 pages. We do NOT expect you to use all 4 pages.

The papers should feature five sections:

1. Topic Background
2. Past International/UN action
3. Country Policy
4. Possible Solutions (This is the most important part!)
5. Sources (Chicago)

Chair Bios



Head Chair Bio:

William Norwood is a 17-year-old senior at Saratoga High School. He has been competing in Model UN since his freshman year, but has not competed for a while due to his busy junior year. He has enjoyed participating in Model UN, but the most rewarding part for him has been chairing and teaching others the intricacies of Model UN. At Saratoga High School, he is the Co-Secretary General and is incredibly proud of all of his little children and their growth as MUNers. He has helped run countless mocks and set up the first conference at Saratoga High School. This will be his third time helping with GMUNC. In his sophomore year, he helped with crisis staff, and when he was a junior, he co-chaired. He is incredibly passionate about both British and American politics, which will definitely not be surprising when you meet him.



Co-Chair Bio:

Anun Amgalan is a 15-year-old sophomore at Gunn High School and is looking forward to co-chairing this committee. This is her third year in MUN and second year at GMUNC. She has been a part of many student councils and taken active leadership positions to lead projects to completion, and finds that working and communicating with others is the key to success. During this committee, she hopes to see delegates actively engaging with each other in educated debates and discussions to explore out-of-the-box thinking and

possibilities. Outside of MUN, Anun enjoys grinding GeoGuessr and playing the guitar for hours on end.

About Parliament

Parliament has been the most powerful British entity for the last 900 years. Parliament has taken power slowly from the monarchy and more into the hands of the people. Parliament originated with the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The House of Commons consisted of the knights of the UK. The House of Lords consisted of Barons and Bishops within the UK. They first guided the King with decisions, until they passed legislation requiring tax rises to be approved by Parliament, which started their first step in claiming power.

Over time Parliament became a more representative democratic body. The people now elect Members of Parliament for the House of Commons. The House of Lords has some religious positions but mostly consists of appointed or ancestral lordships. Both houses hold significant power but work together in order to get legislation passed and approved. Unlike the United States, the Houses of Parliament hold power over every other body of power in the British Government including the judiciary.

Within the UK system, both the shadow party and the party in power form their own cabinets to help make decisions for the country and the party bases they represent. The Prime Minister serves as head of the cabinet and represents the UK on an international level. In the UK, it is pretty easy for a Prime Minister to be removed through a “vote of no confidence,” but each party has its own proceedings as to how this can occur. A sitting Prime Minister also has the right to call an election at any time, which is referred to as a “snap election”.

Background Information



On

June 23, 2016, a referendum was held where 52% of British voters voted to leave the European Union. David Cameron, the British Prime Minister who conducted the referendum soon resigned from the position, and his successor Theresa May became the new Prime Minister and leader of the Conservative Party and promised to make the UK “a fully independent, sovereign country”.

May opened negotiations between the United Kingdom and the EU to discuss the deals of the separation of the UK, which would include agreements upon key divorce issues such as new trade policies and the Northern Ireland backstop. A working document was produced that committed to harmonizing with EU rules and stated that Britain would be given the power to control people entering the country. However, there would still be remaining ties to the EU that would make it easier for EU citizens to apply to enter Britain and vice versa. This plan brought

forth a wave of complaints that Brexit was not firm enough to separate all ties with the EU and needed to be stricter.

In July 2018, May revealed the Chequers plan that aimed to maintain a close economic relationship with the EU by keeping the UK aligned with EU rules for goods while seeking greater autonomy in services and trade. This plan was unpopular with the Labour Party, the Democrats, the Scottish National Party (SNP), as well as many Conservatives. Several ministers resigned out of protest against the unpopular “soft” plan, some of whom included David Davis, the UK’s Brexit minister, and Boris Johnson, the foreign secretary.

The official separation from the EU was set for March 29, 2019, but negotiations were slow and still ongoing. May’s Irish backstop was also a very controversial proposal that aimed to prevent a hard border between Ireland and Northern Ireland by keeping the UK still somewhat aligned with EU customs, and opposers argued that went against the ideals of Brexit. After May’s deals were rejected multiple times, the deadline for Brexit was pushed back again and again to October 31st. May resigned on June 7th after she failed to get her Brexit plan through, her cabinet revolted, and she lost her support from the Conservative Party. Boris Johnson becomes the new British Prime Minister on July 24th.

Current Situation and Key Issues

Brexit is one of the key debates facing the British public today. The debate facing Brexit is the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union. Another key part of the debate is over freedom of movement. At the current point in time – within Europe – people are allowed to move freely between countries without needing to pass through immigration but can that still occur?. How will trade work after the exit? How will borders be developed?



Boris Johnson is now the prime minister of the United Kingdom after Theresa May failed to complete Brexit. A new leader might be a good change of pace, but there are still many key issues that are yet to be confronted or resolved. Brexit trade talks between the UK and the EU are stagnant, and with the deadline of October 31st coming up, there isn't much time to formalize proposals.

How the British government should decide to complete Brexit is still up in the air. Will it be peaceful? Will it be with an agreement with the EU or without? How will the British people be best off?

The issue is not about party lines, but about the people Brexit is and will impact. The debate over Brexit is highly contentious and infighting within parties occurs throughout the debate. Conflicts over how deals should be enforced and the intricacies of trade systems remain at large, with threats of huge economic downfall for the UK imminent and looming overhead. How can Britain successfully separate itself from the EU with full control while still minimizing the costs and public outrage?

COMMITTEE BREAKDOWN:

50% Conservative

35% Labour

8% SNP

Conservatives + EU parliament Brexiteers: (15)

Boris Johnson: Prime Minister of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and one of the most famous Brexiteers of the time.

Dominic Raab: Boris Johnson's Deputy Prime Minister and foreign minister, whose role was to lead the cabinet along with Boris Johnson. He also plays a major role in the international policy of the UK.

Sajid Javid: Chancellor of the exchequer for Her Majesty's government. His main role was to regulate the economy and balance the budget of the British government.

Priti Patel: She served as Home Secretary under Boris Johnson, whose main role was to protect the communities of Britain and the borders. She was one of the key faces of the Brexit movement.

Michael Gove: Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster has no official job description but serves in the cabinet. Michael Gove was a staunch Leave supporter.

Matt Hancock: He served as the health secretary under Boris Johnson, whose main role is to maintain the quality and high standards of the NHS. More of a liberal-Conservative and threw his hat in the ring for the Tory leadership contest, campaigning on the basis of a no-deal Brexit being awful for the country.

Liz Truss: She served as the International Trade Minister, and has proven to be a strong supporter of Johnson. She was also a strong pro-Brexit supporter.

Jacob Reese Mogg: He served as Leader of the House of Commons, and represented the Conservative Party in parliament. He is responsible for directing whips and securing party lines.

Stephen Barclay: Brexit secretary under Boris Johnson, whose main role was to negotiate with the European Union on terms for Britain's exit from the union.

Theresa May: Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. She resigned after her Brexit plan failed to pass through the Houses of Commons.

Kwasi Kwarteng: Served as Minister of State for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy under Boris Johnson.

Rishi Sunak: Sunak served as Chief Secretary to the cabinet and attended Cabinet meetings under the direction of Boris Johnson. He was a Brexiteer and supported Boris Johnson in his campaign for leadership.

Brandon Lewis: He served as the home office minister. His role was to carry out immigration, security, and law and order issues.

David Frost: He served as the Minister of State for European Union Relations.

Nigel Farage: Founder of the UK Independence Party and strong pusher of anti-immigration sentiment surrounding the debate. He served in the European Parliament.

Labour + Lib Dems:(9)

Jeremy Corbyn: He served as head of the British Labour Party and shadow Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Strong Remain supporter and one of the most liberal leaders of the party.

Emily Thornberry: She served as the shadow first secretary of state under Jeremy Corbyn. She served as Corbyn's number 2.

Diane Abbott: She served as the shadow home secretary under Corbyn.

Angela Rayner: She served as the shadow secretary for Education under Corbyn.

Keir Starmer: Originally served as a human rights Lawyer. He later became Shadow Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union.

John McDonnell: He served as shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer in Corbyn's shadow cabinet.

Tony Blair: Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and held one of the largest majorities in parliament when elected. A strong voice in the Remain campaign, but also served as a strong supporter of the second referendum campaign.

Jo Swinson: Leader of the Liberal Democrats during the time period. She was very strongly Remain within the Brexit debate.

Ed Davey: Strong member of the Liberal Democrats, and had a very similar position to Jo Swinson in Parliament.

SNP (4):

Nicola Sturgeon: First Minister of Scotland and leader of the Scottish National Party.

Ian Blackford: Scottish National Party leader in the House of Commons. The most senior member of the SNP party in Westminster.

Mhairi Black: She served as an influential young member of the Scottish National Party

Stephen Flynn: Quickly became influential and inspired the growth of the SNP and anti-British sentiment.

Questions to Consider

1. Is a no-deal Brexit feasible and the right thing to do? If not, what alternative deal can the Conservative majority get to pass?
2. Is a second referendum feasible or even a democratic option?
3. What does your party lose or gain from the British leaving the European Union?
4. How should you deal with the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland?
5. As a result of Brexit, will the UK become closer trading partners with China?
6. Was the information used to campaign factual?
7. What can the average Brit expect from Brexit? High taxes? Lower taxes? Lower cost of living?

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