Your notes

GCSE Citizenship Studies: revision notes

Campaigning and making change

Contents

1. Pressure groups and campaigns
2. Campaign methods
3. Historic and recent campaigns
4. Does campaigning work?
5. Key terms
6. Quick questions
7. What to do next

Pressure groups and campaigns

- A **pressure group** tries to influence the government or public opinion on an issue, without standing for election. Examples include Greenpeace (environment) and Shelter (housing).
- **Insider groups** work closely with the government and are consulted. **Outsider groups** work outside government, using protests and publicity.
- Charities, trade unions and other NGOs (non-governmental organisations) also campaign.

Campaign methods

- Lobbying, petitions, media and social media campaigns, marches and protests, and **boycotts**.
- **Direct action** includes protests and occupations. **Civil disobedience** is deliberately breaking a law to make a point peacefully. Protest must stay within the law; the police have powers to manage protests.

Historic and recent campaigns

- The suffragettes and suffragists campaigned for votes for women. In 1918, some women over 30 won the vote; in 1928, women got the vote on equal terms with men at 21.
- After the racist murder of Stephen Lawrence in 1993, his family's campaign led to the Macpherson Report (1999), which found the Metropolitan Police to be institutionally racist.
- In 2020, footballer Marcus Rashford's campaign persuaded the government to provide free school meal vouchers during the school holidays.

Does campaigning work?

- Campaigns can change laws and attitudes, give a voice to minorities and hold governments to account.
- But they can be dominated by well-funded groups, and some methods may disrupt others.

Key terms

Pressure group	A group that tries to influence decisions without standing for election.
Insider group	A pressure group that works closely with the government.
Outsider group	A pressure group that works outside government.
NGO	A non-governmental organisation, independent of the government.
Direct action	Taking action such as protests to achieve change.
Civil disobedience	Peacefully breaking a law to make a point.
Boycott	Refusing to buy or use something as a protest.

Quick questions

Cover the answers and test yourself: remembering is what makes it stick.

1. What is a pressure group?
2. What is an insider group?
3. What is civil disobedience?
4. What is a boycott?
5. In which year did some women over 30 first get the vote?
6. What did the Macpherson Report find?
7. What did Marcus Rashford campaign for in 2020?
8. What does NGO stand for?

Answers

1. A group that tries to influence decisions without standing for election
2. A pressure group that works closely with the government
3. Peacefully breaking a law to make a point
4. Refusing to buy or use something as a protest
5. 1918
6. The Metropolitan Police was institutionally racist
7. Free school meal vouchers in the holidays
8. Non-governmental organisation

What to do next

Practise 10 questions on this topic

Your notes

Try 3 exam questions, with mark schemes

Read the lesson, one step at a time

Free revision for GCSE and KS3 at lycolearn.co.uk. Some notes are for one exam board only, and say so in brackets.

Your notes