

THE EUROPEAN POLICIES OF THE EU MEMBER-STATES

TERM PAPER – THEMES

** These will also be the chapters/sections of your term paper. Please read this in conjunction with Document 2: Term Paper Outline

- **Explaining your Chosen Member-State's European Policy**
 - Which factors shape – and have shaped in the past – the European policy of your chosen EU member-state?
(More information about this will be given in the 2nd class)

- **Why and What Europe?**
 - **Why enter?** For what reasons did the government of your chosen EU member-state choose to join the European Community / European Union – and at the specific date that it did?

 - **What Europe?** What kind of EU does this member-state want? What are the national government's basic preferences in relation to European integration? Do these preferences stay the same or have they changed over time and / or with a change in government?
(See next page for ideas about themes to look at on this topic)

- **Recent and Current Challenges:**
 - **Recent Challenges:** Choose one of the following challenges. How is/was your chosen member-state affected by it?
Challenges: Eurozone crisis - Migrant and refugee crisis - Brexit - Covid-19 pandemic and recovery funds - Rule-of-law crisis - Climate crisis and the Green Transition
(See next page for questions about these crises)

 - **Current Crisis: The Russia-Ukraine war**

- **Eurocepticism:**
 - How serious a challenge is eurocepticism in your chosen member-state? Is eurocepticism on the rise and is it likely to influence the government's European policy?

What Kind of Europe?

Here are some topics which might be included in your term paper. This is just to give you an idea – not all these issues are important for all countries and you don't have to include them all. Pick those which seem to be significant for 'your' member-state.

The relationship of European integration with the nation-state

- Are there particular sectors in which this member-state supports 'more' or 'less Europe' (as opposed to exclusive action at the national level)?
- Would this member-state prefer a more intergovernmental EU (Union of Nation-States)?

The EU Budget

- Is this member-state a net contributor or a net beneficiary from the budget?
- Does this member-state support or oppose increasing the EU's budget?

European Security and Defence Policy

- Is your chosen member-state a NATO member?
- How has it participated in EU security and defence cooperation?
- (For neutral states, including past neutral states) How has this member-state combined neutrality with EU membership?

The Eurozone and Schengen

- Is 'your' member-state a member or non-member of the eurozone? If a non-member, is it likely to join soon?
- Does your chosen member-state participate in Schengen? If not, why not?
- If a Schengen member, have there been occasions when it has reimposed national border controls within Schengen?

EU Enlargement

- Does this member-state support further EU Enlargement?
- Has this member-state opposed the candidacies of any particular countries which have applied for membership?
- What was the national position on the recent applications for membership by Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia?

Recent/ Current Crises

Choose one of these crises + the Russia-Ukraine war

The Eurozone: crisis and future

- How was your country affected by the eurozone crisis (e.g. lender or debtor)? What was the government's stance on EU policy towards the crisis? Did the eurozone crisis affect attitudes towards the EU in this country?

Migrants and refugees

- Has this member-state been a major migrant-receiving country in the last decade?
- What kind of positions does it take in relation to EU policy in this sector?
- Is there a significant anti-immigrant party in this member-state?

'Brexit'

- How has this member-state been affected (politically, economically) by Brexit? Has the UK's withdrawal been a significant problem for this country?

Covid-19 pandemic and recovery funds

- What was this member-state's position on EU solidarity in response to the Covid-19 pandemic?
- Is this member-state a major beneficiary of EU recovery funds?

Climate crisis

- How is your chosen member-state being affected by climate breakdown?
- What is this country's policy on the climate change emergency and on united EU action to face it?
- Is there a significant Green party in this country? Has it been able to influence government policy?

CURRENT CRISIS*The Russia-Ukraine War*

- How is your chosen member-state affected by the war (e.g. refugees, energy crisis)?
- Has the war led to national policy change (e.g. foreign policy, energy diversification)?
- What has been the national policy on aiding Ukraine?
- What position has this member-state taken regarding EU policy towards the war, especially sanctions against Russia?
- Is there opposition from public opinion or political parties to national policy towards the war?

EUROSCEPTICISM

- Has this member-state been seen as eurosceptic in the past?
- Is public opinion in this member-state eurosceptic? Has this changed?
- Does this member-state have significant eurosceptic parties? What vote % did they win in the last elections? What is their EU policy?
- Do eurosceptic parties participate in government or have they influenced government policy?