RECLAIM

Key terms

- **Charities** - are organisations that collect and use money, goods, or time to help others. They use these resources to support people who are in need or to work on solving problems.

- **Commentators** - are people who provide analysis or opinions about events, like sports games, news stories, or political debates. They often share their thoughts on TV, radio, or online platforms to help others understand what's happening and what it means.

- **Decision-makers** - are people who have the authority to make choices or determine outcomes in a particular situation. Politicians are only one type of decision-maker. You might also think of employers, headteachers and other people with power as having forms of 'decision-making power.

- **Economics** - how people make and use things like money, resources, and goods. It's like the science of how we deal with stuff we need and want. It includes things like how businesses work, why prices go up or down, and how governments manage money. So, in simple terms, economics is all about how we make, spend, and manage our resources to meet our needs and wants.

- **Elite** - refers to a small group of people who are considered to hold the most power in a certain area. The political, economic and cultural elite in Britain are disproportionately white, male, cisgender, able-bodied and from wealthy backgrounds. They hold a lot of decision-making power over people's lives. Sometimes people claim that 'snowflakes,' 'the woke-arati,' or certain religious or identity groups are 'the elite' but, by any meaningful definition of 'elite,' this doesn't make sense.

- **Levers of power** - these are the people, organisations or mechanisms through which power is enacted in a given context. It's about who or what has the most authority or influence. Often, as working-class people, our major lever of power comes through us working together or collectively.

- **Local government** - is the authority that manages and makes decisions for a specific area, like a city, town, or county. They handle things like local laws, public services, and community issues.

- **Lobbying/lobbyists** - "Lobbying" is when people try to persuade politicians to make decisions that benefit them, while "lobbyists" are the ones doing the persuading. Often (but not always) "lobbying" is a professional activity done through organisations who have contact with politicians. It is different to grassroots campaigning because it relies on having access to and constructive relationships with people in positions of power, and it focuses on influencing legal and policy change through those relationships.

- **Policy** - is just a set of rules that tell people what they can and can't do in certain situations. It's like a guidebook for what people should do in a group, organisation, or government.

- **Political** - The most common meaning of "political" is anything that relates to activities, actions and decisions involved in governing a community country or organisation e.g. voting in the elections, making laws. The other way of defining "political" is anything related to power: who has it, how it's used, how to build it, and why people or organisations hold it e.g the media you consume, the area you live in, the relationships you have as well as conditions of your education, job, housing etc.

- **Politics** - Politics is all about how people make decisions together. It's about who gets to make the rules, how those rules are made, and how they affect everyone. Politics is like the way we organise ourselves as a group and decide on things that

matter to us, like laws, leaders, and public policies. It's about power, relationships, and how we work together to solve problems and shape our communities.

- **Politicians** - are people elected to make decisions for the public. They work in government at local, national and international levels. They should represent the interests of those who elected them.

- **Think tanks** - are organisations that research and propose solutions to political, social, cultural and economic problems, aiming to influence policies and public opinions.