



Worksheet 1 – Origins of Conservative ideas - Key terms and definitions

Match the key terms and definitions by connecting them with a line.

Key Term	Definition
New Right	A belief that strict obedience to authority is more desirable or necessary than personal liberty.
Orthodoxy	The power or right to influence the actions of others in a way that is not their choice.
Toryism	A belief that a society or system should be led by an elite – either by necessity or desirability.
Natural aristocracy	A society where individuals are ranked according to their fixed status or authority which is unconnected to their ability.
Hierarchy	The belief that ability and leadership are inborn talents that cannot be acquired.
Pragmatism	A reinterpretation of social conservatism that gives a hard line on law and order, a return to family values and an interventionist nationalist foreign policy.
Thatcherism	A reinterpretation of classical liberal economic theory that believes in the unassailability of the free market and the minimal state.
Neoconservatism	A conservative tradition that attempts to fuse liberal economics and social conservatism.
One-nation conservatism	A conservative tradition that believes members within society have obligations to one another, particularly those who are wealthy and privileged to those who are poor.
Tradition	Predictable, peaceable and stable social conditions where individual safety is assured.
Paternalism	A belief that society is a natural system, similar to a living entity, whose parts are intrinsically connected.
Authoritarianism	Faithfulness to an authorised theory, doctrine, or practice.
Organicism	A belief in the right of an authority to restrict the freedom of others for their own benefit. Very much like the relationship between a father and a child.
Traditionalism	A belief that merits theories or opinions in terms of their practical application rather than ideological goals.
Property	The possession of wealth, whether by individuals, groups or the state.
Elitism	A series of policies including: deregulation, privatisation, maintaining a flexible labour market, marginalising trade unions and centralising power from local authorities to central government, coupled with nationalism both at home and abroad.
Authority	A belief which upholds the supremacy of the traditional hierarchical social order.
Neoliberalism	The passing of institutions, customs or beliefs from generation to generation.
Order	A theory that political and ethical practice is best when it is based on beliefs, customs and institutions that have been tested over time.