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## Issue: CRIME

### Party A -

EU withdrawal and repeal of the Human Rights Act

Deportation of radical Imams back to countries where they are wanted for trial

Use of treason laws to prosecute British Muslims loyal to our enemies

Review of all existing anti-terrorism laws

Opposition of the ID card scheme

Abolition of Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs)

More democratic control over the police force, with directly elected Chief Constables and/or police boards.

Replacement of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) with fully trained policemen and women over time, and re-introduce beat policing

Reduction of police paperwork

Sentences given will be the sentence served

Abolition of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), and return responsibility for prosecutions to local police forces, hiring local qualified solicitors, overseen by a new national standards body

Double the number of prison places in the UK within 10 years.

***Information: Number of Prisoners in England & Wales in 2009 was 84,000.***

Rehabilitation encouraged in prisons, and released prisoners offered immediate assistance with suitable workfare schemes on leaving prison

Introduction of referenda on law and order issues outside government concern

Imposition of tougher penalties for domestic violence

Replacement of the smoking ban with legislation for premises owners to provide smoke free areas and/or dedicated internal smoking areas.

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## Issue: CRIME

### Party B

Tougher sentences for knife crime

New controls on deactivated firearms

Portable weapon scanners for the police

Action to tackle gang crime and education to prevent young people turning to crime

Rehabilitation for convicted criminals who accept guilt

Action to tackle re-offending, focussing on education and work

Provision of a net further 15,000 prison places by 2014 (7,000 of which will be provided by 2010)

***Information: Number of Prisoners in England & Wales in 2009 was 84,000.***

### Part C

3,000 more police officers on the street paid for by scrapping the ID card scheme

***Information: In 2009 there were 43 police forces in England and Wales employing over 241,500 personnel. This includes over 142,500 police officers, over 82,000 police staff and over 16,000 Police Community Support Officers.***

Reduction in bureaucracy for the police

Would make hospitals share information with the police so they know where gun and knife crime is happening

Prisoners will work to pay for victim compensation

Creation of Neighbourhood Justice Panels to have the power to tackle minor cases of anti-social behaviour and determine offender punishment

Scrap Control Orders and replace them with measures intended to secure convictions of terror suspects

Reform of the courts to prosecute terror suspects more effectively

Would support efforts to make it easier to charge suspects genuinely suspected of terrorism through a temporary lowering of the 'threshold test'

Would reach out to the communities most at risk of radicalisation

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## Issue: CRIME

### Party D

Overhaul of the Licensing Act to include the ability to remove licences from, or refuse to grant licences to, any premises which are 'causing problems'

Would allow councils to shut down permanently any shop or bar found selling alcohol to children, and double the maximum fine for under-age alcohol sales to £20,000

Tax on 'superstrength beers', ciders and alcopops will be increased

Ban off-licences and supermarkets from selling alcohol below cost price

Permit local councils to charge more for late night licenses to pay for additional policing

Strengthen stop and search powers

Would make it clear that anyone caught carrying a knife can expect to be prosecuted and face a prison sentence

Extend the length of custodial sentence that can be awarded in a Magistrates' Court from six to twelve months and introduce mobile knife scanners on streets and public transport

Introduction of a series of early intervention measures, like grounding orders, to allow the police to use instant sanctions to deal with anti-social behaviour

Change the rules so that anyone acting reasonably to stop a crime or apprehend a criminal is not arrested or prosecuted

Give householders greater protection if they have to defend themselves against intruders in their homes

Give police the power to identify offenders

Would implement the Prisoners' Earnings Act 1996 to allow deductions from prisoners' earnings to be paid into the Victims' Fund. Would use this Fund to deliver fifteen new rape crisis centres and give all existing rape crisis centres long-term funding

Reduction in the amount of police paperwork, starting by cutting the stop form entirely

Amend the health and safety laws that affect policing

Return of charging discretion to the police for minor offences

Process criminals more quickly by video-linking custody cells and courts

Reform the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act, which regulates police surveillance, so that authorisation is not needed in 'routine cases'

Would take steps to prevent the misuse of surveillance powers by local authorities

Replacement of the existing police authorities and make the police accountable to a directly elected individual who will set priorities for the policing of local communities

Oblige the police to publish detailed local crime data statistics every month

Ensure police teams have regular Neighbourhood beat meetings

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## Issue: Defence

### Party A:

'Disentangle' British forces from the EU

Spend an extra 40% per year on defence with spending on all three services

Withdrawal from Iraq at an early date

For Forces personnel: Better pay, generous compensation for injury, restoration of Crown immunity, private medical and dental care, reinstatement of military hospitals, improved accommodation, an offence of treason for those UK citizens who seriously attack serving personnel

### Party B:

Doubling of lump sum compensation awards for the most severely injured

Introduction of free further or higher education up to first degree level for service leavers after six years of service

Invest in accommodation for Service personnel

Introduction of measures to retain places on NHS waiting lists for service personnel and families when they move, and to make accessing school places for service children easier

Would continue to increase defence spending

Lead the campaign for an International Arms Trade Treaty

Offer funds over the next three years for conflict prevention and resolution, and stabilisation work

Work for international stability by working to encourage and promote economic and political change in the Middle East

Construction of two new aircraft carriers

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## Issue: Defence

### Party C:

Opposed to extraordinary rendition, would undertake a full inquiry in to the 'current governments complicity'

Support of Afghanistan 'mission'

Would give pay raises to lower ranks of the Forces by reducing number of bureaucrats and Civil Servants in the MoD

Double the rate of modernisation of Forces housing by reducing numbers of higher ranking officers

Would hold a defence review to investigate alternatives to Trident and to decide on other procurement plans

### Party D:

Would double the operational bonus for troops serving in Afghanistan

Pilot a follow-up telephone service that will track and monitor veterans' mental health after they leave the Armed Forces

The Military Covenant Commission's report would provide the basis for the Armed Forces manifesto in order to establish an improved relationship between the Armed Forces and the government

launch a Strategic Defence Review and introducing a US-style system of regular defence reviews

Conduct a capabilities review to improve efficiency in the Ministry of Defence

Future defence procurement projects will be determined on five criteria:

- Capability
- Interoperability
- Adaptability
- Affordability
- Exportability

Would streamline the procurement process to ensure timely delivery of equipment to the front line

Would immediately reinstate the Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO)

Would ensure that NATO, not the EU, remains the cornerstone of the UK's defence

Committed to replacing Trident and maintaining the UK's independent nuclear deterrent

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## Parties on Democracy

### Party A

Introduction of Direct Democracy whereby a fixed proportion of the electorate sign a petition demanding a referendum on any major issue

National and Local Referenda on major items of concern

Directly elected local County Police Boards, and directly elected Chief Constables

Directly elected local Health Boards

Local referenda on large scale or controversial planning schemes, in place of remote appeals

Directly elected Mayors

House of Lords Reform

Proposition of a hybrid house of appointed Lords and elected Lord Senators

All UK citizens should be entitled to equal treatment, such as over the provision of health and education, and public services, regardless of country of origin

Substantial review of devolved powers to move national parliaments/assemblies from a silo approach

Investigate further the possibility of a written (codified) constitution for the UK, and also the possibility of a constitutional court

Introduction of the Alternative Vote for all national and local elections allowing voters to list their candidate preferences

Opposition of measures that allow electoral fraud, and improve postal voting criteria

Reform of the House of Commons

Reform of Whitehall and the Civil service

Opposition of Disestablishment of Church

Over 50% of local government finances to be raised locally

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### Party B

Committed to a referendum early in the next parliament on whether to move to the Alternative Vote system for elections to the House of Commons; the completion of reform of the House of Lords; and the full implementation of a new system of independent regulation of MPs pay, pensions and allowances

Believe in encouraging greater citizen involvement in civil society

Would take measures to remove the barriers to citizen involvement in politics

Objective is to ensure that those who hold positions of power are open and accountable and that representative institutions like Parliament are transparent, reflexive and responsive to the public

Would continue to work to increase the legitimacy of the political process, rebuild trust and encourage greater political participation

Would offer investment, support and recognition to the third sector – voluntary and community organisations, charities, social enterprises, cooperatives and mutual

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organisations

A move to universal broadband by 2012 as a baseline service standard for all the UK

Committed to holding a referendum early in the next Parliament on whether to move to the Alternative Vote (AV) for elections to the House of Commons

Committed to completing reforms towards a democratically accountable House of Lords

No repeal of the Human Rights Act

Would introduce a written constitution

Would continue to work to extend the powers of the National Assembly in Wales

Would look at the case for lowering the voting age to 16 as well as more effective citizenship education in schools

Committed to addressing the fact that those less likely to vote are disproportionately the poorest in society

Committed to ensuring that people have confidence in the electoral system, including the process for drawing electoral boundaries

Reduction in requirements on reporting and inspection and the number of nationally-set performance indicators for local governments from around 1,200 to under 200, with further reductions due in 2011

Committed to make more data about performance and spending available, and to give councils additional powers to scrutinise and challenge other services

Provision of £76.2 billion in funding for local authorities in 2010/11

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### Party C

Abolition of 'safe seats' by introduction of a more proportional voting system for MPs and for the House of Lords

Would introduce a 'recall' system in which a small percentage of constituents could force a by-election for any MP suspended for wrongdoing

Would cap donations and spending throughout the electoral cycle

Would ensure all MPs pay full rate of British tax

Introduction of a Freedom Law to protect privacy

Stop identity cards

Removal of innocent people from DNA database

Regulation of CCTV

Allow protests at Parliament

Scrapping of Government scheme to store information on internet and e-mail behaviour

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Party D

Would strengthen Parliament so that it acts as a proper check on the power of ministers

Reduction in the number of MPs by 10 per cent as part of a wider series of reforms

Ensure each vote has equal value by reducing the wide discrepancies between constituency electorate sizes

Restore the integrity of the ballot and give voters the right to sack MPs guilty of wrongdoing

Introduce new rules on lobbying and tougher restrictions on ex-Ministers

Would seek an agreed long-term settlement on Party funding, including an across-the-board cap on donations as part of a package of reform

Would work to secure a consensus for a substantially elected House of Lords

Would address the West Lothian Question by ensuring that legislation on devolved issues that only affects England, or England and Wales, can only be passed with the consent of MPs from England, and where applicable Wales

Would enable members of the public to veto excessive council tax rises, demand local referendums in their communities and debates in Parliament, and allow citizens to table legislation in the House of Commons

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## Parties on Economy

### Party A

Scrap Inheritance Tax

Cut corporation taxes

Re-enter Commonwealth and encourage UK manufacturing

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### Party B

The Future Jobs Fund, worth £2 billion in 2009/10, would create 200,000 jobs, of which at least 120,000 would be targeted at 18–24 year olds and 50,000 jobs will be targeted at unemployment hotspots

Provision of a guarantee of a job or training place for any 18–24 year old who has been unemployed for over six months

A National Minimum Wage rising at least in line with average earnings

Plan to spend a net £12 billion less in 2010–11 than in previous year.

A new 240-a-week Better Off in Work guarantee

Would help those who have lost a job or income stay in their homes by, for example, helping them with interest payments or through the Homeowners Mortgage Support scheme

Introduction of a two-year Stamp Duty holiday for first-time buyers on residential property transactions up to £250,000

The Time to Pay scheme would be extended for the whole of the next Parliament

The Financial Services Authority would improve and speed up the licensing process for new banks to improve competition

Would cut business rates for one year from October

Doubling of the annual investment tax allowance to £100,000

Investment in the 'industries of the future', such as low carbon, biotechnology, advanced bioscience and advanced manufacturing

Reduction of the deficit will come from a combination of tax, public spending cuts and economic growth

New 50p top rate for those who earn over £150,000 (the top 1% of earners)

For people with incomes over £100,000 a year (the top 2 per cent of earners), would gradually remove their personal tax-free allowances

Tax relief on pensions would be restricted from next year, but only for those with incomes above £130,000 a year

Reduced spending, to protect schools, the NHS and the police at the frontline, cutting costs, inefficiencies, unnecessary programmes and lower priority budgets

Would prioritise families and businesses in the mainstream middle, and the public services which they rely on

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#### Party C

No income tax on first £10,000 earned

Introduction of 'Mansion Tax'

Greater taxation of pollution

Cuts in spending to include a cap of public sector pay rises to £400 for two years, abolition of the Child Trust Fund, and scrapping of 'unnecessary defence projects'

Reallocation of £3.5 billion to 'job rich capital projects'

Would break up the banking system to ensure the taxpayer no longer underwrites high risk banking

A 10% levy on bank profits until the system can be broken up

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#### Party D

Would stop the current plans to increase Employees' National Insurance Contributions (NICs) for everyone earning over £20,000 by 1 per cent and stop the scheme altogether for everyone earning under £35,000

Would cut the billions of pounds of waste identified.

Plan to spend a net £18 billion less in 2010–11 than in previous year.

Labour have advised it is possible to save £12 billion from departmental spending without affecting the quality of frontline services. We would ensure around half would remain within the NHS, DfID and the MoD. The other half would be used to reduce the deficit this year, and from next year would be used to stop the current government's intended rise in NICs

Would make 'real terms' annual increases in health spending

Would meet the commitment to increase international development spending to 0.7 per cent of GNI, but cuts would be made in other areas of government spending

Introduction of a one-year public sector pay freeze in 2011 (which will not include the one million lowest paid workers)

Would hold a review to bring forward the 2026 date at which the state pension age starts to rise to 66 – to no earlier than 2016 for men and 2020 for women

Stop tax credits to families with incomes over £50,000

Cut spending on Child Trust Funds for all but the poorest third of families and families with disabled children

Cap the biggest public sector pensions above £50,000

Introduction of a 5 per cent pay cut for Ministers, followed by a 5-year freeze, and a 10 per cent reduction in the number of MPs

Would seek productivity improvements that match the best of the private sector

Introduction of a fiduciary obligation to taxpayers in civil service employment contracts,

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strengthening the role of finance directors within government and implementing clear financial performance targets for senior civil servants

Restoration of a savings culture and encourage retirement savings

Would work with employers and industry to introduce auto-enrolment into pensions for those on middle and lower incomes

End effective compulsory annuitisation at the age of 75

Would raise the stamp duty threshold to £250,000

Reverse over the longer term the effects on pension savers of the 1997 abolition of the dividend tax credit for pension funds

Creation of a Consumer Protection Agency

Launch Britain's first free national financial advice service

Cap on excessive store card interest rates

Ensure that consumers are given much clearer information on credit card bills

Only millionaires will pay Inheritance Tax

A partially transferable personal allowance for 4 million married couples and civil partnerships, which would be paid for using some of the revenues from a levy on banks

The remaining bank levy revenues will be used to reduce the deficit

Would not abolish the 50p tax rate for the rich while at the same time asking many public sector workers to accept a pay freeze

Would raise the secondary threshold at which employers start paying NICs by £21 a week

Would make the Bank of England responsible for macro-prudential regulation, judging and controlling risks to the financial system as a whole

Creation of a powerful new Financial Policy Committee within the Bank, working alongside the Monetary Policy Committee, which will monitor systemic risks, operate new macro-prudential regulatory tools and execute the special resolution regime for failing banks

Abolition of the Financial Services Authority

Would allow the Bank of England to impose higher capital requirements on high risk activities, such as large-scale proprietary trading carried out by banks that also take retail deposits

Believe the money that taxpayers have provided to support bank lending must not be diverted into significant cash bonuses

Believe cash that would have been paid out in bonuses should be put onto banks' balance sheets, explicitly to support new lending, and that this should be a condition of continuing to receive taxpayer guarantees and liquidity support

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## Parties on Education

### Party A

Grammar school in every town

Restore standards of education and improve skills training

Student grants will replace student loans

Reform of the National Curriculum to become less prescriptive and schools to be allowed a greater say over subjects taught

Earlier exit coupled with expansion in apprenticeships

Cut back on the number of universities and a review of admissions policy

Local Education Authorities (LEAs) powers to be given to the school governing body

Replacement of current funding policy with a system where as far as possible parents will be allowed to choose the school at which voucher funds for their child's education are spent

Committed to repealing the Human Rights Act and withdrawing from the European Convention on Human Rights so that schools have the right to discipline pupils when behaviour is unacceptable

Replacement of Ofsted with an independent inspectorate of experienced teachers

Investigation of the benefits of a franchising arrangement for schools

Review of the school inspection régime, bringing in new legislation whereby parents might require the schools governing body to arrange for an inspection if 10% or more of parents were unhappy with the schools performance

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### Party B

Committed to protecting frontline school spending, as well as frontline spending on Sure Start and 16-19 education

Catch-up and one-to-one tuition for pupils who start primary school behind

One-to-one tuition for any pupil still not making progress at age seven

Catch-up help including one-to-one tuition provision for any pupil starting secondary school having not mastered the basics in primary

Primary school curriculum reform

All schools who currently fall below the minimum benchmark of 30 per cent of children receiving 5 grades A\*-C at GCSE including English and Maths are being given extra funding and support but are being asked to exceed this benchmark by 2011 or face intervention which could include being converted to an academy

Would challenge schools who are not achieving discipline rated 'good' or 'excellent' at minimum by inspectors. Schools which in the coming years are falling below this level or are not making good progress towards it will face intervention

Offering parenting support and childcare which enables parents to work and train

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Would aim to see half of all young people getting into university and 75 per cent of all young people by 30 years old to have achieved an advanced apprenticeship, equivalent qualification, or have attended university

Would provide 20,000 extra undergraduate places on courses starting in 2010-11

Committed to ensuring that by 2015 the age at which young people will leave compulsory training or education is raised to 18

For under 25s would guarantee funding until they have achieved a level 3, or A level equivalent qualification

Introduction of an investment of up to £25m in a University Enterprise Capital Fund to provide early stage funding for the commercialisation of promising university innovations

Offer to 250,000 16 year olds, who qualify for the Education Maintenance Allowance, a clear guarantee of the minimum level of maintenance grant and loan they will receive if they go to university or college

Would ask universities to consider the educational background of young people in deciding on admissions

Promotion of competition between universities and urge business to be more engaged in the funding and design of programmes, sponsorship of students, and offering work placements

Promotion of greater concentrations of world-class research, especially in the high cost scientific disciplines

Would ask the Quality Assurance Agency to provide more and clearer information to students and parents about quality standards in universities

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#### Party C

Introduction of a Pupil Premium, giving more money to schools so that they can provide extra support for struggling children

Extra funding to schools to cut infant classes (5-7 year olds) to 20 children and secondary school classes to 16 or start a catch up classes for 160 pupils

Replacement of the Early Years Foundation Scheme with a new strategy

Guarantee SEN tests for all 5 year olds, and improve SEN training for teachers

Would Scale back Key Stage 2 tests at age 11, and use teacher assessment with external checking, to improve the quality of marking

Creation of a General diploma to enable a mix of quality vocational and academic learning

Would 'slim down' the curriculum and pass an Education Freedom Act banning politicians from getting involved in the day to day running of schools

Scrapping tuition fees for all students taking their first degrees

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#### Party D

Abolition of the legal requirement of 24 hours' notice for detentions

Reformation of the exclusion process

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Would give headteachers the power to ban, search for, and confiscate any items they think may cause violence or disruption

Change teacher recruitment and training by raising entry requirements, expanding Teach First and incentivising top maths and science graduates

Reformation of the National Curriculum

Removal of political interference from GCSEs and A-levels

Allow state schools to do the same exams as private schools

Replacement of Key Stage 1 Sats with a simple reading test, reform Key Stage 2 Sats, and make Ofsted report on schools' setting policies and reading schemes

Would make it easier for educational charities, groups of parents and teachers, cooperatives and others to start new Academies (independent, non-selective state schools)

Would move to a national per pupil funding system, so that new schools get paid if they attract pupils, with extra funding for the poorest pupils (a pupil premium)

Provision of 10,000 extra university places in 2010

Introduction of an early repayment bonus on student loans which are repaid ahead of schedule

Would work to improve the way that universities are funded

Would provide people with much better information about the true costs and benefits of going to university and help people choose the course and institution which is right for them

Creation of an extra 100,000 apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships each year

Would give small and medium businesses a £2,000 bonus for every new apprentice they hire, and make it easier for firms to run apprenticeships

Provision of an extra 100,000 college places over two years

Provision of 100,000 new 'work pairings' over two years

Improvement of careers advice, including providing expert advice in every secondary school and college and setting up a new careers service for adults

Establishment of a Community Learning Fund to help adults who want to learn new skills or restart their careers

Abolish many of the further education quangos, and cut bureaucracy and inspections in colleges

Would delay the implementation of the new funding system for universities – the Research Excellence Framework – and work with academics to ensure that there is a robust and acceptable way of measuring the impact of all research.

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## Parties on Environment

### Party A

Sceptical about Global Warming being due to Human Activity hence would not introduce green taxes or wind farms.

Introduction of nuclear power plants on the same existing site facilities

Use of clean coal

Reduction of pollution and encouragement of recycling

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### Party B

Creation of around 400,000 new green jobs by 2015

Continue to push for international agreement on action to tackle climate change

Would spend £1.5 billion on climate assistance to developing countries between 2010 and 2012

Committed that from 2013 part of the UK climate assistance is additional to the pledge to provide 0.7 per cent of national income in aid, with no more than 10 per cent of the Official Development Assistance counted towards climate finance

Committed to spending £3.9 billion in the next Rural Development Programme in England

Would ensure that high speed broadband will reach all of rural Britain

Committed to defending the welfare of animals, whether wild, domestic or on farms

Would extend and enhance existing legislation and bans on mistreatment of animals where necessary

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### Party C

Would 'build a green infrastructure' for a sustainable economy

Would make energy companies create 'social' tariffs

Ensure that the UK complies with the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and raise the requirements of Building Regulations to ensure that homes are energy efficient

Creation of an 'eco-cashback' scheme where cash is paid to individuals who install micro-generation technology at home. Energy can also be sold and fed back in to the National Grid at profit with a 'feed-in tariff'

Opposition of the construction of further nuclear and coal power stations

Would aim to reduce carbon emissions in the UK by over 40% of 1990 levels by 2020, and for the UK to be carbon neutral by 2050

Would make national parks democratically accountable, allowing a proportion of Park boards to be elected

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Scrap the Planning Act, return planning decision making to local people

Would create a new designation – similar to SSSI status – to protect green areas of particular importance

Would define gardens as greenfield sites in planning law so that they cannot so easily be built over

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#### Party D

Introduction of an Emissions Performance Standard to set a legal limit on the emissions from power stations

Would deliver a 10 per cent cut in central government carbon emissions within 12 months of coming to office

Creation of four carbon capture and storage equipped power plants

Deliver an offshore electricity grid and establish at least two Marine Energy Parks

Allow communities that host renewable energy projects like wind farms to keep the additional business rates they generate for six years

Would provide incentives for smaller-scale energy generation

Put in place supply guarantees in the gas and electricity markets

Reformation of the Climate Change Levy to provide a floor price for carbon

Introduction of 'smart grid' and 'smart meter' technology to the electricity networks

Would clear the way for new nuclear power stations – provided they receive no public subsidy

Creation of a 'Green Deal', giving every home up to £6,500 worth of energy improvement measures – paid for out of the savings made on fuel bills

Ensure that every energy bill provides information on how to move to the cheapest tariff offered by their supplier and how their energy usage compares to similar households

Reformation of the Post Office Card Account to give more people access to lower tariffs

Introduction of a Responsibility Deal on waste – a voluntary arrangement among producers to cut back on the production of waste and improve its disposal

Put a floor under landfill tax until 2020

Would encourage councils to adopt a scheme which gives incentives to families that recycle

Reformation of the water industry, and new measures to encourage businesses and households to conserve water, and protect poorer households from excessive rises in water bills

Would improve flood defences, prevent unnecessary building in areas of high flood risk, and ensure the country is better equipped when flooding does take place

Targeted help for protected habitats and species

Production of a White Paper on protecting the natural environment, including a focus on restoring habitat

New system of conservation credits to protect habitats and create incentives to invest in wildlife

Maintain national Green Belt protection, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs),

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National Parks, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and other environmental designations

Would work to reduce litter

Launch of national campaign to plant up to one million new trees in the next Parliament

Tackle illegal logging by pressing for international action to halt deforestation and introduction of a new criminal offence under UK law for the import and possession of illegal timber

Work for wholesale reform of the Common Fisheries Policy to encourage sustainable practices, give communities a greater say over the future of local fishing industries, and bring an end to fish discards

Having called for the Marine Act, would ensure that its conservation measures are implemented effectively, including the creation of Marine Conservation Zones

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## Parties on Europe

### Party A

The UK should withdraw from the European Union and British membership should be replaced with a free trade agreement

Opposition to the "open-door immigration policy"

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### Party B

Believe that remaining engaged at the heart of Europe remains vital to ensuring a sustainable future

Believe in a realistic target to create 10 million new jobs by 2014, ensuring that 2 million of these jobs are in low-carbon industries

Prioritise removing the remaining barriers to the Single Market

Would ensure more effective regulation and more rigorous assessment of the impacts of draft legislation

Would argue for EU leadership to put in place superfast broadband, transport and energy networks

Would work to set a new European target for apprenticeships and pursue a refocus of the European budget towards investment in research into green innovation

Would continue to build on the EU Social Chapter

Would continue to work for reform to the EU budget

Would continue to call for reform to the Common Agricultural Policy

Ensure that the EU retains its power to stimulate effective democratic reform

Would continue to support the enlargement of the EU to include Croatia and Turkey, and other accession states where suitable, as long as the appropriate standards are met

Would continue working with both parties in Cyprus to promote unification allowing full EU integration

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### Party C

Would keep Britain at the heart of international crime-fighting measures such as the European Arrest Warrant and the European Police Office (Europol)

Share security through more defence co-operation with allies

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Would work for CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) and agricultural subsidies reform

Would work to stop MEPs having to travel to Strasbourg every month

Would encourage other EU countries to put in place investments similar to the 'green infrastructure'

Promotion of free and fair world trade

Believe that it is in Britain's long-term interest to be part of the Euro, following a referendum

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Party D

Would not allow Britain to slide into a federal Europe

Would change the law so that a government would not be able to agree to a Treaty that hands over areas of power from Britain to the EU without a referendum

Would also introduce a new law in the form of a United Kingdom Sovereignty Bill, to make it clear that ultimate authority stays in British Parliament

Would change the law so that any use of a so-called ratchet clause would require full approval by Parliament

Would address the worst of these problems by negotiating for three guarantees over powers that the Conservatives believe should reside with Britain, not the EU:

- A full opt-out from the Charter of Fundamental Rights (CFR)
- Greater protection against EU encroachment into the UK's Criminal Justice System
- Restoration of national control over social and employment legislation

The UK should withdraw from the European Union and British membership should be replaced with a free trade agreement

Opposition to the "open-door immigration policy"

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## Parties on Foreign Policy

Party A

Improve trade links with Commonwealth Countries since countries like India will soon become the World's second largest economy.

***Point of Information :The Party that wrote the above statement about India clearly has little grasp of World Affairs & is factually wrong. India is not likely to become the World's second largest economy by Gross Domestic Product (GDP). India's economic size is currently 12<sup>th</sup> compared to UK 6<sup>th</sup>. It is China (a none Commonwealth Country) that will soon be the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest economy in the World.***

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Party B

Would ensure that Britain will be at the forefront of international discussions to ensure no repeat of the last global economic downturn

Action to crack down on tax havens creation of a new financial stability board

Committed to promoting human rights abroad

Ensure that at least 5 per cent of all support to poor countries specifically focuses on strengthening parliaments, audit commissions and promoting accountability

Continue to raise concerns about human rights abuses with those states around the world whose record of abuse towards their own people prejudices sustainable peace and democratic and economic development

Would work to create a clearer consensus about the rights and responsibilities of nation states to uphold the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Would never be complicit in torture or rendition to torture

Believe a viable Palestine with secure boundaries alongside a secure Israel (with borders based on the line of 1967), is the only solution and that full access must be given for humanitarian goods and supplies into Gaza

Would lead calls for an International Arms Trade Treaty which will regulate the global arms market to decrease the risk of instability, violence and civilian deaths

Would like a world free of nuclear weapons, and are committed to leading an international campaign to prevent nuclear proliferation and to accelerate multilateral nuclear disarmament

Committed to the expansion of civil nuclear power

However, in light of the current global security environment remain committed to renewing Britain's independent nuclear deterrent

Believe that tackling global poverty is both morally right, and a common interest

Would ensure that the work of the Department for International Development directly contributes to the eradication of poverty

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Would introduce legislation to ensure that the UN agreed target of 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income to be spent on development assistance from 2013 is reached

Would work to ensure that other countries meet the UN target

Maintenance of a push to meet the Millennium Development Goals by 2015

Prioritise support to women and girls who suffer disproportionately from the effects of poverty and violence

Would respond quickly to disasters

Increase of governmental partnerships with local charities, faith groups, trade unions and ethical businesses

Ensure that every pound of UK aid spent contributes towards direct impacts such as saving lives, putting children into school, creating economic opportunities for the poor, and preventing conflict

Support measures to promote low-carbon and equitable economic growth and help developing countries improve their infrastructure and expand their markets

Would work within Europe to seek a pro-development outcome to the Doha world trade talks

Would maintain efforts to achieve the global goal of universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care programmes by the end of 2010

Would deliver 50 million malaria bednets by 2013

Undertake a £100 million drive to eradicate Polio over the next five years

Would drive efforts in the international community to provide more support to save 6 million mothers and babies by 2015

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#### Party C

Would demand a 'more legitimate government' in Afghanistan, tackling of corruption and involvement of other states in the region

Increase aid spending to 0.7% of gross national income (GNI) by 2013

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#### Party D

Creation of a National Security Council to integrate at the highest levels of government the work of foreign, defence, energy, home and international development departments

Commitment to the transatlantic alliance

Build an effective relationship with China

Enhance a 'new special relationship' with India

Reform of older international institutions such as the United Nations and the effective use of new ones such as the G20

Committed to achieving the UN target of spending 0.7% of national income as aid by 2013

Establishment of an Independent Aid Watchdog to monitor the performance of the Department for International Development

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Spend £500 million a year to tackle malaria

Give people in poor countries more control over how aid is spent - and give British people a vote over where and how some of the aid is spent

Attempt to achieve a pro-development global trade deal

Give greater importance to conflict prevention and resolution

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## Parties on Health

### Party A

Reform the working of the NHS with an Insurance Fund, whilst upholding the free at the point of care principles

Reintroduction of matrons and locally run, clean hospitals

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### Party B

Would ensure that the NHS is clinically driven, patient centred and responsive to local communities, and based on need not ability to pay

Would give hospitals incentives to focus on quality as well as quantity through the introduction of financial incentives which will link payment to quality, including patient satisfaction

Deliver the commitment to a cancer diagnosis within one week, starting in 2011 with lung, colorectal and ovarian cancers, over the next five years, giving GPs direct access to ultrasound and MRI scans, with a new target of one-week access to diagnostic tests for cancer, with results

An extension in the ages at which adults are screened for cancer

Would give everyone aged between 40 and 74 the right to a free health check

Would focus the NHS locally on improving life expectancy and reducing infant mortality, including targeted investment and action for high risk groups such as smoking cessation programmes

Would create a new National Care Service, ending the postcode lottery for care

Would offer free personal care at home for those with the highest needs

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### Party C

Would cut waste and re-invest in frontline services, such as cancer treatment, mental health services, maternity services and dementia care

Would give people the power to take control over their local NHS through elected health boards

Introduce a 'Patient's Contract', by paying for people to go private if the NHS can't provide treatment within an agreed timeframe

Ensure everyone has the right to register with the GP that's most convenient to them

Would increase GPs pay to provide healthcare to patients in deprived areas with the worst health, paid for by rebalancing the pay system across the board

Introduction of a national test to make sure everyone who works in the NHS can speak English to a good level

Would stop hospitals from 'getting paid for mistakes' and put in place a legal duty for them to tell patients if something has gone wrong

Want a cross-party commission set up to reach a consensus on social care, with a

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preference for a partnership model, where the state and the individual both contribute, with a guaranteed contribution to the costs of care

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Party D

Would make the performance of the NHS transparent by publishing information about the kind of results that healthcare providers are achieving

Would increase access to vital drugs and services

Greater focus on preventing people getting ill

Increase spending on the NHS every year

Give patients the right to choose a GP, hospital and consultant responsible for an individual's care

Ensure the NHS focuses on serious issues such as cancer survival rates

Cut the cost of NHS bureaucracy by a third

Ensure patients get the best new drugs needed, for free, on the NHS

Ensure access to a GP from 8am to 8pm seven days a week

Eliminate hospital infections and mixed-sex wards by providing more single rooms in the NHS

Provide an NHS dentist for a million more people and free dental checks for all five year-olds

Introduce a voluntary insurance scheme to cover the cost of residential care

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## Issue: Immigration

### Party A

Migrants to be controlled by a points system similar to that operated by Australia and New Zealand

Five-year freeze on immigration (except for people with parents or grandparents born in the UK) until proper immigration controls are put in place

No one should be admitted unless they are fluent in English, have the required educational qualifications, demonstrate loyalty to the UK, its laws and values, and can support themselves financially, with no recourse to public funds

New citizens should be required to sign a Declaration of Citizenship

Application for asylum will only be considered at a British port or airport where the applicant has arrived directly from the country from which asylum is sought; or at the British embassy or consulate in that country

Border controls so that all non-UK nationals who enter the UK can be registered and tracked on their entry and exit from the country

Anyone overstaying their visa to be arrested and removed, with a ban on further entry to the UK for a minimum of five years

Personnel and resources engaged in deporting failed illegal asylum seekers and illegal immigrants will be tripled in size

No Home, No Visa policy

The UK will retain an open entry system for tourists from the EU and other countries as existing arrangements, with border and security checks.

Withdrawal from the European Convention on Human Rights

The UK would fully apply the 1951 Convention on Refugees, particularly the clause on refugees having to accept asylum in the first safe country they reach

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# 2

### Party B

Use of the new Australian-style points-based immigration system

Roll out of ID cards for foreign nationals

Electronic border controls would count people in and out of the country by the end of 2010

Introduction of requirements for citizenship, including learning English, paying tax and obeying the law

Membership of the ID system would be offered to an increasing number of British citizens, including when they renew their passports, but there would be no compulsory ID cards for

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British citizens

Would take tough action against rogue employers who knowingly hire illegal workers

In order to lift the number of people removed from Britain, would continue expanding the detention estate

Would ensure asylum decisions are made and enforced quickly with the majority of cases concluded within six months

Committed to working to support victim of human trafficking, and would continue to work both at home and with European partners to end trafficking

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# 3

## Party C

Immediate reintroduction of entry and exit checks

Would give the National Border Force the power of arrest

Prosecution of unscrupulous employers and people traffickers

Would offer a route to citizenship to families who have been in the UK long-term, and want to pay taxes, provided they want to work, speak English and want to commit to the UK in the long term

Would introduce a Regional Points-Based Immigration System to ensure that immigration is targeted on areas that are under-populated and would like more immigration

Would make the asylum system, for those fleeing real persecution, fairer by taking responsibility away from the Home Office and giving it to a Canadian-style independent agency, which will substantially reduce the number of decisions overturned on appeal

Would end asylum-seekers' dependence on benefits by allowing them to work to support themselves and their families

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# 4

## Party D

Would reduce net immigration to the levels of the 1990s

Introduction of an annual limit on the numbers of non-EU economic migrants allowed to work in the UK. The limit would change each year to take into account the wider effects of immigration on society

Would work to prevent illegal migration with a dedicated Border Police Force

Introduction of new rules to tighten up the student visa system

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Promotion of integration into British society

An English language test for anyone coming here to get married

Would apply transitional controls for all future EU entrants

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## Issue : Transport

### Party A

Improve rail customer satisfaction, no rail budget cuts, consider re-opening closed rail lines

Introduction of a 'Britdisc' to enable charging foreign lorry drivers

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## 2

### Party B

Staging the fuel duty increase for 2010, with an increase of one penny per litre on 1 April 2010 and one penny per litre on 1 October 2010, then 0.76 pence per litre on 1 January 2011

Motorists would receive up to £5,000 to buy an ultra-low carbon car from January 2011

Cut in average carbon dioxide emissions from new cars across the EU to 95g/km by 2020

Have proposals to create a high speed rail network linking London to Birmingham, Manchester, the East Midlands, Sheffield and Leeds, with trains running at up to 250 miles per hour

Committed to enhancing the existing rail network

Investment in rail station refurbishment

Committed to increasing capacity on busy routes with a major increase in additional rail carriages and longer platforms

Support the growth of rail as an option of choice for freight

Promotion of international agreement to secure the same stricter limits on carbon dioxide emissions from aircraft as already in place for cars within the EU

Have a target to get aviation emissions in the UK to below 2005 levels by 2050

Have criteria which must be met if the expansion of Heathrow to a third runway is to go ahead, with legally-binding tests which must be met on noise and air pollution

Creation of a new urban transport fund

Investment in cycle training, enabling an extra 500,000 children to take part in Bikeability training by 2012

Investment for improving facilities for cyclists at rail stations, such as more secure bicycle storage space and on-site repair shops

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## 3

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### **Party C**

Would ensure that regulated fares go up by less than inflation, meaning prices will come down

Would make Network Rail refund a third of a ticket price if a rail replacement bus service is in place

Introduction of a national infrastructure bank to help attract private finance to invest in public transport like High Speed Rail

Would give councils greater powers to regulate bus services according to community needs

Would replace Air Passenger Duty with a per-plane tax

No 3rd runway at Heathrow

Ensure good rail paths on key strategic freight corridors, facilitate the maximum use of inland and coastal waterways and encourage research and development into low-carbon technologies for freight vehicles

Promotion of safer cycling and pedestrian routes in all local transport plans

Would end the highly centralised approach to planning and allow local authorities to deal with issues such as traffic target resolution and the regulation of local bus services

Would set a zero emissions target for all new cars by 2040, with an extension of targets to all other vehicles, to ensure that by 2050 all freight vehicles are running on electricity, sustainable biofuels or other renewable fuels

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# 4

### **Party D**

Would begin work immediately on a high speed rail line connecting London and Heathrow with Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds, with construction beginning in 2015

Stage two would deliver two new lines bringing the North East, Scotland and Wales into the high speed rail network

Would stop the third runway at Heathrow

Would bring Heathrow directly into the high speed rail network

Work to improve the efficiency of airport security checks

Blocking of plans for second runways at Stansted and Gatwick

Reformation of Air Passenger Duty to encourage a switch to fuller and cleaner planes

Reformation of the railways

Would grant longer, more flexible franchises to incentivise private sector investment in improvements like longer trains and better stations

Support of Crossrail and the electrification of the Great Western line to South Wales

Would turn the Rail Regulator into a passenger champion

Reformation of Network Rail to make it more accountable to its customers

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Introduction of a moratorium on building on disused rail lines

Would stop central funding for new fixed speed cameras

Authorisation of 'drugalyser' testing technology among other safety measures

Would crack down on road works, with an introduction of a lane rental for some of the busiest roads

More powers to local councils over traffic flow

Crack down on rogue clampers

Introduction of a lorry road user charge, so foreign lorries pay tax

Consultation on the Fair Fuel Stabiliser

Facilitation of the switch to green cars by creating a national car recharging network

Would free local transport funding from the requirement to introduce congestion charging and create a Transport Carbon Reduction Fund to support green projects such as initiatives to encourage walking, cycling and bus use or measures to help reduce the need for work-related travel

Would give the concerns of cyclists greater priority

Encouragement of partnerships between bus operators and councils

Would give full weight to the benefits of low carbon projects in cost-benefit appraisals

Introduction of an immediate freeze and inquiry into the current government's programme of back-rating business rates in ports

Retention of the Tonnage Tax in the tax system

Improvement of maritime training, as part of the intended programme for 100,000 new apprenticeships