**General Political and Economic Terms (Alphabetical Order)**

**Capitalism**: This is the **Economic** system we live in, where private individuals or corporations own and invest in goods and other things that are sold for a profit.

**Communism**: Here you have a social and economic system in which property and resources are shared. Everyone will then be ‘equal’ and the need for the **State** will disappear.

**Constitution**: A document that kind of sets out the principle rules of a nation. Any laws made by the government are not allowed to go against these rules.

**Democracy**: Most countries in the world are democracies, where power comes from the people through voting. You can get ‘direct democracies’ where people vote on laws, and ‘representative democracies’ where people elect individuals to vote for them (like here in the UK).

**Economy**: Kind of describes the financial state of a country. The economy is a measurement of how many things and services are being produced and used, and how much money is being spent. Most governments today are judged on how well/badly they manage the economy.

**Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**: Very important for measuring the **Economy**. GDP is the total value of all goods and services produced by a nation within a year. Generally speaking, the higher the GDP the better the economy is doing.

**Judiciary**: This is the part of the **State** that ensures the laws are carried out. Think of courts and judges.

**Lobbying**: This is kind of how individuals, groups, and corporations try to encourage government to change laws. It’s supposed to be done through the power of argument, but it’s largely done through money.

**Parliamentary system**: A government whose power is concentrated in the laws of the country. You’ll usually see a Prime Minister, who is elected by the largest party in **Parliament**. Governments can be changed through national elections.

**Policy**: This is a government’s set of principles on a particular topic. For instance, the many countries have a ‘last resort’ policy when it comes to war, which means they will only go to war if they have tried every single other non-violent alternative.

**Private Sector**: The part of society owned and controlled by individuals and corporations.

**Public Sector**: The part of society owned and controlled by the public (in reality, the government). For example, no single person owns a public park – everyone owns it – and they control it through democratic government.

**Socialism**: A political and economic system in which workers (not bosses or directors!) own all the means of production (like factories, stores, farmland, machinery, etc.). There are different forms, but the most well-known sees a large **State** ensuring that society is based on ‘equality’.

**State**: The structure that governs a particular society. It has many parts (citizens, a governing body, a police force, a health system, etc.). The UK **State** is made up by the people of England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland, is governed by a **Parliamentary Democracy** and is technically headed by the Queen.

**Useful Terms for the Model United Nations Conference**

**Delegate**: A person who attends the conference assemblyand has been giventhe power to representtheir school and make decisionsfor them at that conference.

**Chair**: This is a person who is kind of in charge – they control the debate according to the set rules. They will ask **Delegates** to speak, they will time speeches, and be in charge of voting. They will also give awards and feedback to **Delegates**.

**Clause**: This is kind of a written suggestion to make a slight change to a **Draft Resolution**. It will detail the practical **Policy** that you want to be included if the **Draft Resolution** is voted in.

**Decorum**: A funny word, this is basically a request for quiet and order, given by the **Chair**. If it gets to loud they will call “Decorum delegates” and everyone needs to be quiet and return to their seats.

**Draft Resolution**: The final draft of a piece of writing between a number of different groups of **Delegates** (if schools team up they are more likely to succeed!). Different schools will work together and reach a shared agreement on a particular issue, write it down in their **Draft Resolution**, and present it to the others. After a debate, all delegates will vote on if they think it should be adopted.

**General Assembly**: This is when all the **Delegates** from each school come together in a room and make speeches, have discussions and vote on certain topics.

**MUN Conference**: The Model United Nations Conference is where **Delegates** from different schools come together to participate in a day’s worth of speeches, discussions and debates.

**Opening Speech**: This is where a **Delegate** will announce their country’s policy on a particular topic and explain why. A *very* short example would be “Germany believes we need to switch to renewable energy such as solar power because it will help prevent a climate catastrophe and also create millions of new jobs.”

**Placard**: This is a piece of card with your country’s name on it. You use it to show you are in attendance, to vote, and to get the **Chair’s** attention.

**Position Paper**: This is a short piece of writing which shows how a country views a particular issue being discussed (like Climate Change, or War, for instance). They will suggest in this piece of writing what they think is the best way forward.

**Secretariat**: The team who organise the **MUN Conference** (in this case, it’s us – the Higher Education Outreach Network!).