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11:00 AM | BY - PRESHIKA MA'AM



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ENGLISH BY PRESHIKA TONGAR



Important words used in editorial

Stuttering - faltering, hesitating, struggling, stumbling, wavering

Unprecedented - unparalleled, unmatched, unequaled, extraordinary

Tenability - viability, validity, soundness, feasibility

Referendum - plebiscite, poll, ballot, popular vote, public vote

Bastion - stronghold, fortress, bulwark, citadel, rampart

Setback - reversal, blow, mishap, *failure*

Mainstay - pillar, backbone, anchor, support, cornerstone

Inference - deduction, conclusion, implication, judgment

Splinter - fracture, shatter, disintegrate, split, crumble

Nativist - xenophobic, chauvinistic, isolationist, ethnocentric

Sweep - engulf, spread, overrun, flood, pervade

Ideologue - dogmatist, zealot, theorist, partisan, fanatic

Bigot

Unenviable - undesirable, unpleasant, difficult, disagreeable

Robust - strong, **resilient**, sturdy, vigorous, **powerful** *hefty musklat*

Daunting - **intimidating**, formidable, **frightening**, discouraging, **challenging**

Spiralling - soaring, skyrocketing, escalating, compounding, Surging

Upheaval - disruption, turmoil, disturbance, disorder, chaos

↳ chaos / commotion agitation

Factionalised - divided, split, partisan, fragmented, discordant

Splitter

Hasten - accelerate, expedite, quicken, speed up

Dawn - beginning, advent, onset, inception, arrival

Projection - forecast, prediction, estimation, calculation, prognosis

Important idioms and phrases used in the editorial

Ceding ground to - losing an advantage, position, or territory to a competitor or opponent

Call for - to publicly demand, require, or request that something should happen

Step down - to resign from an important position or office

Revolving door - a situation in which people or things enter and leave a place or organization very quickly

Unstable

Along the lines - roughly similar to, or in accordance with the principles of

A low hanging fruit for the likes - an easy target or easily obtainable

Angle for : to try to get something in an indirect or scheming way
→ cunning

Stuttering Starmer: On the Labour leadership crisis The fragmentation of the electorate might make the U.K. ungovernable. U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer is facing an unprecedented challenge to the tenability of his role after the Labour Party lost a series of elections across the country, ceding ground to both the left and the right. The mild-mannered Mr. Starmer is the fifth head of government, since the 2016 Brexit referendum, to face such a serious loss of confidence in his leadership. Matters reached a head after Labour lost 1,100 English council seats including in its bastions, the Midlands and northern England.

Far-right party Reform UK swept at least 1,400 seats, many in areas that had until now been the mainstay of Labour or their principal opposition, the Conservatives. According to some projections, Reform has gained the largest vote share in the recent election, at 26%, followed by the Greens at 18%, and then a near-tie between Labour and the Conservatives at approximately 17%. This election result might well be the clearest indication of the end of more than a century of two-party dominance. That the latest setback to Labour came on Mr. Starmer's watch bodes ill for his continuation in the Prime Minister's seat, especially since close to 100 of his party's 403 MPs have called for him to step down, and no fewer than five Ministers have resigned. Among those said to be angling for the throne are Andy Burnham, the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Angela Rayner, former Deputy Prime Minister, and Ed Miliband, Energy Secretary.

Whoever the winner, and whatever the further twists and turns that unfold on Downing Street until the next general election, not likely until 2029, one inference that it would be safe to make from the revolving door at the Prime Minister's office is that the long shadow of Brexit continues to haunt the U.K. Some argue that Brexit truly hastened the dawn of multi-party democracy in the U.K. after it led in the 2024 election to some of the core supporters of the Leave campaign – primarily from the Conservatives – moving to Reform on the right and those of the Remain campaign – primarily from Labour – migrating to the Green Party on the left. Including the Liberal Democrats, therefore, the voting population has now splintered along the lines of five parties, while the core differentiation still relates to voters' views on being part of the European Union. With the global mood of nativist populism sweeping across nations, this splintering of the U.K. electorate has made it a low hanging fruit for the likes of anti-immigrant ideologues such as Nigel Farage of Reform. Meanwhile, every new prime ministerial candidate walking through the doors at Number 10 is faced with the unenviable challenge of a weak and factionalised support base, yet is required to produce robust answers to daunting questions on the spiralling cost of living and socioeconomic upheavals at every turn. The U.K. has become, it would appear, ungovernable.

1. Why is Keir Starmer facing a crisis regarding his leadership in the U.K.?

- (a) Labour Party won too many seats unexpectedly
- ☒ (b) Labour Party suffered major election losses across the country
- (c) The Conservatives formed an alliance with Reform UK
- (d) The Brexit referendum was cancelled

2. Which party emerged as a major gainer in the recent local elections mentioned in the passage?

- (a) Green Party
- (b) Liberal Democrats
- (c) Reform UK
- (d) Conservative Party

3. According to the passage, what is considered one major reason behind the fragmentation of the U.K. electorate?

- (a) Industrial revolution
- (b) Monarchy reforms
- (c) Brexit and differing views on the European Union
- (d) Increase in oil prices

4. The phrase "low hanging fruit" in the passage most nearly means:

- (a) A difficult political challenge
- ☒ (b) An easy target or opportunity
- (c) A hidden political strategy
- (d) A weak economic policy

5. Which of the following best describes the author's view about the present political condition of the U.K.?
- (a) Stable and prosperous
 - (b) Dominated completely by two parties
 - ☒ (c) Facing instability due to fragmented political support
 - (d) Free from the effects of Brexit

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