

Task:

Cut up the points below and place them under the correct heading.

- Labour's failings
- Not labour's failings
- Strengths of the Conservatives and Heath

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| Heath refused to make the popular topic of immigration an election issue and sacked Enoch Powell from the shadow cabinet in 1968 after the 'rivers of blood' speech. | In 1970 Wilson's political position was looking strong and the economy was growing. |
| George Brown's behaviour and inconsistency: competition with James Callaghan and orthodox economists; disagreements with Wilson and his resignation (1968). | Heath had a clear programme of policies for the modernisation of Britain, particularly better industrial relations and entry to EEC: 'One Nation Toryism', which had voter appeal. |
| Labour had failed to live up to its promises to modernise Britain in the 'white heat of technology'. | At the Selsdon Park Conference, January 1970, tough approaches to economic modernisation, influenced by Sir Keith Joseph, were adopted. |
| The economic situation was not of Labour's making. A difficult situation had been inherited from the Conservatives. Once Roy Jenkins replaced Callaghan, tough deflationary measures helped to achieve a balance of payments surplus by 1969. | From 1966 George Brown was moved to the Foreign Office and from 1968 was no longer in the cabinet and causing trouble. |
| The breakdown of relations with Trade unions 1966/67 and seamen's and dockers' strikes; the failure of 'in Place of Strife' and the resultant splits. | Problems over Rhodesia and Northern Ireland. |
| Devaluation: both the delay in implementing it and the effect of its acceptance in November 1967. | Economic policy failures, particularly George Brown's 'National Plan' of 1965. |

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| <p>A face-saving compromise was negotiated with the trade unions in 1969 before the Election.</p> | <p>Wilson's lack of trust in colleagues and reliance on 'kitchen cabinet' government.</p> |
| <p>Failure to negotiate entry into the EEC.</p> | <p>Heath had shown himself less able to connect with voters in 1966 election contest and was less experienced than Wilson.</p> |



Essay:

Having sorted the statements you could then answer the essay question:

'Labour lost power in 1970 because of its own failings in the years 1964 to 1970.' Assess the validity of this view.

Things to consider:

- Examine 'failings' in the light of both contemporary and later opinion and from a broad perspective.
 - Do all of Labour's so-called failings actually deserve to be called such?
 - Are there clear links between the issues and the election defeat?
- Is the Conservative victory more the result of their own strengths than Labour's failings?
- Were Labour's 'failings' were more the product of circumstances than their own ineptitude?
- Remember that the Conservative victory came as a surprise to both sides!