

Ask an M.P.!

Questions for Poole M.P. Neil Duncan-Jordan from Brock students

30 NOV 2025

Neil Duncan Jordan (Labour) Poole's M.P.

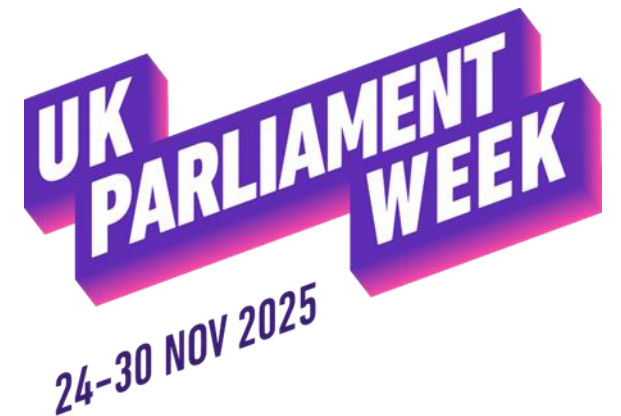
- Neil Duncan Jordan is the Labour M.P. for Poole
- He was elected in the 2024 General Election
- He kindly agreed to ask four questions posed to him by Brock's **A-level Government & Politics** students for **UK Parliament Week...**



**UK
PARLIAMENT
WEEK**
24-30 NOV 2025

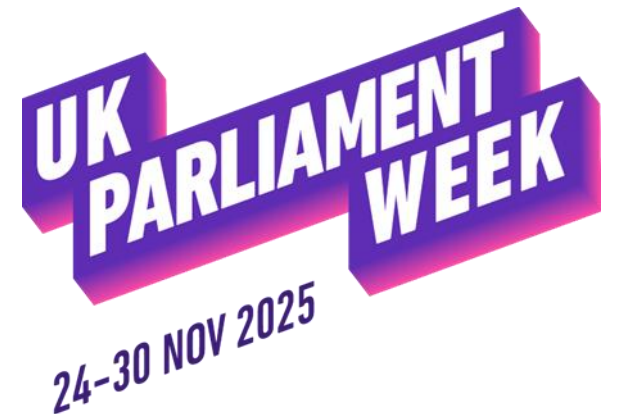
1. ‘Why do you think that Reform has become so popular, and what’s the best way to counter them?’

- “Understandably, the public are looking for answers to the problems they face. Sometimes there are organisations like Reform that provide simple solutions to complicated issues. It doesn’t mean they will fix the problem, but they are able to make it sound easy.
- This is attractive to people who don’t have time to spend understanding all the details. It’s also a tried and tested campaign technique to blame an outsider for the problems that you face (irrespective of whether that is factually correct or not).
- So for example, person X hasn’t got a job because someone from abroad has got it instead. No-one asks why someone from abroad for whom English isn’t their first language was more employable than the home grown worker. What does that say about our education system for example. So it’s easier and quicker just to say it’s someone else’s fault and move on.
- However, we are seeing part of the Reform project unravel in those councils that they captured in the recent elections. They have made promises they can’t keep and they have cut services on which people rely. So we counter them by (a) being distinctively different in terms of policy (b) highlighting their many failures and (c) challenging them at every opportunity.”



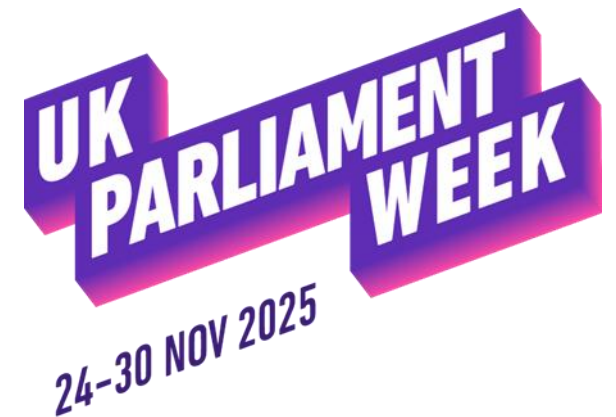
2. ‘There has been a lot in the media about changes to the voting age; are you in favour of it being lowered?’

- “It was in Labour’s manifesto and will therefore be brought forward to Parliament. I think it’s an interesting policy because it might have a serious impact on the outcome of future elections. Reform interestingly enough have 1M tik tok followers and have majored on targeting disaffected white young men.
- Critics say that 16 year olds don’t know enough about politics to make a choice – but in reality, I have met lots of adults about whom you could say that too!”



3. ‘Do you think the whip system is fit for purpose if MPs are forced to vote against what they believe is their constituents’ wishes?’

- “As someone who recently lost the whip and then had it restored, I would be the first to say that the system doesn’t work in a modern democracy. Of course, all governments want to get their programme enacted into law, but the suspension of MPs simply for voting against the government never happened under previous Labour administrations.
- I have written extensively about how the role of a backbencher is to scrutinise government legislation and to put forward suggestions as to how they could be made better. If you are not allowed to do that, then there seems little point in having MPs. Do we really just want everyone to agree on everything all of the time? It’s completely unrealistic.
- There are so many things that need to change about Parliament so that it comes into the 21st century – ending prayers at the beginning of each session, electronic voting, agreed timetables for business so you know exactly when things are happening, guaranteed rights of backbenchers to speak. Sadly we’re a long way off some of this!”



4. ‘Why do you think more young people should get involved in politics?’

- “Ultimately, if you don’t do politics – politics will do you. Very little in your day to day lives is free from politics. It affects everything you do – from the food you eat to the cost of a bus fare.
- Young people are the future – which means they have a stake in shaping how that looks. This Parliament actually has a number of very young MPs – the youngest being 22, but there are ministers in their mid to late 20s.
- In any party, or Parliament you need a mix of experience, skill and energy. I’d encourage all young people to at least have an understanding of what the parties stand for, and what the main issues of the day might be. And if you don’t like something – then get involved and change it!”

