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News Report

Breaking News



Following months of unofficial **campaigning** the UK General Election has begun **in earnest**.

Parliament has been **dissolved** and the **candidates** have started **hitting the campaign trail** in their attempts to win the hearts, minds and votes of the people of Britain.

The issues that are likely to dominate the campaign in the run-up to the election on 7th May include the economy and spending cuts, Britain's membership of the European Union, the future of the National Health Service and immigration.

The **incumbent Conservative** prime minister, David Cameron, has said he wants to complete the job of "turning the country around", and that he would offer the "strong leadership" that was needed. The Conservatives have also **pledged** that there will be a **referendum** on Britain's European Union membership.

Labour leader Ed Miliband said the Conservatives' policy towards the European Union was bad for business. He has outlined his party's business **manifesto**, which includes a promise to "return Britain to a leadership role" in **Brussels**.

Deputy Prime Minister and **Liberal Democrat** leader Nick Clegg has commented that his party would occupy the "reasoned centre ground" during the campaign. He has said that on the issue of Europe there was a real danger of British politics being pulled to the right and the left.

Many commentators believe there is currently no firm favourite to win the election. It is a distinct possibility that there will be another **coalition** government. This could mean that some of the smaller parties, such as the Green Party, UKIP and Scottish National Party could be vital in determining the final balance of power.

Vocabulary

campaigning

making promises or commitments to do certain things as a politician

in earnest

seriously, officially

dissolved

formally ended

candidates

individuals who want to be the political representatives for particular areas in the country

hitting the campaign trail

beginning the process of travelling around trying to persuade people to vote for them

incumbent

person who currently holds a particular elected position

Conservative

one of the political parties of the UK

pledged

promised

a referendum

a public vote on a single political issue

Labour

one of the political parties of the UK

manifesto

document which contains the aims and plans of a political party

Brussels

the European Union

Liberal Democrat

one of the political parties of the UK

coalition

government formed with more than one political party

This story is based on an original BBC News story:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2015-32109172>