BAALMUN'25 HOUSE OF COMMONS

STUDY GUIDE

1. Letter From Secretary General

2. Letter From Under-Secretary General and Academic Assistant

Dear Delegates and Readers,

I welcome you all to the House of Commons as your Prime Minister and Under-Secretary General. My name is Emre Tahmaz and I'm a first year student at Kültür University as a molecular biology and genetics major. It's an honor for me to be the Under Secretary General of one my favorite committees, the House of Commons, as Theresa May (Prime Minister). I hope you like the allocated agendas for our committee's which are chosen by me and I do also hope that we would be able to conclude our committee with a successful hansard..

Well, thanks to our Head of Academy Can Körpe for inviting me and letting me choose my agenda items, thanks to my chairboard and my academic assistant for their upcoming efforts.

Besides that, it is my pleasure to present this study guide to you, which will inform you thoroughly about the topic that will concern you during our sessions. I insist you read and study upon this guide for better and more challenging debates.

I believe that we will have 3 amazing days in our committee while debating and finding solutions to our related agenda topic.

Furthermore, you can contact me whenever during the day or night.

Are you ready to unite for a better future for our beloved Queen Elizabeth the Second and our beloved country United Kingdom?

Sincerely,

Emre Tahmaz

Under Secretary General of the House Of Commons

My number: +90 534 898 70 36

3. Introduction to the House of Commons

The House of Commons is the lower house of the Parliament of the United Kingdom and serves as one of the most important legislative bodies in the world. It is a central arena for political debate, legislative drafting, and decision-making, reflecting the will of the electorate through its democratically elected Members of Parliament (MPs). The Commons is distinct from the House of Lords, the upper house of Parliament, in that its members are directly elected by citizens in general elections held at least every five years.

The House of Commons derives its authority from centuries of tradition, evolving over time into the cornerstone of the UK's parliamentary democracy. It traces its origins to the early medieval councils, which gradually developed into the bicameral system in place today. By the 17th century, the House of Commons had established its primacy over the monarchy and the House of Lords, making it the principal decision-making body in British governance.

The House is composed of 650 MPs, each representing a geographic constituency across England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. MPs come from various political parties, and the composition of the House often reflects the political preferences of the public. The leader of the political party with the majority of seats typically becomes the Prime Minister, forming the government. In cases where no single party achieves a majority, a coalition government may be formed or a minority government may govern with conditional support from other parties.

The core responsibilities of the House of Commons include the following:

- **Legislation:** Proposing, debating, and passing laws. The House of Commons plays a crucial role in shaping the legal framework of the UK.
- **Scrutiny and Oversight:** Examining the actions and policies of the government to ensure transparency, accountability, and effectiveness.
- **Budgetary Control:** Authorizing government expenditure and taxation through the passage of budgets and financial legislation.
- **Representation:** Acting as the voice of citizens, with MPs advocating for the needs and interests of their constituents.

Debates and decisions in the House of Commons often reflect diverse perspectives, with party affiliation, constituency priorities, and individual beliefs influencing the positions of MPs. The Commons operates through a structured process of debates, committee discussions, and voting procedures. These processes are overseen by the Speaker of the House, a neutral figure responsible for maintaining order and ensuring fair conduct during debates.

4. Agenda Item: *Brexit*

a. Introduction to the Agenda Item

The United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union (EU), popularly known as Brexit, represents one of the most significant political events in modern European history. The referendum held on June 23, 2016, which resulted in 51.9% of voters choosing to leave, laid the groundwork for a process that has reshaped not only the UK's relationship with the EU but also its domestic political, economic, and social landscape. The decision to exit the EU reflected a complex interplay of factors, including concerns about sovereignty, immigration, and the financial cost of EU membership, as well as broader questions about national identity and the role of the UK in a globalized world.

Brexit formally occurred on January 31, 2020, following years of intense political debate and negotiation. However, the challenges associated with disentangling nearly half a century of political, legal, and economic integration remain profound. Central to the discussion are the trade agreements governing the flow of goods and services between the UK and the EU, which have significant implications for businesses, workers, and consumers. The UK's withdrawal has also raised pressing questions about the future of Northern Ireland, where the implementation of the Northern Ireland Protocol seeks to avoid a hard border with the Republic of Ireland while maintaining the integrity of the UK's internal market—a balance that has proven deeply contentious.

The impact of Brexit extends beyond the economic and geopolitical sphere. Domestically, it has amplified debates about the distribution of power within the UK, particularly in Scotland, where calls for a second independence referendum have gained traction. It has also reshaped the UK's immigration policy, moving away from the EU's principle of free movement and toward a points-based system aimed at controlling migration while addressing labor shortages in key sectors. Internationally, Brexit has necessitated a re-evaluation of the UK's foreign policy and trade priorities, as it seeks to establish itself as a "Global Britain" through new alliances and agreements outside the EU framework.

Furthermore, the economic repercussions of Brexit continue to unfold. The departure from the EU's single market and customs union has introduced new barriers to trade, disrupted supply chains, and created uncertainty for businesses. The broader implications for the UK's financial services sector, manufacturing industries, and agriculture remain topics of significant concern. Meanwhile, the UK faces the challenge of balancing economic recovery from Brexit with the broader pressures of global economic instability and climate change.

Brexit is not merely a historical event but an ongoing process that continues to evolve. Its outcomes are shaped by a combination of political decision-making, economic realities, and societal responses. Understanding Brexit requires a deep exploration of the motivations behind the referendum, the mechanisms of withdrawal, and the long-term implications for the UK, the EU, and the wider international community. This exploration provides a lens through which to examine broader themes of nationalism, globalization, and the challenges of political cooperation in an increasingly interconnected world.

b. Key Terms and Definitions

Brexit: A combination of "Britain" and "exit," Brexit refers to the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union following the 2016 referendum. It encompasses the political, economic, and legal processes associated with the UK's withdrawal.

European Union (EU): A political and economic union of 27 European countries that are bound by common policies, including the single market, customs union, and shared regulations. The EU was founded on principles of free movement of goods, services, capital, and people.

2016 Brexit Referendum: A public vote held on June 23, 2016, in which UK citizens were asked whether the country should remain a member of the European Union or leave. The "Leave" campaign won with 51.9% of the vote.

Article 50: A clause of the Treaty on European Union that outlines the process for a member state to withdraw from the EU. The UK invoked Article 50 on March 29, 2017, initiating the formal process of Brexit.

Withdrawal Agreement: The legally binding treaty between the UK and the EU that set the terms of the UK's departure. It addressed issues such as citizens' rights, the financial settlement, and the Northern Ireland Protocol.

Transition Period: A period from January 31, 2020, to December 31, 2020, during which the UK was no longer an EU member but remained subject to EU rules while negotiations for a future relationship took place.

Northern Ireland Protocol: A part of the Withdrawal Agreement designed to prevent a hard border between Northern Ireland (part of the UK) and the Republic of Ireland (an EU member). It keeps Northern Ireland aligned with certain EU regulations, creating trade barriers between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK.

Customs Union: An arrangement in which member states agree to eliminate customs duties and adopt a common external tariff for goods coming from non-member countries. The UK left the EU Customs Union as part of Brexit.

Single Market: An integrated market allowing the free movement of goods, services, capital, and people across EU member states. Leaving the single market introduced new trade barriers for the UK.

Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA): The agreement between the UK and the EU that came into effect on January 1, 2021, outlining their future relationship. It covers areas such as trade, security, and governance.

Global Britain: A term used by the UK government to describe its post-Brexit vision of an outward-looking, globally engaged nation focusing on new trade deals and international alliances.

Second Referendum: Often referred to as a "People's Vote," this concept suggests holding a second public vote to confirm or reject the terms of Brexit or to reconsider leaving the EU entirely. It remains a contentious topic in UK politics.

Devolved Administrations: The governments of Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, each of which has varying degrees of legislative power. Brexit has intensified debates over the future of devolution and independence within the UK.

Hard Brexit vs. Soft Brexit:

- **Hard Brexit**: A complete break from the EU, including leaving the single market and customs union, often associated with prioritizing sovereignty over economic integration.
- **Soft Brexit**: A scenario where the UK maintains closer ties to the EU, such as retaining access to the single market or customs union, to minimize economic disruption.

Frictionless Trade: A term used to describe the elimination of customs checks, tariffs, and regulatory barriers to trade, which was a feature of UK-EU relations before Brexit.

Regulatory Alignment: A principle where countries agree to adopt similar standards and rules to facilitate trade. Brexit has created new challenges in maintaining alignment between the UK and the EU in areas such as food safety and environmental standards.

Remainers: Individuals or groups who supported the UK remaining in the EU during the 2016 referendum and, in many cases, continue to advocate for closer ties with the EU.

Leavers (or Brexiteers): Those who supported the UK leaving the EU, emphasizing issues such as sovereignty, immigration control, and reducing financial contributions to the EU budget.

Freedom of Movement: A core EU principle allowing citizens of member states to live, work, and travel freely across the union. This principle ended for UK citizens following Brexit.

Economic Impact of Brexit: Refers to the wide-ranging economic consequences of Brexit, including changes to trade, investment, labor markets, and financial services. These impacts vary across sectors and regions of the UK.

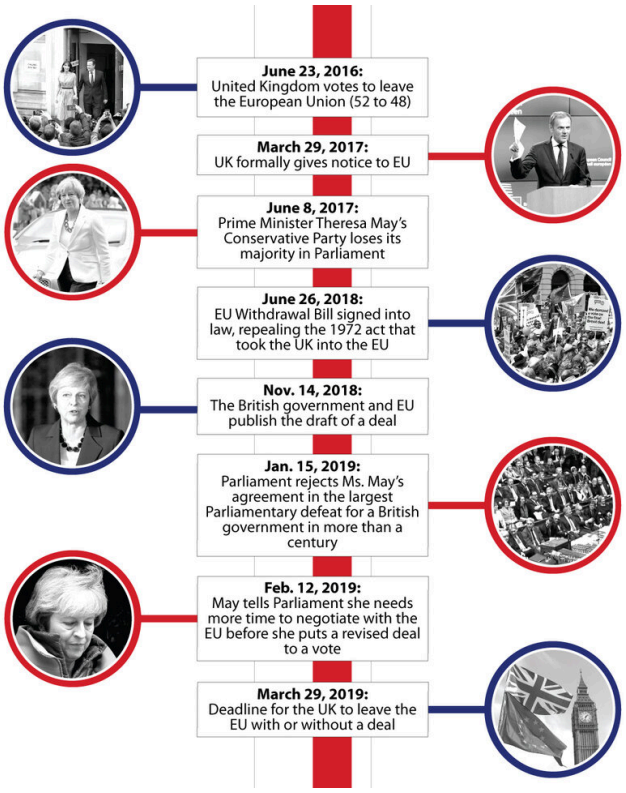
Dimension	Option A ("softer Brexit")	Option B ("harder Brexit")
Market access (MKT)	Very few restrictions on the export of UK goods and services to the EU	Significant restrictions and taxes on the export of UK goods and services to the EU
Regulatory alignment (REG)	UK agrees to align its environment, labour and consumers standards with EU rules	UK is free to decide its own environment, labour and consumer standards
Movement of people (FOM)	End to the free movement of people between the UK and the EU, except for highly skilled workers	Complete end to the free movement of people between the UK and the EU
Payments into EU budget for research collaboration (RES)	UK makes some payments to the EU to remain part of European-wide scientific research and educational exchange programmes	UK does not make any payments to the EU, but is excluded from European-wide scientific research and educational programmes

c. Historical Background of *Brexit*

The origins of Brexit can be traced back to the United Kingdom's ambivalent relationship with the European project since its inception. The European Union (EU), initially formed as the European Economic Community (EEC) in 1957 through the Treaty of Rome, aimed to foster economic cooperation and prevent future conflicts in post-World War II Europe. The UK initially chose not to join the EEC, opting instead for an alternative free trade arrangement, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), which it helped establish in 1960. However, economic difficulties in the 1950s and 1960s prompted the UK to reconsider its stance. After two failed attempts to join the EEC, primarily blocked by French President Charles de Gaulle, the UK was finally admitted in 1973 under Prime Minister Edward Heath. This marked a pivotal moment in UK-EU relations, yet skepticism about the UK's membership persisted. In 1975, just two years after joining, the UK held a referendum to decide whether to remain in the EEC. With 67% voting to stay, the result seemed to affirm the UK's place in Europe. However, divisions within the political landscape, particularly within the Conservative and Labour parties, ensured that European integration remained a contentious issue.

The Rise of Euroscepticism

The 1980s saw growing resistance to deeper EU integration. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, though initially a supporter of the common market, became increasingly critical of EU policies, particularly regarding budget contributions and federalist ambitions. Her Bruges Speech in 1988 marked a turning point, as she expressed opposition to the creation of a "European super-state." The Maastricht Treaty of 1992, which established the EU and introduced plans for a single currency, further deepened divisions. While the UK opted out of the euro and certain aspects of the treaty, debates over sovereignty and EU influence grew louder. During the 1990s and 2000s, the rise of the UK Independence Party (UKIP), under the leadership of figures like Nigel Farage, gave a political voice to Euroscepticism. UKIP's message resonated with those concerned about immigration, perceived loss of sovereignty, and the EU's growing authority.



The Road to the 2016 Referendum

In the 2010s, the Conservative Party faced mounting pressure to address divisions over EU membership, both internally and from UKIP's growing popularity. In January 2013, Prime Minister David Cameron promised a referendum on EU membership if the Conservatives won the 2015 general election. Following their victory, the referendum was set for June 23, 2016. During the referendum campaign, the "Leave" side emphasized issues such as taking back control of UK laws, immigration, and reducing financial contributions to the EU. The "Remain" side warned of economic instability and loss of global influence if the UK left the EU. The result, with 51.9% voting to leave and 48.1% voting to remain, revealed stark divisions across age groups, regions, and political ideologies.

The Brexit Process

The process of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union was a complex and highly debated journey that unfolded over several years. Following the 2016 referendum, the UK formally began the process of leaving the EU by invoking Article 50, setting in motion a timeline for negotiations and preparations. This period was marked by extensive discussions and debates within the UK government, the European Union, and among the public. The negotiations encompassed a range of political, legal, and logistical challenges, leading to significant parliamentary activity, leadership changes, and public scrutiny. The timeline of events saw the UK officially leave the EU, followed by a transition period designed to provide time for further agreements on the future relationship between the two parties. The conclusion of this process resulted in the establishment of a framework for post-Brexit relations. Despite the formal withdrawal, the ramifications of Brexit remain a prominent aspect of

political discourse and policy-making, influencing domestic governance and the UK's position on the global stage.

Legacy and Continuing Challenges

Brexit's impact continues to shape UK politics and society. The process highlighted deep divisions within the UK, including regional disparities (such as Scotland and Northern Ireland's preference to remain in the EU), generational differences, and conflicting visions of the UK's future role in the world. It also marked the first instance of a country leaving the EU, raising questions about the durability of European integration and the global rise of populist, nationalist movements. The long-term consequences of Brexit on the UK's economy, political system, and international standing remain a subject of ongoing debate and analysis.

d. Current Actions by United Kingdom and Their Policies upon the Matter

Trade and Economic Policies: The UK has been working to establish and strengthen bilateral trade agreements with countries around the world to compensate for reduced trade with the EU. These agreements aim to promote exports, protect key industries, and foster economic growth. Simultaneously, the UK is navigating the economic consequences of new trade barriers with its largest trading partner, the EU. Government initiatives often focus on improving infrastructure, boosting domestic industries, and incentivizing foreign investments.

Immigration Reform: A central element of Brexit was the UK's decision to regain control over its borders. In response, the government has implemented a points-based immigration system to regulate the flow of workers into the country. This system prioritizes skills and qualifications while addressing labor shortages in specific sectors, such as healthcare and agriculture. Efforts are also being made to manage public concerns regarding migration while ensuring businesses have access to necessary talent.

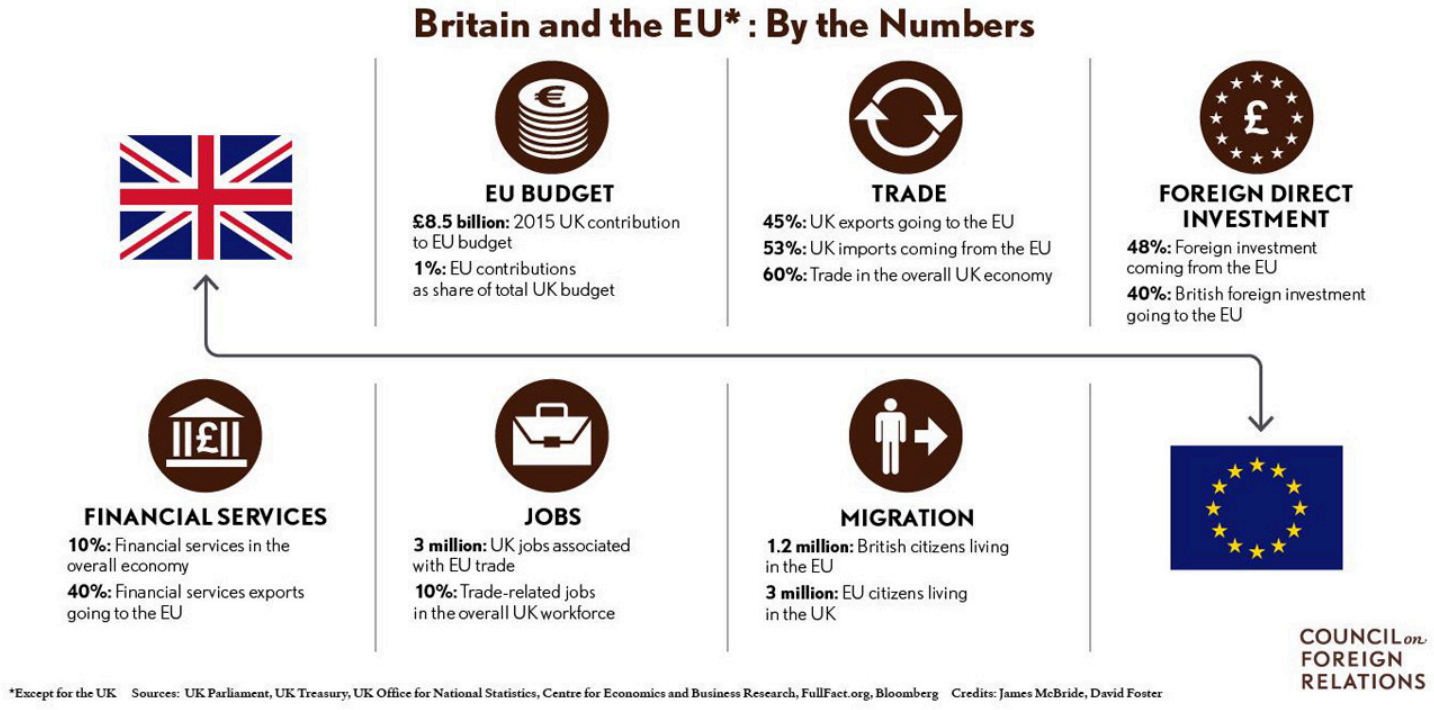
Governance and Devolution: Brexit has reignited debates about the distribution of power within the UK. The government is actively addressing tensions with devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, particularly on issues related to governance, trade policies, and local autonomy. These efforts often include negotiations, financial support packages, and consultations to balance the interests of different regions.

Northern Ireland and the Protocol: The UK continues to engage with the EU and stakeholders in Northern Ireland to ensure the effective implementation of post-Brexit arrangements. Policy discussions focus on addressing the unique challenges faced by Northern Ireland while maintaining peace and stability. Ongoing dialogues aim to balance economic considerations with political sensitivities in the region.

Global Positioning and "Global Britain" Strategy: The UK government is pursuing a vision of "Global Britain," positioning itself as an independent, globally connected nation. This strategy involves strengthening alliances, joining new trade partnerships, and increasing its presence in international organizations. Key initiatives include advancing its leadership in areas like climate change, defense, and technological innovation.

Domestic Adaptations: At home, the UK is working to address the impact of Brexit on businesses, consumers, and public services. Government programs aim to provide support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), streamline customs procedures, and ensure food and energy security. There is also an emphasis on addressing public concerns about rising costs and potential disruptions caused by Brexit.

Public and Political Engagement: Brexit remains a contentious issue within the UK's political landscape. The government is actively working to engage with the public and stakeholders to address lingering divisions and foster unity. Efforts include public consultations, media campaigns, and parliamentary debates aimed at building consensus around the nation's post-Brexit priorities.



5. Points to cover in the Hansard

1. What does the referendum result mean for the future of the UK?

2. How should the government interpret the public's vote to leave the European Union?

3. Should there be a clear plan in place before invoking Article 50?

4. Should the UK aim for a complete break from the EU (hard Brexit) or maintain some ties (soft Brexit)?

5. What are the potential economic and political risks of pursuing a hard Brexit?

6. Can a soft Brexit strike the right balance between sovereignty and economic stability?

7. What role should Parliament play in deciding the next steps after the referendum?

8. Should MPs prioritize the referendum result over the potential economic consequences of leaving the EU?

9. Does the government need parliamentary approval before triggering Article 50?

10. Should there be further public consultation before formal Brexit negotiations begin?

11. How can the government ensure the referendum result reflects the will of the entire population, given regional differences in voting?

12. Is there a case for holding a second referendum to approve the final Brexit deal?

13. How will Brexit affect the unity of the UK, particularly in Scotland and Northern Ireland?

14. What immediate steps should the government take to address concerns raised by remain voters?

6. Matrix of our Committee

MP Name	Party	Constituency	Position on Brexit
1. Theresa May	Conservative Party	Maidenhead	Prime Minister, initially supported Remain but committed to delivering Brexit
2. Boris Johnson	Conservative Party	Uxbridge and South Ruislip	Foreign Secretary, leading Leave campaign figure
3. David Davis	Conservative Party	Haltemprice and Howden	Secretary of State for Exiting the EU, strong Leave supporter
4. Liam Fox	Conservative Party	North Somerset	Secretary of State for International Trade, supported Leave
5. Philip Hammond	Conservative Party	Runnymede and Weybridge	Chancellor of the Exchequer, supported Remain
6. Amber Rudd	Conservative Party	Hastings and Rye	Home Secretary, supported Remain
7. Michael Gove	Conservative Party	Surrey Heath	Prominent Leave supporter
8. Andrea Leadsom	Conservative Party	South Northamptonshire	Leader of the House of Commons, supported Leave
9. Priti Patel	Conservative Party	Witham	Supported Leave, later became International Development Secretary
10. Jacob Rees-Mogg	Conservative Party	North East Somerset	Strong advocate for Brexit
11. Iain Duncan Smith	Conservative Party	Chingford and Woodford Green	Prominent Leave supporter
12. Anna Soubry	Conservative Party	Broxtowe	Supported Remain, became vocal critic of Brexit
13. Ruth Davidson	Scottish Conservative Party	Edinburgh Central	Leader of Scottish Conservatives, opposed Brexit

14. Jeremy Corbyn	Labour Party	Islington North	Labour leader, had a nuanced position on Brexit
15. Keir Starmer	Labour Party	Holborn and St Pancras	Shadow Brexit Secretary, supported Remain
16. Hilary Benn	Labour Party	Leeds Central	Chair of the Brexit Select Committee, supported Remain
17. Yvette Cooper	Labour Party	Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford	Supported Remain, opposed no-deal Brexit
18. Kate Hoey	Labour Party	Vauxhall	Labour MP, supported Leave
19. Gisela Stuart	Labour Party	Birmingham Edgbaston	Co-chair of the Vote Leave campaign
20. Diane Abbott	Labour Party	Hackney North and Stoke Newington	Supported Remain, vocal critic of Brexit
21. Stephen Kinnock	Labour Party	Aberavon	Supported Remain, advocated for a soft Brexit
22. Caroline Lucas	Green Party	Brighton Pavilion	Green Party MP, strongly opposed Brexit
23. Tim Farron	Liberal Democrats	Westmorland and Lonsdale	Lib Dem leader, strongly opposed Brexit
24. Nick Clegg	Liberal Democrats	Sheffield Hallam	Former Deputy PM, opposed Brexit
25. Nigel Dodds	Democratic Unionist Party	Belfast North	DUP Westminster leader, supported Leave
26. Sammy Wilson	Democratic Unionist Party	East Antrim	Prominent DUP MP, supported Leave
27. Douglas Carswell	UK Independence Party	Clacton	UKIP’s sole MP, strongly supported Leave

28. Angus Robertson	Scottish National Party	Moray	SNP Westminster leader, opposed Brexit
29. Nicola Sturgeon	Scottish National Party	Glasgow Southside	First Minister of Scotland, opposed Brexit
30. Chuka Umunna	Labour Party	Streatham	Strongly opposed Brexit, later joined Liberal Democrats
31. George Osborne	Conservative Party	Tatton	Chancellor pre-referendum, supported Remain