

Assas

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Discipline : *Anglais (équipe 2)*
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Titulaire(s) du cours :
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Document(s) autorisé(s) :
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I. Explain the following terms in your own words: (/20)

1. The UK Prime Minister
2. Peers
3. General election
4. The UK Supreme Court

II. Read the text and answer the following questions. DO NOT quote the text (/30)

London's flagship Tory boroughs may be out of Labour's reach, poll predicts
Party might not win Wandsworth and Westminster next month but is still on course for 'astonishing performance', expert says
Jessica Elgot, Thu 26 Apr 2018, theguardian.com

A poll indicating that Labour may fall short of taking two flagship Tory councils may aid the party's efforts to get the vote out in London, according to the political analyst who commissioned the research.

The new YouGov poll indicates the party is on course for the best performance in London local elections of any party for more than 40 years, but still may not capture the Tory flagship councils in Wandsworth and Westminster.

Though Labour has a huge share of the vote in London – 51% of voters – the party has slipped back in inner London since a similar poll in February that predicated it could snatch Conservative councils in Barnet, Wandsworth and Westminster. A three-point drop, which the new poll indicates, would result in Labour only winning in Barnet.

The YouGov surveys for Queen Mary University of London's Mile End Institute put Labour on 51% to the Tories' 29%.

Prof Philip Cowley, who commissioned the research, said the poll showed Labour was dominant but would help to motivate the party's activists.

"I'd argue that electorally the poll is not as good, but politically it is better. It will do Labour no harm to lower expectations about Wandsworth and Westminster because they are both very

tough electoral nuts to crack, but this poll still has Labour on course for an astonishing performance in the capital,” he told the Guardian’s PoliticsWeekly podcast.

The poll suggests a 5.35% swing to Labour in next week’s elections since the same seats were fought in 2014, down from 7.35% in February. Labour remains well ahead not just in inner city boroughs but also in traditional Tory suburbs, where Labour leads 46% to 34%.

More than 100 local authorities in the rest of England will also have council elections on 3 May, but Labour has pinned its hopes on winning a huge victory across the capital.

Last year, the mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, said Labour would aim to capture the Tory “crown jewels”, pledging there was “no corner of London where Labour can’t win”. Khan was referring to Wandsworth – known for its historically low council tax – and Barnet, once dubbed “easyCouncil” for its mass outsourcing of services.

However, the Conservatives have been conducting serious expectation management, predicting a dire result for the party in the capital.

Labour has since attempt to water down some of the expectation. The shadow communities secretary, Andrew Gwynne, told the Guardian last week that the polls had been “incredibly unhelpful” to Labour because they raised expectations when the last time the councils had been up for election four years ago the result was generally regarded as a high-water mark for the party.

“We are cautious, we think there will be a good set of local elections for us, but some of the swings required go beyond even the huge swings we saw at the last general election,” he said.

The general election result – when the Conservative Treasury minister Jane Ellison was swept out of her Battersea seat after a 10% swing to Labour – has given activists hope of taking Wandsworth for the first time in 40 years, but in several wards the party would need a significantly bigger swing to take the number of councillors needed for a majority.

The grassroots activist group Momentum has been holding high-profile campaign days in the target councils of Barnet, Wandsworth, Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea, aiming to recapture some of the energy that led to Jeremy Corbyn’s surge late in the general election campaign.

1. Briefly summarize the main points of the YouGov survey.
2. What do Labour hope will happen in the next local election?
3. Describe the UK electoral system. Do you think it is a fair system?

III. Comment on the following cartoon, you may focus on only two or three of the elements in the cartoon. (/50)



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