

“All Cabinets are a coalition of different views and opinions, even when they are made up of just one party”. Discuss the validity of this statement.

I largely agree with the statement that “All Cabinets are a coalition of different views and opinions, even when they are made up of just one party”, because even when cabinets are made up of one party whose members have similar beliefs, these members will each have different views on a topic due to their role and where they are in the political spectrum (far right, central right etc).

One reason why I agree that all Cabinets are a coalition of different views and opinions, even when they are made up of just one party, is that it is common for members of one party to be spread across the political spectrum of that party, such as far right and central right. An example of a cabinet with diverse beliefs would be the cabinet after David Cameron's reshuffle in 2015. Despite all members being in the Conservative party, their views differed immensely as the cabinet included Matt Hancock who has liberal beliefs, Priti Patel who has far right beliefs and Sajid Javid who is a centrist. Therefore I agree that all Cabinets are a coalition of different views and opinions even when they are made up of just one party, as the example shows that people with differing views can still function together in one party as well as together in a cabinet, these varying views helping the cabinet to properly scrutinise and fairly control the government due to the many approaches its members will have to an issue.

Another reason why I agree that all Cabinets are a coalition of different views and opinions, even when they are made up of just one party, is that the members of a cabinet can have very different opinions on issues that affect the whole country. For example, during Theresa May's struggle with Brexit, her cabinet had dividing views with the issue such as Amber Rudd who was anti-Brexit while Boris Johnson was pro-Brexit, both being members of the Conservative party. Therefore I agree that all Cabinets are a coalition of different views and opinions even when they are made up of just one party, as national issues will force members of cabinet to take strong opinions based on their own beliefs, even if they are members of the same party there will likely

be divisions in beliefs due to own personal views and how their constituency will be affected.

The final reason why I agree that all Cabinets are a coalition of different views and opinions even when they are made up of just one party, is that occasionally, parties will form coalitions with one another to beat a common enemy. In such a case, the cabinet will reflect the views of both parties despite if it is composed of mainly 1. An example of this would be the Liberal Democrat / Conservative coalition government with David Cameron in 2010. In order to beat Gordon Brown in the election, Cameron formed the coalition and as a result he appointed the leader of the Labour Democrats, Nick Clegg, as the deputy prime minister and so the Conservative cabinet's decisions were highly affected by a more liberal approach. Therefore I agree that all Cabinets are a coalition of different views and opinions even when they are made up of just one party, as coalitions between parties force the resulting cabinet to reflect the views of both parties which creates a fair cabinet as it does not favour a single party.

On the other hand, I partly disagree that all Cabinets are a coalition of different views and opinions even when they are made up of just one party, as prime ministers have the ability to reshuffle cabinets to excuse those who disagree with their opinion. For example, Theresa May decided to reshuffle her cabinet in 2018 in an effort to strengthen her position by removing inadequate MPs and those who were likely to rebel. Among those who left the cabinet was Justine Greening who refused to change her portfolio, proving her disrespect for May's authority. Therefore, I partly disagree that all Cabinets are a coalition of different views and opinions even when they are made up of just one party, as if your views are too different from the prime minister's, they will silence your input by removing you from the cabinet in order to decrease the amount of scrutiny they face.

Another reason why I partly disagree that all Cabinets are a coalition of different views and opinions even when they are made up of just one party, is that prime ministers are likely to appoint ministers who are loyal to them and share their beliefs making it very unlikely that there will be different views on an issue. For example, when Boris Johnson reshuffled his cabinet in 2020 Anne-Marie Trevelyan was rewarded with a more senior appointment – from minister for the armed forces to secretary of state for international development. Similarly Oliver Dowden has been promoted to culture secretary. These promotions were rewards from Johnson due to the loyalty of

these MPs to him. Therefore, I partly disagree that all Cabinets are a coalition of different views and opinions even when they are made up of just one party, as since the prime minister will create a cabinet of MPs who are loyal to them, they will not scrutinise the prime minister's actions or have any vastly different views, this creates an unfair cabinet which fully supports the prime minister.

In conclusion, while the diversity of opinion in a cabinet may be hindered by the actions of a prime minister who dismisses mps who scrutinise him while promoting loyal mps, vastly different opinions on issues can still be seen in the cabinet even if it is composed of 1 party as its members will be spread across the political spectrum, these members will have different extreme views on national issues and the opinions of the cabinet will be greatly influenced by another party if it was created during a coalition of 2 parties.

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