

Data title: **Public Petitions to the House of Commons, 1780-1918**

Project title: Rethinking Petitions, Parliament and People in the Long Nineteenth Century 1780-1918 (Leverhulme Trust, RPG-2016-097)

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Abstract

The data contains two files that together record and classify over one million public petitions to the House of Commons, 1780-1918, by the subjects that they addressed, which in turn are placed into broader categories to facilitate analysis. For the 1833 to 1918 period, the data also records the 165 million signatures on public petitions to the House of Commons, classified by subject and category. The data was produced as part of a project examining the role of petitions and petitioning in the UK during the 'long' nineteenth century (1780-1918) as a universal form of political expression, participation, mobilisation and representative before democracy. While social scientists and historians have long emphasised the importance of voting and elections, in this period many more people petitioned than voted. Furthermore, all UK subjects (as well as British subjects in the wider empire) enjoyed the right to petition Parliament. Per capita comparisons demonstrates that the scale of petitioning to the House of Commons in this period was historically exceptional compared to other polities and other periods. Petitioning was key to all the major mass campaigns and social movements of the time, such as anti-slavery. This data enabled researchers to establish key chronological trends, and the key subjects and themes on which petitioners addressed the House of Commons. It was thus the foundation for the project.

Coverage and methodology

Time period:	1780-1918
Dates of fieldwork:	1 August 2016-14 September 2019
Country:	UK (including Ireland)
Observation units:	UK Parliament: House of Commons Public Petitions
Observation location: unit	National
Population:	Public Petitions
Method of data collection:	Inputting of data from parliamentary records Collation by handcounts of data from parliamentary records

Time dimensions:	Time series
Kind of data:	Text Numeric
Sampling procedures	No sampling
Weighting:	No weighting used

Introduction

The project investigated the scale, nature and effects of petitions and petitioning in the UK, 1780-1918. While historians and social scientists have privileged elections, voting and partisan activity in their studies of political culture and participation, in the period in question, **many more people petitioned than voted**. Indeed, petitioning was a universal form of political activity at a time when the right to vote was restricted: women were explicitly excluded from voting in parliamentary elections between 1832-1918, and a majority of adult men only attained the parliamentary franchise in 1885. Yet **all British subjects** (including in the British empire) enjoyed the formal right to petition Parliament. This right was not limited by gender, class, race, voting rights, literacy, property ownership or education. Per capita comparisons show that scale of UK petitions to the national legislature in the 1780-1918 period was **historically exceptional** compared to other countries and other periods. Petitioning was central to all the **major social movements** and mass campaigns of the era, such as the anti-slavery movement, women's suffrage, and the working-class campaign for democratic rights known as Chartism.

The project focused largely on **public petitions** – that is requests for measures of general applicability rather than demands for specific legislation limited to a locality or particular group - to the **House of Commons**, as these were the most popular form of petition in this period; and the wider culture of petitioning – the practices associated with the drafting, signing and presentation of petitions. The research was enabled by using the *Reports* of the Select Committee on Public Petitions (SCPP), which had generally been neglected by scholars.

The project objectives were to:

- i. offer definitive answers to the scale of nineteenth-century petitioning to the House of Commons
- ii. recover the ways in which petitioning offered a form of political engagement and popular sovereignty beyond the franchise, placing our findings in dialogue with political scientists
- iii. provide underpinning data on the fluctuations in numbers of petitions and signatures on those petitions
- iv. test assumptions about the decline of popular petitioning as greater numbers of working men won the vote in 1867 and 1885
- v. place petitions to the Commons in the context of other collective addresses, such as those to the crown or government, in order to understand petitioning to the Commons as part of a broader subscriptional (i.e. name-signing) culture

- vi. demonstrate the broader applicability of our findings and encourage future researchers to exploit the Select Committee on Public Petitions records we have opened up for further study.

The project was structured into three phases:

- 1) data gathering and analysis to provide definitive figures on the scale of public petitions and signatures to the House of Commons and the first ever breakdown of the subjects these petitions addressed. This phase of research produced the two files that are being offered to the UK Data Service;
- 2) detailed case studies that used the Select Committee on Public Petitions *Reports* to examine the composition of particular campaigns and movements, including women's suffrage, combined with qualitative research using archival and printed materials;
- 3) a reassessment of the broader culture and practice of popular petitioning, including the use of petitioning within organised campaigns, the relationship between representation and petitioning, the relationship between colonial petitioners and the UK Parliament. This final phase drew on the data generated in 1) plus archival, printed and parliamentary material.

The project's key findings were that the research

- enabled us to analyse overall patterns in numbers of both petitions and signatures to highlight the periods of expansion and decline, disaggregating fluctuations in the variety of subjects and types of subjects by category.
- revealed that popular petitioning expanded rather than declined after extensions of the franchise in 1832 and 1867.
- showed that while public petitions to Parliament declined in the late nineteenth century this reflected a displacement (i.e. a switch to appealing to non-parliamentary authorities) rather than an absolute decline in petitioning.
- emphasised that petitioning was central to a wider repertoire of popular politics, participation and collective action.
- showed that the nineteenth century was the key period for the transformation of petitioning from a generic form of request to its modern meaning as a form of political participation linked to representative institutions.
- highlighted the importance of petitioning as the most popular form of interaction between subjects and the UK state, or Parliament and people.

The data offered for deposit comprises two MS Excel files containing

- for the **1833-1918** period: **annual totals** of the number of **public petitions and signatures** on them to the House of Commons classified by the different **subjects** they addressed. Overall, there were **953,926 public petitions**, containing **164,806,886 signatures** on **29,562** subjects.
- for the **1780-1832** period: **annual totals** of the number of **public petitions** to the House of Commons classified by the different **subjects** they addressed, 1780-1918. In this period there were **47,519 public petitions** on **4,169 subjects**.

Data sources and methods

The data is based on two types of parliamentary record:

- I) The Select Committee on Public Petitions (1833-1918)
- II) The Journals of the House of Commons (1780-1832)

I) The Select Committee on Public Petitions data (1833-1918)

For the 1833 to 1918 period, researchers used the end of session summaries of the *Reports* of the SCPP. Printed copies held by the Institute of Historical Research, London (at BB.4017/Pub), and the Parliamentary Archives (at HC/CL/JO/6/) were consulted.

The SCPP was established in 1833 to record, classify and count every single public petition that was received by the House of Commons each parliamentary session. The SCPP *Reports* were never published as part of the Parliamentary Papers, are held by few repositories (aside from the IHR and Parliamentary Archives), and despite being microfilmed in the 1980s, have been little used by scholars. (Since the project started the SCPP *Reports* have been digitised by ProQuest and are accessible through their *Parliamentary Papers* database). At the end of each session the SCPP printed a summary, which was a table of the annual total of public petitions and signatures that they had received on each subject, with subjects classified into five categories by the parliamentary clerks: Parliament, Ecclesiastical, Colonies, Taxes and Miscellaneous.

The clerks to the SCPP defined a subject as a single specific demand received during the session. Petitions in favour, against and for the amendment of the same bill were recorded as three separate subjects rather than one. For example, in 1902, the London Water Bill generated seven different demands or requests:

London Water Bill - Against
London Water Bill - Against Alterations (Praying to be heard by Counsel)
London Water Bill - Against (Praying to be heard by Counsel)
London Water Bill - For Alteration
London Water Bill - In Favour
London Water Bill - In Favour of the Direct Representation of the Metropolitan Boroughs upon the proposed Water Board
London Water Bill - In Favour of the Direct Representation of the Urban District Councils on the proposed Water Board

Similarly, subjects that recurred across a number of sessions, e.g. for the repeal for a particular statute, were counted separately.

Researchers inputted the following data from the summaries into an MS Excel file:

- the subject title as recorded by the clerks
- the number of public petitions on each subject in each session
- the number of signatures on public petitions on each subject in each session
- the category in which parliamentary clerks classified the subject
- the parliamentary session

- the page reference to the original SCPP *Report*

The data thus provides the annual totals for the number of public petitions to the House of Commons and the number of signatures on those petitions for each subject.

The data does not contain:

- Petitions to other authorities (e.g. the monarch, local government, central government)
- Petitions to the House of Lords
- Petitions to Parliament for private or local bills
- Petitions to Parliament regarding contested parliamentary elections
- The signatory lists for the petitions (the original manuscript petitions that the *Reports* recorded do not survive).
- The data for specific petitions that was contained in the SCPP *Reports*: the collective self-description of the petitioners (e.g. inhabitants), the number of signatures on specific petitions, the locality from where the petitioners came from, the date the petition was presented, and by which MP. These can be found in the digitised SCPP *Reports* accessible through ProQuest's *House of Commons Parliamentary Papers* database.

Categorisation

Between 1833 and 1905, parliamentary clerks classified the subjects of public petitions under five categories: Parliament; Ecclesiastical; Colonies; Taxes; and the analytically meaningless Miscellaneous category. Of the 29,562 subjects recorded in the SCPP summaries, clerks classified 66.1% (or 19,559) as 'Miscellaneous'. After 1905, the clerks ceased classifying petition subjects by category.

After inputting the data, the researchers:

- 1) Retained the original categorisation by clerks from 1833 to 1905 for the Parliament, Ecclesiastical, Colonies, and Taxes categories, as historically useful to themselves and future researchers in terms of revealing how contemporaries understood different subjects.
- 2) Reallocated 19,559 subjects from the Miscellaneous category into the other four original categories and created five new categories. The new categories were based on adapting the schema used by Julian Hoppit in his classification of parliamentary legislation based on the *Commons and Lords Journals*: see his *Failed Legislation, 1660-1800* (London, 1997). The method for reallocation was based on creating arrays of related words and terms for the different categories, selecting these, reviewing and checking them, and then placing them in the new categories. For example, for the new Legal category, the words in the array included courts, judiciary, justice, legal, criminal justice, crime, among others. Once the categories were established they were checked again, reviewed, and amended.
- 3) Classified the uncategorised subjects from 1905-1918 according to the new categories.
- 4) Created subcategories, again drawing on Hoppit's schema, to allow an additional layer of analysis. This also allowed for further checking of the new categories.

A full overview of the categories and subcategories is provided in the Appendix.

The recategorisation of subjects was not without some issues. Clerks were sometimes inconsistent and placed the same subject in a different category after a period of time. For example, the clerks always placed local taxes, known as church rates, to support the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical category. The Irish equivalent, known as Ministers' Money, to support the Church of Ireland was also classified in the Ecclesiastical category until 1848, but thereafter the clerks placed it under Taxes.

Other topics cut across different categories, both old and new. For instance, there were many public petitions in favour or against temperance reform or other issues relating to alcohol. Clerks placed public petitions relating to specific licensing bills under Taxes; those relating to the closure of public houses and other licensed premises on Sunday under Ecclesiastical (as was customary with measures intended to promote the strict observance of the Sabbath); while general matters relating to temperance were filed under Miscellaneous, but the researchers have recategorised them in the new Social category>Public Health and Moral Reform subcategory.

In selecting a system of categorisation, the researchers adopted an approach that does not preclude other ways of analysing the data by future researchers.

Structure of data

The columns contain the following data

A: Parliamentary session

Sessions that run over one calendar year have been named according to which year the bulk of the session fell into. Hence 1857-58 is 1858; 1837-38 is 1838; 1868-69 is 1869. Years that contained two short sessions have been combined, as with 1857 sessions 1 and 2, and 1859 sessions 1 and 2.

B: Number

From 1 with first subject in 1833 to 29,562 for final subject in 1918. The number was given by researchers so that the subjects can always be put back into their original order rather than for analytical purposes.

C: Subject

As given by the parliamentary clerks.

Abbreviations used: Agt = Against; Cttee = Committee

D: Number of Petitions on Subject in the Session

E: Number of Signatures on Subject in the Session

F: Original Category

The original category the subject was classified into by the parliamentary clerks: Parliament, Ecclesiastical, Colonies, Taxes, or Miscellaneous.

G: SubCategory

Developed by researchers, see above for method and Appendix for overview of subcategories.

H: New Category

The final category in which researchers placed subjects, based on reallocating the Miscellaneous subjects into the other four original categories and five new categories developed by researchers. See above for method and Appendix for overview of categories.

I: Reference

The reference to the SCPP Report, year and page number from which the data was found, e.g. SCPP, *Reports* (1849), p. 1118.

II) The *Commons Journals* data (1780-1832)

In order to capture the growth in public petitions – which had led to the creation of the SCPP and its annual reports – the project also promised to assemble comparable data for the period 1780-1832. This required extracting data on public petitions published in the *Journals of the House of Commons (CJ)*. The *CJs* were the printed daily record of the House of Commons, which were bound into volumes at the end of every parliamentary session. The project used the digitised *CJ* volumes available through ProQuest's *House of Commons Parliamentary Papers* collection.

Whereas the SCPP *Reports* provided end of session totals for each subjects, compiling the *CJ* data required the researchers to go through the daily record of the *CJ* from the start to the end of a session. Because the number of signatures on petitions was not recorded before 1833, the *CJ* data only provides annual totals for public petitions and subjects.

A further complication was that whereas for the SCPP data researchers inputted subjects and petitions already defined as 'public' by the clerks, there was no equivalent for the earlier period. Since the distinction between private and public was blurred and no technical definition was published, creating the *CJ* data required more scholarly judgement. In particular, researchers had to decide what should be counted as a public petition, or rather, what would have been included as such in the SCPP after 1833. Researchers adopted a query system to flag up problem cases before deciding on whether to include a petition as 'public' or omit.

Another complication was that as the volume of public petitions to the House of Commons expanded in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, so the clerks struggled to keep up, creating small discrepancies between the number of petitions listed or enumerated in the columns of the *CJ* on a given day and the number listed in the volume index.

These issues do not affect the overall trends captured in the data (the growth of public petitions, the emergence of particular topics and types of subjects), but do need to be borne in mind by future researchers when using the *CJ* data.

In terms of process, researchers inputted the following data into MS Excel files:

- The session
- *CJ* volume number and page reference
- The date the petition(s) was/ were presented
- Subject

- The number of petitions presented on that day on that subject

Categorisation

For the *CJ* data the researchers had no existing categorisation to work with, so classified the petition subjects according to the new categories (the four original SCPP categories plus the five new categories – see Appendix). In some cases classifying subjects into categories was straightforward, e.g. petitions about taxes and fiscal policy (Taxes), or petitions against the slave trade (as SCPP clerks classified petitions against slavery under Colonies in the 1830s). In other cases, there were fewer precedents to guide the researchers, especially where subjects cut across different categories. As the *CJ* data was on a smaller scale and gathered largely to supplement the SCPP data, the researchers did not allocate subcategories.

Structure of data

The columns in the file contain the following data

A: Parliamentary session

B: Number

From 1 for first record; this is to enable researchers to put back in original order rather than for analytical purposes.

C: Date

Date petition(s) presented

D: Subject

As given by researchers in accordance with practice of post-1833 clerks for SCPP *Reports*.

Abbreviations used: Agt = Against; Cttee = Committee

E: Number of Petitions on Subject Presented on that Day

F: New category

The category into which researchers placed subjects, based on four original SCPP categories and five new categories developed by the researchers. See above for method and Appendix for overview of categories.

G: Volume Number

Volume number of *CJ*

H: Page Reference

Page number for *CJ*.

IV) Data validation

In addition to the checks and quality control measures identified above, the SCPP data was inputted a session at a time, and then reviewed and checked; when the sessions were collated into one file, the data was again reviewed and checked and an error list

generated and corrected against the original documents. The recategorisation and subcategorisation process allowed further reviewing and checking by researchers.

For the *CJs*, which were inputted by three researchers, rather than two, there was a query system for petition subjects to decide whether they should be included as ‘public’ or omitted. Data was cleaned up, standardised and checked once the collation was complete and the data combined into a single file.

V) Using the data files

Below are some basic methods employed by the researchers to pull out and analyse information from the data; there will be other ways of using the data, so this is a suggestion rather than limit of what can be done.

Using the database I: Pulling out information

The categories do not preclude other ways of analysing the data. It is possible using the following steps to pull out the subjects on a theme or topic that cut across categories; or for example, it is possible to pull out the petitions on Irish subjects.

Step 1: Download and **save** the SCPP database.

Step 2: Create **an array** on a separate worksheet, which then you can search for.

An array is a list of word strings in a number of cells relating to the topic/ theme you want to pull out.

For example, if I want to pull out petitions relating to the poor laws and poverty, I might think of the following words or terms

poor law
workhouses
poor
settlement
charity
guardians
vagrant
vagrancy
emigration
distress
poverty

Try to be as comprehensive and include as many relevant words as possible, this will give you the best chance of capturing the information you want.

Step 3: Highlight your list and rename them as **one cell**. For the example just given, I will name this group of cells “poor”. Now whenever I type in poor, the formula will refer to this group of cells and the words contained therein.

Step 4: Go back to the main 1833-1918 worksheet and go to the first empty column, e.g. L. In cell L2 write the following formula:

=SUMPRODUCT(--ISNUMBER(SEARCH(poor, \$C2)))>0

This will search cell C2 for the words contained in your array (the named group of cells created in steps 2 & 3); if it contains any of your array L2 will say TRUE; if it does not contain any it will say FALSE.

Step 5: By using the \$ sign in your formula you have fixed the column but not the cell. So you can drag the formula down the cells in Column L to apply the formula to other subjects in Column C. The quickest way to apply the formula to all 29,558 entries in Column C is to click on L2 and move the cursor over the bottom right hand corner of the cell. You should see a black + sign appear. Double click and this should apply your formula to the whole of the Subjects in Column C.

Step 6: You can see how many 'TRUE's you have in Column L by using the following equation in the final cell of that column after the data has finished: L29563
=COUNTIF(L2:L29562), TRUE)

Step 7: Use the filter to identify the 'TRUEs' in Column L and hide the FALSEs. Highlight the whole data in the spreadsheet using CTRL + A. Then go Data>Filter Click on the filter at the top of Column L (Cell L1) and unclick all of the boxes apart from TRUE. This will leave only the TRUEs (the Subjects that contain words from your array) displayed.

Step 8: Review the data. Once you have your TRUEs go through them as they may be some Subjects which do contain words from the array but which don't really fit into the theme/ analytical category you have created.

Step 9: Name the entries you've found. Once you have reviewed your TRUEs, in a new column, name them so you can find and analyse them using Pivot Tables or other methods.

Using the database II: analysing data using pivot tables

Pivot tables are a powerful tool through which to analyse data in Excel and I made use of them for my 2012 *English Historical Review* article on popular petitioning and the corn laws. In particular, they allow you to pull out and tabulate data contained in the different columns, create graphs etc.

Step 1: open your downloaded copy of the 1833-1918 spreadsheet.

Step 2: highlight the data by using CTRL + A. Go to Data>Pivot Tables

Step 3: In the box that comes up make sure that the Pivot Table will be created on a New Worksheet rather than the Existing Worksheet containing all the data. Click Ok.

Step 4: Go to the New Worksheet containing the Pivot Table. You will see a blank table with three areas: Row area, Column area and Values area

Step 5: When you click on the blank table a black Pivot Table builder should pop up.

EXAMPLE:

If I want to see the number of petitions per Original Category by year, I can do this in the following way

Step 1: In the Pivot table builder move 'Session' into the Row area box

Step 2: Drag the Original Category into the Row area

Step 3: Drag Number of Petitions into the Values area

Step 4: What you see on the screen should now list each year in chronological order, with the five original categories below, with the count for the Number of Petitions in the right hand column

1833	548
Colonies	20
Ecclesiastical	52
Miscellaneous	342
Parliament	44
Taxes	90

Step 5: However, the figures are merely a count of the number of entries per Category in the 1833-1918 worksheet rather than a cumulative total of the number of petitions for each category. To get this we need to do something else

Step 6: Bring up the pivot table builder again

In the Values box find the 'Count of Number of Petitions' button and click on the i

Step 7: This should bring up the PivotTable Field box. In the Summarize by menu scroll up to 'Sum' and press OK. Your table should now look like this, e.g.:

1833	10455
Colonies	5139
Ecclesiastical	1983
Miscellaneous	2483
Parliament	145
Taxes	705

Step 8: If I want to see the Number of Signatures broken down in the same way, then I just put that into the Values box of the Pivot Table Builder and move out the Number of Petitions. Again make sure that the Values are set to Sum rather than Count. I should then see this:

1833	3317325
Colonies	1356212
Ecclesiastical	544950
Miscellaneous	1051865
Parliament	79806
Taxes	284492

VI) Publications that use and explain the data

1. Richard Huzzey and Henry Miller, 'Petitions, Parliament and Political Culture: Petitioning the House of Commons, 1780-1918', *Past & Present*, 248 (2020), 123-64, <https://doi.org/10.1093/pastj/gtz061>.
2. Richard Huzzey and Henry Miller, 'The Politics of Petitioning: Parliament, Government, and Subscriptional Cultures in the United Kingdom, 1780-1918', *History*, 106 (2021), 221-43, <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-229X.13103>.
3. Henry Miller, 'The British Women's Suffrage Movement and the Practice of Petitioning, 1890-1914', *Historical Journal*, 64 (2021), 332-56, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0018246X20000035>.
4. Richard Huzzey and Henry Miller, 'Colonial Petitions, Colonial Petitioners, and the Imperial Parliament, ca. 1780-1918', *Journal of British Studies*, 61 (forthcoming, 2022), <https://doi.org/10.1017/jbr.2021.185>.
5. Richard Huzzey, 'Public Meetings, Respectable Requisitions, and Popular Politics in Great Britain and Ireland, c. 1769-1850', *English Historical Review* (forthcoming).
6. Henry Miller, *A Nation of Petitioners: Petitions and Petitioning in the United Kingdom, 1780-1918* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming, 2022/23).

Appendix: Categories and sub-categories used in SCPP data
Note: Original categories in italics.

Note on SCPP Categories, Old and New (Original categories in Italics)

<i>Category</i>	Sub-categories
<p><i>1. Parliament</i></p> <p>Franchise and voter registration; electoral reforms; representative system; elections; parliamentary procedure; House of Lords; oaths/admission of Jewish and atheist MPs; the constitution; creation of other subnational legislatures/ devolution/ Irish home rule.</p>	<p>1. Elections and the representative system: Including franchise and voter registration, elections, the secret ballot</p> <p>2. Parliament Other: House of Lords, parliamentary procedure, legislative process</p> <p>3. Monarchy</p> <p>4. Government and Executive</p> <p>5. Ireland</p> <p>6. The Constitution: Scotland; Channel Islands, other Crown Dependencies; miscellaneous</p>
<p><i>2. Ecclesiastical</i></p> <p>Church-state relations; established churches; state endowments to religious institutions/groups including those not part of establishment (e.g. Maynooth, Regium Donum); religious disabilities/civil rights of non-Anglicans (e.g. Catholic/Dissent/Jewish); Sabbatarian campaigns; burials/civil registration of births/marriages and deaths; tithes, church rates and other taxes to support religious institutions; marriage law (e.g. deceased wife's sister, divorce); religious tests/admission of non-Anglicans to university; religious oaths for public offices; religious bodies with civil functions, e.g. parish government, ecclesiastical courts.</p>	<p>1. Established Churches: Churches of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales: including taxes to support them such as church rates</p> <p>2. Religious Liberty and Equality: Non-Anglican religions (Dissent, Judaism, Catholicism, issues relating to religious liberty and equality)</p> <p>3. Sabbatarianism: petitions relating to measures to restrict activity, e.g. pubs opening, on Sunday</p> <p>4. Marriage and Divorce Law: including bills regarding marriage to a deceased wife's sister</p> <p>5. Other: burials, miscellaneous</p>
<p><i>3. Colonies</i></p> <p>Affairs relating to colonies, including in India, West Indies, Africa; responsible/representative government in white settler colonies; colonial slave trade/ slavery/abolition/compensation/ apprenticeships; colonial wars; Indian mutiny; East India Company; individual petitions from colonial subjects.</p>	<p>1) Africa</p> <p>2) Australia, New Zealand</p> <p>3) Caribbean</p> <p>4) India</p> <p>5) North America</p> <p>6) General: pan-imperial issues, miscellaneous</p>

<p>4. <i>Taxes</i></p> <p>Direct and indirect taxes; fiscal policy of central state; retrenchment in public spending; tolls, levies, rates, dues and other sub-national taxes; tariffs and trade policy (including commercial treaties, corn laws, sugar duties, East India Company charter); national debt; economic interests (e.g. agricultural, shipping) petitioning for relief; grants of public money; finance bills/budgets; licensing; grants to royal family and public institutions.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Direct: income tax, direct and assessed taxes on wealth, income and property (including probate, legacy duty, and other taxes on estates) 2. Indirect: taxes on articles of consumption, such as stamp duties. But excluding items that fall under the Tariffs and Trade subcategory 3. Tariffs and Trade: tariffs/ duties on imports, bounties, restrictions/ prohibitions on foreign goods, subjects relating to imported goods, including Corn Laws, sugar, tea, coffee duties, and the Navigation Laws 4. Licensing: issues relating to licensing of pubs to sell beer, spirits. Other licences e.g. gun/ carriage licences under Indirect 5. Fiscal: expenditure, public money, budgets, finance bills, general calls for retrenchment, abolition of sinecures and ‘old corruption’; general matters of government fiscal policy and state 6. Other: miscellaneous and unspecified topics that do not fit above categories
<p>5. <i>Legal</i></p> <p>Law and order; crime and punishment; courts and the administration of justice; property law; legal reforms; miscellaneous individual appeals for redress or consideration of their case.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Law and Justice: Changes to judicial system/courts and administration of justice; legal reforms; probate, wills, and property law 2. Crime and Punishment: Police; criminal law; death penalty/ capital punishment; police; Irish coercion legislation; petitions referring to specific court cases 3. Individual: Individual petitions for redress, inquiry or consideration of their case where it is unclear what is at issue. Note: colonial subjects categorised under Colonies.

<p>6. Social</p> <p>Poor laws, poverty, welfare, public health, pollution, medical regulation, housing, general temperance matters, working conditions, trade unions, employer-employee law, education social policy</p>	<p>1. Public Health and Moral Reform: sewers, public health, medical regulation; housing; environment/pollution; lunatics; Contagious Diseases Acts; diseases; public parks; temperance; vivisection; gambling; prostitution</p> <p>2. Poor Law and Poverty: workhouses; poor law commission/board; law of settlement; public welfare, pensions, vagrancy, emigration Note: But Poor rates under Taxes</p> <p>3. Work and Labour: Factory Acts and regulation of working hours and conditions; employers' liability; truck payment; trade unions; master-servant legislation; public holidays</p> <p>4. Education, Culture, and Knowledge: School boards, schools, education, curriculum, teachers, teaching; universities; colleges; libraries; mechanics' institutes; museums; galleries; theatre; music; art</p>
<p>7. The Economy</p> <p>Finance and commerce; banking; currency; company law; particular industries; standards and measurements; land; agriculture.</p> <p>See also economic subjects under Taxes.</p>	<p>1. Finance and Commerce: Banking, currency, monetary policy; joint-stock companies, limited liability, and partnership law; savings banks; bankruptcy law; patents and inventions; investments</p> <p>2. The Economy: Particular sectors, e.g. coal, textiles and the regulation of; retail, and regulation of sale of products; weights and measures</p> <p>Note: subjects relating to Sunday trading and sale of products on Sunday under Ecclesiastical</p> <p>3. Land and Agriculture: Land law, landlord-tenant relations, agriculture, agricultural labourers, rural life, farming,</p>

	<p>contagious diseases (animals)/ cattle plague; fisheries & fishing; game laws; entail, primogeniture, real estate; land tenures, e.g. copyhold, leasehold etc</p> <p>Note: Corn Laws under Taxes</p>
<p>8. Infrastructure and Communications</p> <p>Transport, including roads, railways, shipping, waterways; local government; communications, e.g. press, post, telegraph.</p>	<p>1. Railways: Railways, trams.</p> <p>2. Waterways: canals, river navigations</p> <p>3. Roads: turnpikes, roads</p> <p>4. Communications and Shipping: post, steamships/ packets, telegraphs, electricity, telephone, newspapers; shipping, harbours, ports, pilotage, merchant marine, harbours, ports, pilotage, maritime law</p> <p>Note: Navigation Laws and Postage duty under Taxes</p> <p>5. Local Government: Municipal corporations; county councils; local government legislation; urban improvement</p>
<p>9. War and Peace</p> <p>Diplomacy; foreign policy and relations with other states; army/navy/military; wars.</p>	<p>1. Foreign policy: war, diplomacy, foreign policy, peace, treaties</p> <p>Note: commercial/ trade treaties under Taxes.</p> <p>2. Defence: army, navy, harbours of refuge, volunteers, militia</p> <p>Note: Colonial and frontier wars under Colonies</p>