

Example 1

Back to crumpets for the Brits !

If everything leads to believe Brexit will not be the UK's best choice, the five documents – two articles that were published on the BBC and in the CBC in 2016, a speech from the Australian prime minister, a stacked bar chart, and a cartoon (also from 2016)- in their own way, explain why the British could benefit from leaving Europe.

With Brexit, Europe will no longer be able to prevent the UK from signing agreements. This will allow easier exchanges and greater control over their economy. However, Brexit detractors highlight that it might not be that easy. In fact, this would only work if the UK is in a dominant posture regarding the agreements they will sign.

In the short run, Brexit might have an impact on the British economy. However, in the long run, it will be beneficial (doc1). In fact, 70% of UK exports are to non-EU-countries and the agreements signed with the EU are insignificant. Losing them should not be a big deal. As shown in doc2, Europe will undergo economic issues with the UK leaving. It is an opportunity for the UK and Australia to become solid partners. Australia has the impression to be Europe's springboard for the Asian market. They haven't seen a true two-way investment with Europe and now want a serious economic partner. The freeness of trades between the two countries should lower prices, create jobs, and increase the GDP value. Inside of the UK, the development of the inner economy would be a chance for the UK to form a better farm policy (doc3). Ultimately, if Brexit was to have an impact on the British economy, brexiterers see the UK recovering by 2030.

However, remainers see it from another angle. For instance, the Welsh meat market is highly dependent on Europe (doc3). 90% of the red meat is for EU-exports. Losing this market would imply finding others, and it has been clear that it is not an easy task. With a massive arrival of meat on the British market, prices would significantly drop, and to compensate, the UK would have to overtax imported goods, or sign agreements. This said, signing agreements with no guarantees is a hard task: how can rules be set? Deals would take years to be found, and today's deals equivalents almost never reached (doc4). It looks like brexiterers are papering over the situation. As the little red riding hood leaving the European forest, the UK will have to face inflation, the devaluation of the GDP, and the fall of the public finances (doc5).

The whole question is about knowing if whether or not the British government will be able to overcome the situation. In the doldrums, the UK has to reach a compromise. The opportunity for the UK is high, and hoping the withdrawal is not too impactful, glittering economic prospects will reflect years of painful changes.

483 words

Example 2

Brexit: boom or bust?

Brexit has, and will continue to have a significant impact not only in the United Kingdom, but in the EU and even worldwide. Although remainers have painted it as a generally bad move claiming only negative effects, Brexit has in fact happened and we can wonder to what extent the UK will actually benefit from Brexit. Indeed, the UK-EU relationship may have just “gone sour” thus the need for disentanglement (doc 1), although many socio-economic problems now present themselves (doc 5) such as the meat industry taking a heavy toll (doc 3); but this may in fact start a new era of free trade with countries like Australia (doc 2), and many other countries in and out of the EU (doc 4). We will examine what remainers are foreseeing in the UK’s future, how Brexit can in fact provide benefits - especially economically, but also the difficulty of the task when it comes to forging new trade agreements.

Brexit has sparked nihilistic opinions regarding Britain’s economic future (doc 1 & 5), and the short term impact is proving them right: the pound has lost value (doc 5) and Britain’s trade has suffered the consequences of leaving the closed circle that is the European Union. Additionally, subsidies from EU agreements have been revoked and certain sectors, especially agriculture, are facing the impact of reduced subsidies and trade. In Wales, a majority of the meat industry’s exports were going out to EU member countries (doc 3) with low tariffs as long as Britain remained, which it didn’t: thus ensuing important losses. Overall these effects seem to only negatively impact Britain’s economy.

Yet, the malignant effects are only short-term, according to Brexit supporters and economists (doc 1): the long term benefits and increased trade opportunities are much more appealing. Indeed, leaving allows Britain to set its own terms, countries like Australia (doc 2) are prospective candidates for allowing the UK to trade into the Asian markets. Additionally, Brexit doesn’t mean the UK cannot trade with EU members anymore, countries with export surpluses like Germany will be willing to trade (doc 4). Britain can also trade with other WTO countries (doc 4) if it can guarantee secure trade under WTO rules.

The difficulty though, of establishing new trade agreements, cannot be understated and will determine the economic viability of Britain. When it comes to the Wales meat industry, which had previously exported primarily to EU countries, has also been looking to establish a foothold in the American market for over 8 years (doc 3), highlighting the truly momentous task facing many British industries. Additionally inflation due to the initial effects of Brexit (doc 5) may make the UK less appealing to certain countries when it comes to establishing trade agreements.

In conclusion, Brexit can prove to be a economically beneficial operation for the UK, if it plays its cards right, and manages to establish strong trade relations worldwide. A task that is difficult, but if surmounted will make Britain an economic powerhouse.