Set of policies or practices?
More generally, an ideology?
- Philosophy of Thatcherism a distinctive one – combination of liberalism and conservatism
- Essence of philosophy best captured in phrase a ‘free economy and a strong state’
- Tensions in this philosophy constitute the fault-lines of Thatcherism

- The liberalism of Thatcherism
  - Economic liberal – tradition can trace back to Adam Smith
  - Philosophy celebrating individual freedom and autonomy
  - Draws inspiration from classical liberals like JS Mill but also neoliberals like Hayek
  - Individuals most likely to achieve their goals and society most likely to prosper when individuals make own choices with minimal interference
  - Government action counter-productive and destructive of individual liberty – government bad, market good
  - ‘Invisible hand’ of market relations – Wealth of Nations, Adam Smith
  - Small, minimalist state favoured
  - Suspicion of interfering ‘nanny’ state
  - Rolling back interference of state – done through privatisation, etc.

- Liberalism in action
  - Abolition of exchange controls
  - Privatisation programme
  - Contracting-out – private provision of public services through competitive tendering
  - Deregulation of private industry
  - Ppt

- Conservatism of Thatcherism
  - Belief in value of political institutions
  - National identity
  - Family values
  - Suspicion of aggressive individualism (partly contrasts her liberalism)
  - Union of England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland
  - Ppt

- State seen as under threat
  - Cold War central to Thatcherite policies
  - Fear of USSR and nuclear war
  - Trade unions – ‘the enemy within’ – threat to sovereignty of state, pursuit of sectional interest by political means
  - Scottish and Welsh nationalism is a threat
  - Permissive society of 1960s – loosening of morals, etc. – threat
  - Ppt

- Rolling forward the frontiers of the state
  - Ppt
  - Rolling back of state economically and forward politically

- Europe the fault-line
  - Ppt