

A Level Politics Year 11

Transition Pack

"This isn't quite the same as being Mayor of London, is it?"



You are required to complete **ALL** of the activities in this transition pack for submission in the first week of the new academic year. **The A Level in Politics is a fun, embracing yet challenging qualification.** It will develop your thinking skills and vastly expand your knowledge of politics both in the UK and in the wider world. There will be nine taught hours per fortnight. It is then expected that students do three to five hours per week of independent study at home.

You will need to read (and listen to) the news! See below for suggestions to get started. I can't emphasize enough how important knowing the current political climate is.

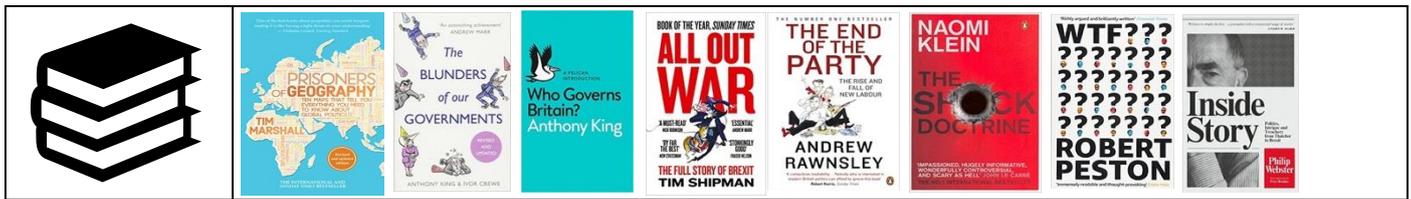
GETTING READY FOR POLITICS A-LEVEL



The politics department would love for you to use this time over the coming weeks and months to get interested in Politics. Start to develop your interest in the subject and build your general political knowledge. The following are suggestions, they are not compulsory, but we would love for you to engage in any that you find interesting.



Pick 1 book, podcast and TV programme.



	<p>Stitcher – A-level politics podcast Beyond Westminster BBC politics podcasts The Westminster Hour Politics.co.uk podcasts</p>	<p>Guardian ‘politics weekly’ podcasts Going the way of the dodo 10 of the best podcasts Takes from the lobby Learn out loud podcasts</p>
---	--	---

	<p>iPlayer Climate Change Playlist World economic forum videos Politics Live – BBC iPlayer The Andrew Marr Show The Politics Show</p>	<p>Question Time BBC Parliament Cabinet Confidential Globalisation if Good – Johan Norberg</p>
---	---	---

If you would like to share what you've learnt, we'd love for you to produce a piece that we could share with other students.

Politics in the UK

This is a detailed and comprehensive assignment that you have been given. **Do not rush it.** We advise that you complete different parts of the transition pack at different points in the Summer holiday, rather than leaving it all until the final week of your break. **You should expect to spend longer on these tasks than any homework you have completed before.** A Level Politics will be a significant step up from the work you have completed in Year 11.

Task One – People in Politics

Look at the below photographs of British politicians. You must identify who they are, which party they belonged to and whether or not they were Prime Minister (PM) or Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition (HMO). Get your family involved in this task – your parents will remember many of these faces, and some of them might be better suited even to your grandparents!



Task Two – News and Elections

Politics is a subject which cannot be unplugged from news and current affairs. Twitter is seen by some to be the future of Politics – it is used by journalists, politicians and politicians alike to share news and information as well as discuss political issues. I would advise that you create yourselves Twitter accounts as soon as possible and follow the below users for Political information and news:

@Britainelects (for news and updates on all things electoral in the UK)

@BBCNews / @SkyNews (or any other news station of your choice – or even more than one!)

@bbcquestiontime (the UK's most-watched political talk-show: BBC Question Time)

@BorisJohnson (prime minister)

@POTUS (the president of the United States of America)

@DExEUgov (The Department for Exiting the European Union)

Your second task is to keep an eye on these Twitter accounts (as well as wider sources – the news and shows on TV, newspapers and others) over the Summer holidays and make a note of any particularly interesting news that is relevant to Politics in the UK. You may even find some stories which are interesting internationally, particularly if you choose to follow Donald Trump...

Task Three – British Political History

You need to create an A3 or A4 Political History timeline for the UK. On your timeline you should include a number of features such as (but not necessarily ONLY these – and for an A grade extension, include the dates at which major UK political parties were founded):

The signing of the Magna Carta, the opening of the House of Commons, the introduction of the Bill of Rights, the Act of Union, Representation of the People Acts and European Communities Act. This will be the focus of the first topic we will study next year.

Task Four – Parties and Issues

To start, you should quickly research the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat parties. What do they stand for? Then, use the internet, textbooks and your imagination to create your own political party which will stand at the next election. You should include the party's name, some points as to what the party stands for and three key policies your party will introduce if they are elected including **why** you would introduce them. These policies will cost money - will people have to pay more tax or would you make savings elsewhere? You have to **justify** your decisions. Some topics to consider might be:

Health

Crime

The European Union

Housing

Education

Challenge tasks:

Complete the *THREE* tasks below and bring on paper to class:

1) Current affairs

As a Politics student, you need to keep up to date with news and current affairs. Each week record **at least one news** article or report that has influenced UK Politics.

Date	News source	Summary of news	Impact on UK Politics
06.09.19	BBC news website	What happened? Why?	This has meant that...

2) Analysing political information

Complete the questions below on 'Votes at 16.'

3) Research skills

Your task is to investigate the **three key questions** below. There are a number of sub-questions to help focus your research. Produce **notes** in a format you prefer. For example, you could create a **table** or a **mind map**.

Your research will be checked in September. There will be a **quiz** based on the research questions.



Research questions:

1. Who runs the country?
2. How does Parliament work?
3. How is power shared between Westminster and the devolved administrations?

Who runs the country?

1. Parties and candidates

- What are the key differences between the major political parties in the UK?
- How are candidates selected to stand for a constituency?

2. Elections and voting systems

- What is democracy? What is the difference between representative democracy and direct democracy? What are the strengths and weaknesses of each type?
- How does the Westminster-first-past-the-post system operate? Who can and cannot vote in general elections and why? Should the vote be changed? What is the frequency of general elections?

3. Forming and organising the work of government

- How is a government formed? What is the role of the monarch? What happens when no single party can form a government and a coalition government is formed?
- How is government organised into departments and ministries? What are civil servants?

How does Parliament work?

4. The Westminster Parliament

- What is the difference between the executive, legislature, judiciary and monarchy?
- What are the roles of the Houses of Commons and Lords? What is the relationship between the House of Commons and the Lords? How does debate contribute to shaping policy and laws?
- What are the roles of: the prime minister, cabinet and ministers, the opposition, speaker, whips, front bench and backbench MPs and the ceremonial role of Black Rod? What is the role of an MP in representing constituents' interests?

5. Making and shaping law

- How does a bill become law? What is debate in the House of Commons and the House of Lords? How do committees scrutinise? What is royal assent?

6. The Constitution

- What is an uncodified constitution? How has the constitution changed recently including as a result of devolution and membership of the EU?
- What is parliamentary sovereignty? Explain checks and balances, including the role of judicial review. How does Parliament hold government to account through oversight and scrutiny?

How is power shared between Westminster and the devolved administrations?

7. Government in constituent parts of the UK

- What are the powers of devolved bodies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland?
- How are relations changing between England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, including views on devolution and independence.