

A Level Politics

Year 11 Transition Pack



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 and during their study periods in school.

Politics will suit students who:

- have an interest in the world around them: who want to know more about the society they live in, how it works and how it could work;
- enjoy debate, discussion and argument: who are comfortable with the fact that in politics there are no simple 'rights' or 'wrongs';
- like to think for themselves: who wants to develop their own views, rather than accept the views of others;
- Politics will be a new subject to you and therefore you may see it as an opportunity to do something fresh and new, an enriching experience in itself;
- It is particularly important that you have an enquiring mind, a desire to learn about how the political system works and its impact on you, the citizen.



The skills you will develop studying politics:

- Knowledge and understanding of basic political ideas, concepts, structures and processes, the relationship between them and how they work at different levels;
- An ability to interpret and analyse political information in various forms and from various sources, and to apply a range of political ideas concepts and theories;
- An ability to evaluate arguments, theories, values and ideologies to explain political behaviour and suggest solutions to controversial issues;
- The skills to organise and present an argument with relevance, clarity and coherence using good English;

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!



	<u>Name</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>PM?</u>
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			

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. A good way to keep up-to-date with political news would be to create yourselves a Twitter account 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)

And a range of political journalists like Julia Hartley-Brewer, Owen Jones, etc...

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 – Parties and Issues

To start, you should quickly research the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat parties. What do they stand for – complete an internet search of their manifestos from the 2019 general election. 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

European Union

Housing

Education

Task Four – British General Election History

At least every 5 years, the UK government must seek a new mandate from the people and hold a general election. There have been 21 elections since the end of WWII. You need to research each of these elections and find out who were the party leaders, which party won and the size of their parliamentary majority. Complete the table on the next page.

Task Four – British General Election History

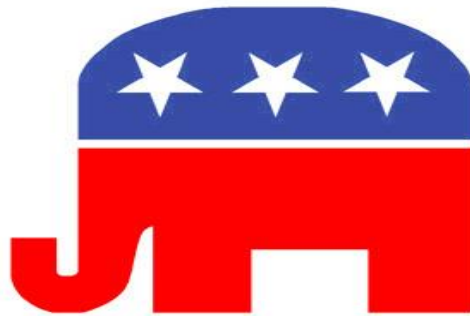
<u>Year</u>	<u>Conservative leader</u>	<u>Labour leader</u>	<u>Which party won?</u>	<u>Size of majority</u>
2019	Boris Johnson	Jeremy Corbyn	Conservative	80
2017				
2015				
2010				
2005				
2001				
1997				
1992				
1987				
1983				
1979				
1974 (Oct)				
1974 (Feb)				
1970				
1966				
1964				
1959				
1955				
1951				
1950				
1945				

Politics in the USA

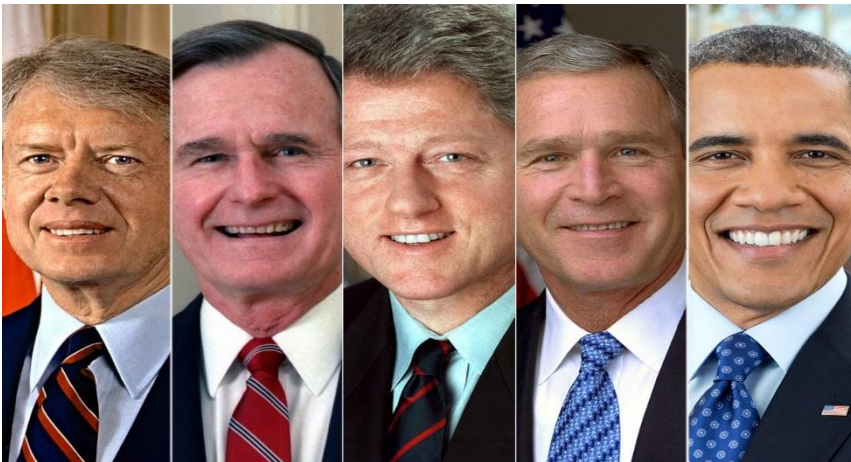
In the second year of the course we will be studying American politics and making comparisons to what learnt about UK politics during Year 12. See if you can answer the questions below relating to US Presidents and then carry out some of your own research into a former president of your choice.

1. US Politics is dominated by two political parties. What are the names of these two parties and which of the images represents each party?





2. Identify the former Presidents below:



A

B

C

D

E

A _____

B _____

C _____

D _____

E _____

3. Choose any former US President and complete your own research about them. Produce a 2-page profile which includes information about which party they represented, how and when they became president and key events and policies that occurred during their time as president.

Suggested reading and listening

High-performing students enjoy reading about their subject and invest lots of their time finding out more about it. Below is a list of books that are relevant to what you will be studying in Year 12. They are all readily available to purchase relatively cheaply either online or from your local bookshop. Why not choose one to read over the summer holidays and then swap your book with another student studying the course.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Amazon link</u>
The Politics Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained	DK Publishing	https://www.amazon.co.uk/Politics-Book-Ideas-Simply-Explained-ebook/dp/B00TK7521Q/ref=sr_1_1_sspa?dchild=1&keywords=poltics&qid=1586343237&s=books&sr=1-1_spons&psc=1&spLa=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGimaWVvPUEwSEdaWk8yN04zU0FUMVUy3J5cHRIZElkPUeWODU1MDMzMU43SUNMTTFTFTpTy2lbnNyeXB0ZWRBZElkPUeWZmZjZlMjRENOQjFRUdFSSZ3aWRnZXROYW1lPjNwX2F0ZiZlY3Rpb249Y2pY2t5ZWVpZCZkb05vdExvZ0NsaWNrPXRyYdWU=
The Prime Ministers: Reflections on Leadership from Wilson to May	Steve Richards	https://www.amazon.co.uk/Prime-Ministers-Reflections-Leadership-Wilson/dp/B082VLRLOP/ref=sr_1_6?dchild=1&keywords=poltics&qid=1586343476&s=books&sr=1-6
Inside Story: Politics, Intrigue and Treachery from Thatcher to Brexit	Philip Webster	https://www.amazon.co.uk/Inside-Story-Politics-Intrigue-Treachery/dp/B01M10YDYG/ref=sr_1_19?dchild=1&keywords=uk+politics&qid=1586343768&s=books&sr=1-19
For the record	David Cameron	https://www.amazon.co.uk/For-the-Record/dp/B07S1CTK8B/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=uk+politics+david+cameron&qid=1586343878&s=books&sr=1-2
My life, our times	Gordon Brown	https://www.amazon.co.uk/My-Life-Our-Times/dp/B07239BD83/ref=sr_1_17?dchild=1&keywords=uk+politics+gordon+brown&qid=1586343932&s=books&sr=1-1

Podcasts

Listening to podcasts are a great way to broaden your knowledge of politics. Why not listen to one while you are travelling to school, walking the dog or during a study period? Here are some great podcasts that I would recommend you tune into:

BBC Sounds

- Brexitcast/NewsCast
- Americast
- Political Thinking with Nick Robinson

NPR Politics (USA)

- Weekly NPR Politics podcast

If you have any further questions while you are enjoying your Summer holiday, my email address can be seen below 😊

Mr Leightley

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