

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.

A Level Politics Course Summary

Exam Board: Edexcel

Syllabus: 9PLO/3A

Year 12 Topics:

Paper 1: Component 1: UK Politics & Core Political Ideas (Liberalism; Conservatism; Socialism)

Paper 2: Component 2: UK Government & Non-Core Political Ideas (Feminism)

Year 13 Topics:

Paper 3: Component 3: US Government and Politics & Comparative theories

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)

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 – 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

Task Five – Documentaries

Watch as many of the following documentaries to help **increase your knowledge and understanding of key areas of the course** before September.

Below is a list and where you can watch them.

Secret World of Whitehall (YouTube)
The Cameron years (bbc iPlayer)
The rise and fall of Tony Blair (YouTube)
Now we are one: Blair's year: (YouTube)
Brexit: The Uncivil War. (Film)
Taking Control: The Dominic Cummings Story (BBC iPlayer)
Dispatches: Gordon Brown, where did it all go wrong (YouTube)
Heath vs Wilson (YouTube)
Portillo: The Trouble With The Tories (channel 5/YouTube)
The Iron Lady (film)
Andrew Marr's History of modern Britain (tv series)
Inside the Commons (BBC - but on dailymotion)
Cabinet Confidential (YouTube)
Tory, Tory, Tory (YouTube)
Yes Minister (tv series)
Yes Prime Minister (tv series)

The West Wing (tv series)
Inside Obama's White House (TV series)
Last Week tonight (US late night news satire)
Crashing The Tea Party (BBC/YouTube)

Knock Down the House (Netflix)

15 Departing Congress Members tell newbies what to expect (VICE news tonight special- YouTube)

RBG (film)

13th (netflix)

Reversing Roe (netflix)

Dark Money (netflix)

Reporting Trump's First Year (BBC iplayer)

Task 6 - Research Project/Quiz

The idea of this research project/quiz is to familiarise you with some of the politicians and the events that you will be dealing with on the course next year.

Try and fill in as much of this as you can from your general knowledge and then use the internet to get the rest! The main thing is.....ENJOY!

1. Do you know the people elected to represent you?

- (a). Which Parliamentary constituency do you live in?
- (b). Who is your local MP and which party does he/she represent?
- (c). Which European Parliamentary constituency do/did you live in?
- (d). Which Local Authority area or areas do you live in?
- (e). Name one of your local councillors and his/her party.

2. Which individuals hold the following positions?

- (a). Prime Minister and Leader of the Conservative Party
- (b). Leader of the Opposition and the Labour Party
- (c). Leader of the Liberal Democrats (acting Co-Leaders, at the moment)
- (d). Speaker of the House of Commons
- (e). Government Chief Whip
- (f). Father of the House
- (g). Cabinet Secretary
- (h). Chancellor of the Exchequer
- (i). First Minister in the Scottish Parliament
- (j). First Minister in the Welsh Assembly
- (k). First Minister in the Northern Ireland Assembly

- (l). General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress
- (m). Governor of the Bank of England
- (n). Lord Chief Justice of England & Wales
- (o). Mayor of London
- (p). President of France
- (q). Prime Minister of France
- (r). Chancellor of Germany
- (s). Prime Minister (Taoiseach) of Ireland
- (t). President of Russia
- (u). Prime Minister of Russia
- (v). President of South Africa
- (w). President of the European Commission
- (x). President of the European Council
- (y). US President
- (z). US Vice-President

3. Which constituencies are held by the following MPs?

- (a). Boris Johnson
- (b). Keir Starmer
- (c). Ed Davey
- (d). Jeremy Corbyn
- (e). Caroline Lucas
- (f). Ian Blackford
- (g). Theresa May
- (h). Ed Miliband

4. Who are the MPs for the following constituencies?:

- (a). Birkenhead

- (b). Wallasey
- (c). Wirral West
- (d). Wirral South
- (e). Ellesmere Port & Neston
- (f). City of Chester
- (g). Warrington South (there's a reason for including this one!)

5. What is the name of the European Parliamentary constituency that we lived in before Brexit, and how many M.E.P.s represented us?

6. When will the following elections take place?

- (a). the next General Election
- (b). the next local council elections
- (c). the next elections to the Scottish Parliament

7. What positions in the Politics media are held by:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| (a). Laura Kuenssberg | (f). Robert Peston |
| (b). Nick Robinson | (g). Emily Maitliss |
| (c). Fiona Bruce | (h). Sophie Ridge |
| (d). Adam Boulton | (i). Andrew Marr |
| (e). Owen Jones | (j). Jon Snow |

8. Name the 6 leaders of the Conservative Party since John Major left office in 1997.

9. The 2019 election of the Conservative Party leader

- (a). Explain the process by which Boris Johnson became Prime Minister in July 2019.
- (b). How many Conservative MPs initially announced their candidacies?
- (c). Who did Johnson beat in the final round of voting?

10. The 2020 election of the Labour Party Leader

- (a). Name the 3 candidates for the leadership.
- (b). How does the electoral system work?
- (c) What was the result?

11. The Liberal Democrats

- (a). How many leaders (& names) have the party had since Paddy Ashdown stepped down from the leadership in 1999?
- (b). Why did Vince Cable resign in 2019?
- (c). Who contested the subsequent Liberal Democrat leadership contest?
- (d). Who won the contest and what subsequently happened to her?

12. The 2019 General election:

- (a) How many seats were won by:
 - (i) Conservative
 - (ii) Labour
 - (iii) Liberal Democrats
 - (iv) Scottish National Party
 - (v) Democratic Unionist Party
 - (vi) Sinn Fein
 - (vii) Others (specify)

- (b). What % of the vote was won by:
 - (i) Conservative
 - (ii) Labour
 - (iii) Liberal Democrats
 - (iv) Scottish Nationalists
 - (v) Democratic Unionists
 - (vi) Sinn Fein
 - (vii) Others (specify)

13. Explain:

- (i). Why did Boris Johnson call a general election in December 2019?
- (ii). When was the last occasion that the UK held a general election in December?
- (iii). What was the Conservative majority won by Boris Johnson?

14. Brexit and its aftermath

- (a). What was the margin of the vote in the 23rd June 2016 EU Referendum vote?
- (b). Why did David Cameron resign the following morning?
- (c). Why did Boris Johnson not enter the race to succeed Cameron?
- (d). Which positions in Government did Theresa May hold before becoming PM?
- (e). Which school did Theresa May's husband go to?
- (f). What was the significance of Article 50?
- (g). Who is Gina Miller and how did she achieve significance?
- (h). Which Cabinet Minister was initially responsible for the Brexit negotiations & who was his European counterpart?
- (i). Why have some of the following issues proved difficult to settle:
 - The exit bill
 - The status of EU nationals in the UK
 - The Northern Irish border with the Irish Republic
- (j). How many times was Theresa May's withdrawal bill defeated in the House of Commons & what was historic about the first vote?
- (k). Who were the big winners and the big losers in the 2019 European elections?
- (l). Why did Theresa May resign in May 2019?
- (m) Name 6 well-known MPs who left their parties to join the new Independent Group for Change (Change UK).
- (n) In the autumn of 2019, Boris Johnson's government tried to 'prorogue Parliament'. What does this mean?
- (o) When the election was eventually called, it was largely fought on the single-issue of Brexit. What was the Conservative Party's slogan?

(p) What was the Labour Party's position on Brexit?

(q) What formally happened on 31st January 2020?