



The Thomas Hardy School

Summer Preparation Task

Politics A Level
Edexcel 9PLO

Purpose of task:

To increase your knowledge and understanding of current politics. To prepare students for Politics A level.

Recommended resources:

Daily broadsheet newspapers such as Times, Guardian, Independent, Telegraph, high quality news documentaries and web-sites.

Task: PLEASE COMPLETE ALL OF THE TASKS BELOW

1. Learn one sentence definitions for the key words below. There will be a short test on these in one of the first lessons.
2. Watch one TV news programmes e.g. Newsnight, Question Time etc. and WRITE A TWO PAGE REPORT including: Which ONE story in the news you thought was most important, roughly what it was about and why you thought it was most important.
3. Create a timeline of the Prime Ministers from 1979-2019 include their political party and election result.

4. Go to these links here for the UK's three major parties:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2019-50524262>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2019-50501411>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2019-50459123>

These links summarise their key manifesto policies in the 2019 general election. Select three policies (one from each political party) and explain why you support OR do not support that policy. If you want to extend yourself and go further, you can do more than 3.

5. Conduct some research into the role of your local MP. Find out who your local MP is and the following details about them:

MP's name:

Political party:

Constituency (the area they represent):

Areas they have a particular interest in:

And finally, look at their voting record (found here <https://www.theyworkforyou.com/> by clicking 'voting record') and write down some ways in which they've voted in parliament.

Deadline for Task: First lesson in week commencing 13th September 2021

KEYWORDS TO LEARN

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| Parliament | Main law making body in the UK consisting of House of Commons and House of Lords |
| Government | Those members of the Commons and Lords chosen (by the leader of the largest party in the Commons) to run the country |
| Cabinet | The 20 or so most important members of the Government |
| Prime Minister | The leader of the largest party in the Commons |
| Minister | Another word for members of the Government – each Minister (there are over 100) is usually given responsibility for a policy area such as Health or Schools |
| Leader of the Opposition | Leader of the largest party that opposes the Government |
| General Election | Nearly all adults (over 18) will be entitled to vote for a candidate to represent their local community (eg West Dorset or South Dorset) in the Westminster parliament |

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| Party | Group of people who share the same political beliefs and try to get elected – main parties in the UK are Conservatives, Greens, Labour, Liberal Democrat and UK Independence Party |
| Pressure Group | Organisation that campaigns to persuade Government but does not stand for election like a party does eg Friends of the Earth |

Recommended reading & activities list:

G. Stoker: Why Politics Matters (Pgrave 2017)

Marr A - A History of Modern Britain (2009)

Everything You Really Need to Know About Politics: My Life as an MP Hardcover – 22 July 2021
by Jess Phillips (Author)

Bloor K - A-level Politics Made Easy Hardcover (2006)

Useful websites

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/politics> – useful first point for factual research

<http://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/>

<http://www.parliament.uk/>

<http://www.politicsteacher.co.uk/>

<https://politics-blog.ashbournecollege.co.uk/>

<http://alevelpolitics.com/>

Many useful articles on current political debates can be found in the following magazines:

- The Economist: <http://economist.com>
- Politics Review Magazine: <http://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/Product-LandingPages/Magazines/Magazines-extras/Politics-Review-extras>

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Useful Podcasts

[Stitcher – A-level politics podcast](#)

[Beyond Westminster](#)

[BBC politics podcasts](#)

[The Westminster Hour](#)

[Politics.co.uk podcasts](#)

Some documentaries/programmes

[Cabinet Confidential](#)

[Globalisation if Good – Johan Norberg](#)

Andrew Marr’s History of Modern Britain: How has Britain changed since 1945 and what role has politics played in that process? On BBC iplayer

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b007xcfc>

Inside the commons A behind-the-scenes look at the work of Members of Parliament and House of Commons officials. You can all 4 episodes on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-w0ry8knlys>

Required Stationery and Equipment for Government & Politics A Level.

Pens, paper, dividers, 3x lever arch folders, highlighters and lined paper.

Essential Resources

Pearson Edexcel A Level UK Government and Politics Sixth Edition Paperback – 30 April 2021
by Neil McNaughton (Author), Toby Cooper (Author), Eric Magee (Author) £28 ISBN-10 1398311332

It is essential that you read reputable broadsheet newspapers in order to keep up-to date with current affairs. You can look at articles on their websites:

- The Times: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk>
- The Independent: <http://www.independent.co.uk>
- The Guardian: <http://www.guardian.co.uk>
- The Telegraph: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk>

The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Politics.

Things to Consider Throughout the Year

Spend at least four hours a week every week outside lessons on Politics homework’s ALL YEAR ROUND! In addition regularly listen to and watch quality news programmes e.g.

[Politics Live – BBC iPlayer](#)

[The Andrew Marr Show](#)

[The Politics Show](#)

[Question Time](#)

[BBC Parliament](#)

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