

**Preparation Tasks
for
A Level Politics**

Course Outline

Year 12	Year 13
<p>UK Politics Democracy & participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour, the media.</p> <p>Core Politics Ideas Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism.</p> <p>UK Government The Constitution, Prime Minister & the Executive, relationships between the branches of government.</p>	<p>Non-core Political Ideas Feminism</p> <p>Government and Politics of the USA The US constitution, federalism, US congress, US presidency, US Supreme Court, civil rights, US democracy & participation, comparative theories.</p>
<p><u>Exam:</u> Paper 1: UK Politics & Core Political Ideas Paper 2: UK Government & Non-Core Political Ideas (Feminism) Paper 3: Comparative Politics (USA)</p>	

How will you be successful on this course?

You will need to take an interest in current affairs and political issues.



This will involve:

- Reading a **QUALITY** newspaper (such as The Times, Guardian, Telegraph or their Sunday equivalent); magazines and specific politics journals such as **Politics Review** as well as the set textbooks.
- Watching current affairs programmes such as Panorama, Despatches etc. and specific politics programmes such as 'A Week in Politics'.
- Watching the news or listening to 'Today' on Radio 4.
- Discussing and debating political issues with both fellow politics students and others
- Keeping track of relevant news stories on politics and issues

Summer Preparation Activities

You will need to download the following booklet:

<https://assets-learning.parliament.uk/uploads/2019/12/How-it-Works-booklet.pdf>

Read through the booklet and complete the following activities:

Task 1

In your own words write a short definition for each of these keywords/ phrases:

Keyword/Phrase	Definition
Politics	
Suffrage	
Political Participation	
Democracy	
Direct Democracy	
Representative Democracy	
Member of Parliament (MP)	
General Election	
Devolution	
Devolved Assemblies/ Parliament	
By-election	
Referendum	
Manifesto	

First-Past-The-Post (FPTP)	
Constitution	
Uncodified Constitution	
Parliamentary sovereignty	
Legislature	
Executive	
Judiciary	
Role of Parliament	
Parliamentary Reform Acts 1911 and 1949	
Human Rights Act 1998	
Constitutional Reform Act 2005	
Fixed Term Parliament Act 2011	
Bicameral legislature	
House of Commons	
Constituency	
Frontbencher minister	
Backbench MP	
The Speaker	

The Opposition	
House of Lords	
Crossbencher	
Life Peer	
Hereditary Peer	
Select Committee	
Legislative Committee	
Government Bills	
Private Members Bills	
Political Party	
Party Whips	
Party Rebel	
Coalition government	
Partisan	
Pressure Group	
Lobbying	
Petition	

Task 2: Investigate the role of an MP

a.) Research your local MP, who is he/she; which party do they represent; which constituency do they represent; what have they recently shown an interest in; research their voting history to see where they stand on key issues.

<https://members.parliament.uk/>

b.) Investigate the role of an MP by playing the game in the link below.

<https://learning.parliament.uk/resources/mp-for-a-week/#cta-target>

Findings

a.) My local MP

b.) The role of an MP

Task 3:

Watch the news over the summer holidays. Create a 10-question quiz to test the rest of the class when you come back.

Questions:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.

Things that you can be watching and listening to, to improve your political knowledge....

Watch

- BBC News
- Newsnight
- Question Time
- Andrew Marr Show
- Prime Minister's Question Time

Listen

Podcast

- Simple Politics
- Guardian UK - weekly podcast
- The A Level Politics Show
- Sky News All Out Politics

Radio

- Radio 4 Today Programme
- Radio 4 Week in Westminster

Watch: all links available on Clickview to South Craven students. Many are also available on YouTube if you search the name of the programme and episode.

About Brexit:

Brexit - the Battle for Britain

<https://clickv.ie/w/u1Pk>

The Brexit Storm continues: Laura Kuenssberg's Inside Story

<https://clickv.ie/w/Og9m>

Brexit: The Uncivil War (Film)

<https://clickv.ie/w/2g9m>

About our leaders:

The Cameron Years

Episode 1 - <https://clickv.ie/w/7g9m>

Episode 2 - <https://clickv.ie/w/Bg9m>

The Coalition

5 days that changed Britain

<https://clickv.ie/w/Fg9m>

New Labour

The rise and fall of Tony Blair (YouTube)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vm0NO9Bi8-Q>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7GU010dLaE>

Andrew Marr's History of Modern Britain

(TV series) History of Britain and Politics from post WW2 - Blair

Episode 1 - <https://clickv.ie/w/Gg9m>

Episode 2 - <https://clickv.ie/w/Mg9m>

Episode 3 - <https://clickv.ie/w/Og9m>

Episode 4 - <https://clickv.ie/w/o1Pk>

Episode 5 - <https://clickv.ie/w/p1Pk>

About our laws and Parliament:

Teach Parliament playlist

https://www.youtube.com/user/UKParliament/playlists?view=50&sort=dd&shelf_id=8

Inside the Commons

Episode 1 - <https://clickv.ie/w/EOPk>

Episode 2 - <https://clickv.ie/w/-OPk>

Episode 3 - <https://clickv.ie/w/a1Pk>

Episode 4 - <https://clickv.ie/w/b1Pk>

Meet the Lords

Episode 1 - <https://clickv.ie/w/j1Pk>

Episode 2 - <https://clickv.ie/w/l1Pk>

Episode 3 - <https://clickv.ie/w/n1Pk>