



# GET READY TO STUDY A LEVEL POLITICS

If you are planning to study A Level Politics with us in September, please review this document and complete the required activities. Please bring the completed activities with you at induction.

## FAQ

**What specification will I study?**

[Edexcel AS & A level Politics \(2017\) | Pearson qualifications](#)

**How many lessons will I have a week?**

You'll have 4 lessons a week, each lesson is 1 hour and 5 minutes

**Who can I contact if I have a question about this subject?**

Josephine Bird [j.bird@barnsley.ac.uk](mailto:j.bird@barnsley.ac.uk)

**What subjects go well with Politics?**

History, Sociology, Religion, Philosophy and Ethics, English, Geography

**What grades should I have?**

In addition to the general sixth form entry requirements, learners must have grade 5 or above in GCSE English or History

# WHAT WILL I STUDY?

**In Year 12, you will study the following topics:**

**There are four content areas in UK Politics:**

1. Democracy and participation
2. Political parties
3. Electoral systems
4. Voting behaviour and the media.

**There are three content areas in Core Political Ideas:**

1. Liberalism
2. Conservatism
3. Socialism.

**UK Government There are four content areas:**

1. The constitution
2. Parliament
3. Prime Minister and executive
4. Relations between the branches

**Non- core political idea:**

Feminism

**In Year 13, you will study the following topics:**

## **Global Politics**

There are six content areas:

1. The state and globalisation
2. Global governance: political and economic
3. Global governance: human rights and environmental
4. Power and developments
5. Regionalism and the European Union
6. Comparative theories

# WHAT WILL I NEED?

To study the course you will need the following equipment:

- A folder with dividers
- Lined paper
- Pens and pencils
- Highlighters

We recommend all students buy a textbook and these can be purchased from the college at the start of term. Financial support is available for those.



# FIND OUT MORE

These activities are to help broaden your understanding of the subject in preparation for studying this subject at an advanced level.

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Careers                           | <a href="http://thebalancecareers.com">10 Great Jobs in Politics (thebalancecareers.com)</a><br><a href="http://ucas.com">Politics (ucas.com)</a> |
| Social Media                      | <a href="http://thepoliticsteacher.org">The Politics Shed - Government &amp; Politics A and AS Level (thepoliticsteacher.org)</a>                 |
| YouTube                           | <a href="#">edexcel politics - YouTube</a>  |
| Further Reading / Useful websites | <a href="#">Free A Level Politics Edexcel Revision Content — Study Rocket</a>   |

# REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

It is important that all the required activities are completed in preparation for starting your course. Please bring these completed activities with you at induction.

Choosing your A Levels can be a challenge for some learners therefore if you are undecided around which subjects you are planning to study completing these activities will give yourself greater insight into the course to help ensure you have made the right choice.

Please complete the following tasks

Introduction to Politics-please read the following and make notes-this is the first topic

[Democracy and Participation – A Level Politics Edexcel Revision – Study Rocket](#)

[The Politics Shed - Democracy \(thepoliticsteacher.org\)](#)

Please complete the induction tasks below

# INDUCTION TASK

Please complete this induction task

## Introduction to A level Politics: Induction task (1)

Rate your knowledge of the following topics (tick the relevant column)

| <u>TOPIC</u>                                 | <u>1</u><br>Know nothing | <u>2</u><br>Know a little | <u>3</u><br>Not sure | <u>4</u><br>Know quite a lot | <u>5</u><br>Know lots |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Democracy and Political Participation</u> |                          |                           |                      |                              |                       |
| <u>Political Parties</u>                     |                          |                           |                      |                              |                       |
| <u>Elections/Electoral Systems</u>           |                          |                           |                      |                              |                       |
| <u>Voting Behaviour and the Media</u>        |                          |                           |                      |                              |                       |

### What do you already know about UK Politics?

Answer each question in the box on the right. You may need to do research on the internet to find some of the answers.

| <u>Unit 1: UK Politics</u>   |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>(1) DEMOCRACY AND PARTICIPATION</b></p> <p><b>1.1 Democracy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where did democracy originate?</li> <li>• Name the two main types of democracy</li> <li>• What type of democracy does the UK have?</li> <li>• Give 2 features of a democracy (like the UK)</li> </ul> |  |

- List 4 ways in which people can participate in politics?
- What was the percentage of people who voted in the 2015 and 2017 general election? What is this called?

### **1.2 Suffrage and The Franchise**

- What is meant by 'The franchise'?
- Which Acts of Parliament introduced the following: -
  - a) Secret Ballot in elections
  - b) Gave women the right to vote at 21
  - c) Lowered the voting age to 18
- Explain what 'Votes at 16' and 'Compulsory Voting' are.

### **1.3 Pressure Groups**

- What is a pressure group?
- Name two pressure groups
- List some tactics that are used by pressure groups

### **1.4 Rights**

- What are civil liberties?



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|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When was the Human Rights Act passed? Name two rights that are protected in the Human Rights Act</li> <li>• What does ECHR stand for?</li> <li>• What was the Equality Act passed? What does it say in relation to employment?</li> <li>• Does Britain have a 'Bill of Rights'?</li> </ul>  |  |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>2.ELECTIONS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What types of elections are there in the UK?</li> <li>• What is the name of our voting system for general elections?</li> <li>• What voting systems are used for<br/>(a) Scottish Parliament elections<br/>(b) Northern Irish Assembly (c) Mayoral elections</li> <li>• What is a referendum?</li> <li>• Give an example of two referendums that have been held in the UK. What was the result of them?</li> </ul> |  |

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| <p><b><u>3.POLITICAL PARTIES</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is a political party?</li> <br/> <li>• Explain the difference between 'left wing' and 'right wing'</li> <br/> <li>• Name three political parties in the UK</li> <br/> <li>• Can you name the leaders of the UK parties?</li> <br/> <li>• What is the main aim on UKIP and the SNP?</li> <br/> <li>• What is a 'multi-party' system?</li> </ul>  |  |
| <p><b><u>4. VOTING BEHAVIOUR AND THE MEDIA</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outline 2 factors that influence people to vote</li> <br/> <li>• Name 3 'tabloid' newspapers and 3 'broadsheet' newspapers</li> <br/> <li>• How many seats did the following parties get in the 2017 UK General election <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Labour</li> <li>b) Conservative</li> <li>c) SNP</li> <li>d) Liberal Democrat</li> <li>e) DUP</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |  |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Which party formed a government as a result of the 2017 UK general election?</li><li>• What are 'opinion polls'</li><li>• Name 3 types of media</li></ul> |  |
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**What topic (from above) are you most looking forward to studying?**

**What topic (from above) do you think is going to be the most challenging?**

**Do you have any questions about the course content?**

## Component 2: UK Government

Rate your knowledge of the following topics (tick the relevant column)

| <u>TOPIC</u>                          | <u>1</u><br>Know nothing | <u>2</u><br>Know a little | <u>3</u><br>Not sure | <u>4</u><br>Know quite a lot | <u>5</u><br>Know lots |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Constitution</u>                   |                          |                           |                      |                              |                       |
| <u>Parliament</u>                     |                          |                           |                      |                              |                       |
| <u>Prime Minister and Cabinet</u>     |                          |                           |                      |                              |                       |
| <u>Relations between institutions</u> |                          |                           |                      |                              |                       |

### Unit 2: UK Government

| <u>Unit 2: UK Government</u>  |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>1. <u>THE CONSTITUTION</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is a constitution?</li> <br/> <li>• What is a codified constitution?</li> <br/> <li>• What is a uncodified constitution?</li> <br/> <li>• Does Britain have a written constitution?</li> <br/> <li>• What is a 'Bill of Rights'?</li> <br/> <li>• What is devolution?</li> </ul> |  |

## **2. PARLIAMENT**

- Who has the most power the House of Commons or the House of Lords?
- How many members are there in the House of Commons?
- People that sit in the Commons are known as what? People who sit in the Lords are known as what?
- 'Members of the House of Lords are elected' True or False?

## **3. PRIME MINISTER AND THE CABINET**

- Can you name the last 5 prime ministers?
- Is the Prime Minister directly elected?
- Who has served as prime minister for the longest period of time since 1945?
- What is the Cabinet?
- Can you name two members of the Cabinet?

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is 'Collective responsibility'?</li></ul>  |  |
| <p><b>4. <u>RELATIONS BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is the name of the highest court in the UK?</li><li>• What is judicial independence?</li><li>• How many countries are in the European Union</li><li>• What is the 'Single Market'</li><li>• What is 'article 50' and when did Britain trigger it?</li><li>• What is sovereignty</li></ul> |  |

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is parliamentary sovereignty</li></ul> |  |
|---|--|

**What topic (from above) are you most looking forward to studying?**

**What topic (from above) do you think is going to be the most challenging?**

**Do you have any questions about the course content?**

**Using the resources below and others please answer the following question:**

Evaluate the extent to which the UK is suffering from a participation crisis (30 marks)

<https://studyrocket.co.uk/revision/a-level-politics-edexcel/uk-politics/the-state-of-democracy-in-the-uk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKoimlf2hh4>





| Key terminology-match up task |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
|                               | Government by the people, for the people   |
|                               | Being involved in the political process  |
|                               | The British legislature made up of the House of Commons, The House of Lords and the Monarch  |
|                               | A general agreement or acceptance  |
|                               | a vote in which all the people in an area/region/country are asked to give their opinion about or decide an important political or social question |
|                               | The right to vote  |
|                               | The number of people eligible to vote who actually do  |
|                               | The right or authority to exercise power   |
|                               | Being passive or indifferent, not caring   |
|                               | A legal member of a state, entitled to its rights/ privileges  |
|                               | A document setting out a party's policies to be enacted if it wins an election   |
|                               | Being answerable for your actions  |
|                               | Selection of person/ persons for office, usually by a vote   |
|                               | Area/ people represented by another  |
|                               | Socio-economic group, divisions in society e.g. working/ middle etc  |
|                               | Organised group whose members share common ideas and seek to form a government   |
|                               | Organised group who share a common interest or concern and seek to influence the government  |
|                               | Overarching ideas on politics, society, economy etc.   |
|                               | A combination or alliance between states/ parties etc  |
|                               | Framework of rules which set out how something is run  |
|                               | Supreme power over a state   |
|                               | Powers passed down to lower authority e.g. Welsh Assembly  |
|                               | Gradual change/ improvement  |
|                               | Freedoms guaranteed to citizens from the state   |
|                               | The Prime Minister and senior ministers, most of whom lead a particular government department  |

|                   |                       |                       |                        |                    |                     |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| <i>LEGITIMACY</i> | <i>IDEOLOGY</i>       | <i>SOVEREIGNTY</i>    | <i>POLITICAL PARTY</i> | <i>CLASS</i>       |                     |
| <i>PARLIAMENT</i> | <i>ACCOUNTABILITY</i> | <i>DEMOCRACY</i>      | <i>CIVIL LIBERTIES</i> | <i>THE CABINET</i> |                     |
| <i>CONSENSUS</i>  | <i>REFORM</i>         | <i>FRANCHISE</i>      | <i>PARTICIPATION</i>   | <i>COALITION</i>   |                     |
| <i>TURNOUT</i>    | <i>REFERENDUM</i>     | <i>DEVOLUTION</i>     | <i>APATHY</i>          | <i>ELECTION</i>    | <i>CONSTITUTION</i> |
| <i>MANIFESTO</i>  | <i>CONSTITUENCY</i>   | <i>PRESSURE GROUP</i> | <i>CITIZEN</i>         |                    |                     |