

Year 11 Government & Politics 'A' Level Preparation Work

Hello,

I am pleased you have decided to study G&P next year. This is not an exam in current affairs and the news, although you will quickly get used to taking more of an interest in political affairs. This is an academic subject, which no prior knowledge of politics is needed. However, it would be very worthwhile if you did begin to do some preparation work for September.

Our course

A Level course outline		
UK Politics	Ideologies	US Politics
UK Constitution, Parliament & Prime Minister	Liberalism	US Constitution, Congress & Presidency
UK Democracy	Conservatism	US Democracy
UK Parties	Socialism	US Parties
UK Elections & Voting	Feminism	US Elections & Voting

Below are some tasks to complete over the next few months:

Task one

Research and create definitions for the following key words:

- General Election
- Regional Election
- Representative
- Democracy
- Political Participation
- Devolution
- Prime Minister
- The cabinet
- The electorate

Task Two

To aid your knowledge Political Parties, you must answer the following for TWO UK political parties of your choice:

1. Name of Political Party
2. Leader of Party
3. Number of MPs in the House of Commons
4. Four key policies from the 2019 General Election.
5. When were they founded?

Task three

Key political figures: for each person below find out what party they support and when they were prime minister or president.

UK

Theresa May

David Cameron

Gordon Brown

Tony Blair

John Major

Margaret Thatcher

USA

Trump

Obama

George W Bush

Bill Clinton

Now choose at least one prime minister **and** a president to research in more detail. Find out:

What were their main achievements, any significant laws passed or wars won?

Why might some people criticise them?

Task four

The great thing about G&P is that it is all around us and there are some great programmes you can watch. Click on the links below and watch the following:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p07b7mx9/focus-theresa-mays-political-career>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p07v8xrr/election-2019-do-parties-still-matter>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p07f55h1/the-big-interviews-boris-johnson-interview-in-full>

These are also fun to listen too...

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000fx2y>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p02qghjk>

Task five

Start a political diary and aim to summarise a politics story from a newspaper and listen to a radio programme or a podcast each week. You will be amazed at how quickly you start to pick things up. Be selective: I have many resources you can use. However, don't get overwhelmed.

Newspapers

The Week (<http://subscription.theweek.co.uk/subscribe/>)
The Economist (<https://subscriptions.economist.com>)
The Guardian <http://www.guardian.co.uk/>
The Telegraph <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/>
The Independent <http://www.independent.co.uk/>
The Times <http://www.thetimes.co.uk/>
BBC News <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/>

Web Links

- BBC – Politics section – http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/default.stm
- Democracy live – <http://news.bbc.co.uk/democracylive/hi>
- The Guardian – <http://politics.guardian.co.uk/>
- History Learning Site – www.historylearningsite.co.uk/gbpolitics.htm
- Tutor2u – www.tutor2u.net/revision_notes_politics.asp
- UK Parliament – www.parliament.uk
- 10 Downing Street – www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page1.asp
- Wikipedia – www.wikipedia.org
- The Conservative Party – www.conservatives.com/
- The Labour Party – www.labour.org.uk/home
- The Liberal Democrats – www.libdems.org.uk/
- UK Polling Data <http://ukpollingreport.co.uk/>

BBC TV and Radio Programmes

BBC Parliament

- Daily Politics
- The Politics Show
- Question Time
- Andrew Marr Show
- The Westminster Hour
- Beyond Westminster
- The Week in Westminster

Podcasts

<https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/alevel-politics-podcast>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/search?q=politics&suggid=>

<http://www.politics.co.uk/podcast/>

https://www.learnoutloud.com/category_podcast.php?cat=0&catid=26&level=0&id=26&

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/series/politicsweekly>

<https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2018/jun/17/political-podcasts-10-of-the-best>