

A Level Politics: Bridging Work 2025

Introduction

Welcome to A Level Politics. At A Level, you will be expected to immerse yourself in politics on a daily basis. You will need to stay abreast of current affairs in both the UK and the US, be aware of major political developments and be able to apply these in your written work.

This kind of knowledge will not be 'set' as homework; it is a basic expectation and requirement of studying Politics at A Level. You should be aware of the latest developments *before* arriving to lessons, rather than waiting to be told.

Focus of bridging work

Therefore, it is important that you get into good habits *before* you begin the course. The purpose of this bridging work is therefore to ensure that you are:

- In good listening, reading and watching habits, aware of ways in which you can access politics on a daily basis
- Aware of the expectations of the course
- Abreast of recent political events and key figures
- Knowledgeable about how UK Politics and Parliament works

Required equipment/resources

Please complete all tasks on paper. If typed, please have this printed ready for your first lesson. In addition, you will also need the following links for selected tasks.

Task One - <https://www.klshistory.co.uk/a-level-politics.html>

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

Task Three - <https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Politics/2017/Teaching%20and%20learning%20materials/a-level-politics-2024-uk-general-election-case-study.pdf>

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

Task Five - <https://www.gov.uk/government/ministers>

Task Six - <https://jcooss.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Politics-Find-your-Way-Booklet.pdf>

If you have any questions about the bridging work, please contact Mrs Hardingham or Mr Moyo.

Tasks

Task One: What is expected of me in Y12?

Read the course guide IN FULL at:
<https://www.klshistory.co.uk/a-level-politics.html>

You will be given an updated copy of this booklet in September, but it is important that you take the time now to get to grips with the course.

Take some time to look through the website too, especially wider reading and viewing:
<https://www.klshistory.co.uk/wider-reading--viewing.html>

Task Two: Key Words

A secure grasp of political terminology is essential in A Level Politics. These will also help you access and complete the rest of the bridging work tasks.

Read 'UK Parliament: How it Works' here:
<https://assets-learning.parliament.uk/uploads/2019/12/How-it-Works-booklet.pdf>

Find and write down definitions for the following key words.

Key Words:

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
Parliamentary Reform Acts
1911 and 1949
Human Rights Act 1998
Constitutional Reform Act
2005
Fixed Term Parliament Act
2011
House of Commons
Constituency
Frontbencher
Backbench MP
The Speaker
The Opposition
House of Lords
Crossbencher
Life Peer
Hereditary Peer

A-Level Politics Paper 1 & 2 Course Guide



Essential Information:
Teaching Staff: Miss Hardingham
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Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel Level 3
Advanced GCE in Politics (9PPL0)
Resources: Teams & www.klshistory.co.uk
Compulsory textbook: Pearson Edexcel A
level Politics, Jenkins, Jeffries and Tuck,
(May 2019) Hodder



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Select Committee
Legislative
Committee
Government Bills
Private Members Bills
Political Party
Party Whips
Party Rebel
Coalition government
Partisan
Partisan Dealignment
Pressure Group
Sectional Pressure Group
Causal Pressure Group
Insider Pressure Group
Outsider Pressure Group
Lobbying
Petition

Task Three: A guide to the 2024 General Election

Higher marks in essays are awarded for up-to-date, recent examples. This is why ongoing engagement in politics is essential to be successful at A Level. This also means that you will need to have secure knowledge of the 2024 General Election, as it is the UK's most recent election.

Task: Use the Pearson Edexcel Case Study booklet below to create a guide to the 2024 Election. Your guide **must** include the following:

1. Context – the 2019-24 Parliament
2. A brief summary of each party's manifesto promises
3. Key features of the campaigns
4. Analysis of the final results – i.e. which party won, number of seats [and %] won per party.
5. Significant voting trends and behaviour – i.e. Turnout, tactical voting, age, gender, class, increased number of independent candidates, or any other noticeable trends.

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Politics/2017/Teaching%20and%20learning%20materials/a-level-politics-2024-uk-general-election-case-study.pdf>

Criteria:

- ✓ No more than 1-2 sides of A4
- ✓ Correct SPaG
- ✓ Figures and statistics
- ✓ Pictures [even memes]
- ✓ Graphs / charts
- ✓ Ideally creative.

Additional sources of information:

- House of Commons Library analysis [this is the most accurate] - <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-10009/CBP-10009.pdf>
- BBC News - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/crggn4j2lm0t>
- Sky news - <https://election.news.sky.com/elections/general-election-2024>
- YouGov [UK polling company] - <https://yougov.co.uk/politics/articles/49978-how-britain-voted-in-the-2024-general-election>
- Ipsos Mori [UK polling company, more detailed] - <https://www.ipsos.com/en-uk/uk-opinion-polls/how-britain-voted-in-the-2024-election>
- Electoral Dysfunction's two-part explainer on the 2024 Election:
 - Episode 1 - <https://open.spotify.com/episode/6djUctvZCTuAvrM0X3vm2p?si=f747aaa1c3e94387>
 - Episode 2 - <https://open.spotify.com/episode/6tBtJXbLwzIM9sINAdQik7?si=9a029a947468462f>

Task Four: What does an MP actually do?

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>

You will be asked about this in your first lesson.

MP For A Week



Task Five: Who's who of British politics

Create a guide to British political figures i.e. a 'who's who of British politics?' Your guide **must** include the **names** of the following:

1. Current Cabinet members
2. Current Shadow-cabinet members
3. Current leaders of key political parties [Conservative, Labour, LibDem, Reform UK, SNP, Green Party, DUP, Sinn Fein, Plaid Cymru]
4. Current First Ministers [of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland]
5. The Speaker of the House of Commons [since 2009]
6. Former leaders of 'major' political parties *since 1997* [Conservative, Labour, LibDem]
7. Other lesser-known but significant individuals we will use as key examples for certain essays: *Dominic Cummings, Nigel Farage, Caroline Lucas, Douglas Carswell* [describe who they are / why they are significant]
8. Political editors for mainstream TV news channels [The BBC, ITV News, Sky News, Channel 4]

Criteria:

- ✓ Accurate and up-to-date lists of political figures
- ✓ Correct SPaG
- ✓ Pictures of individuals [not all, but at least the key ones]
- ✓ Ideally creative, but just a list on lined paper is fine!

Sources of information:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/ministers>
- Party websites e.g. www.conservatives.com/, labour.org.uk/
- <https://members.parliament.uk/>
- www.google.co.uk

Task Six: How does the UK government work?

Read the booklet 'Find Your Way' here: <https://icoss.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Politics-Find-your-Way-Booklet.pdf>

Answer the following in detail (you should aim to write at least a paragraph per question).

- 1) What are the three main principles of modern democracy?
- 2) What are the principles of the UK's constitution?
- 3) How did the UK work with the EU?
- 4) Create a labelled and detailed diagram that explains how the UK Parliament works. It must include the three main elements and explain how each element functions. You may wish to create three separate diagrams.
- 5) What is the difference between a general and select committee?
- 6) How far is the UK Parliament truly democratic? (hint: House of Lords)
- 7) How is a law passed through the UK Parliament?
- 8) Why do different types of elections exist in the UK? What are their functions?
- 9) Describe at least four different voting systems, including their pros and cons.
- 10) What are the functions of a political party?
- 11) Which political parties exist in the UK and what do they believe? (you will need to research their manifestos)
- 12) What are pressure groups and what methods do they use? Give at least one example of a specific pressure group.
- 13) How can people get involved in politics? List at least 5 ways.

Task Seven: Wider Watching/Listening

Please get into the habit of **watching / listening** to at least ONE of the following on a weekly basis. You will be asked to talk about this show / podcast / programme in your first lesson.

- *The Today Show* (BBC Radio Four 6-9am, daily)
- *The Rest is Politics*, Alastair Campbell and Rory Stewart (Podcast – Wednesday & Thursday)
- *Leading*, Alastair Campbell and Rory Stewart (Podcast - Monday)
- *The A Level Politics Show*, Nick DeSouza (Podcast)
- *Prime Minister's Question Time* (Parliament TV - Wednesdays 12pm when in session)
- *Question Time* (BBC1 - Thursdays 10.40pm)
- *Have I got News for You* (BBC1 - Fridays 9pm)
- *Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg* (Sunday - 9am)
- *Electoral dysfunction* (Podcast - Friday)

Wider engagement and challenge tasks

A wide range of additional reading and viewing options can be found in the course guide and here: <https://www.klshistory.co.uk/wider-reading--viewing.html> . Specifically, **we would highly recommend:**

To watch

One **film** you should watch this summer:

- *Brexit: The Uncivil War*, 2019: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt8425058/>



Two **BBC Teach series** you should trawl through before starting the course:

- *Exploring the House of Commons*, BBC Teach <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/articles/zfjh8xs>
- *How Government Works*, BBC Teach <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/articles/zbpdf4j>

Three **documentaries** you should watch this summer:

- *The Rise and Fall of Boris Johnson*, Channel 4 2023 <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/the-rise-and-fall-of-boris-johnson>
- *The Cameron Years*, BBC 2019 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZ16fp2451w>
- *Blair and Brown: The Labour Revolution*, BBC 2021 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/p09wg9cm/blair-brown-the-new-labour-revolution>

To listen

One **radio programme** you should get into the habit of listening to, daily if possible:

- *The Today Show* (BBC Radio Four 6-9am, daily)

Two **radio stations** you should get into the habit of listening to, daily if possible:

- BBC Radio Four
- LBC

Three **podcast series** you should listen to on a weekly basis throughout your A Level course:

- *The Rest is Politics*, Alastair Campbell and Rory Stewart (Podcast – Wednesday & Thursday)
- *Leading*, Alastair Campbell and Rory Stewart (Podcast - Monday)
- *The A Level Politics Show*, Nick DeSouza (Podcast)



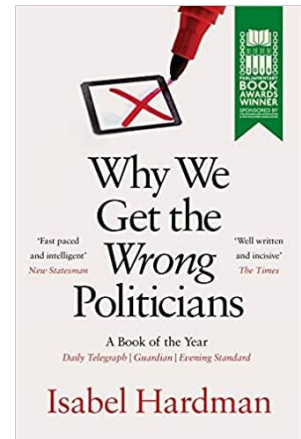
To read

One **magazine** you should read start reading once a fortnight:

- Private Eye <https://www.private-eye.co.uk/>

Two **books** you should read this summer:

- *Why we get the wrong politicians*, Isabel Hardman, 2018
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Why-We-Get-Wrong-Politicians/dp/1782399739>
- *Politics on the Edge*, Rory Stewart, 2023
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Politics-Edge-Memoir-Rory-Stewart/dp/1787332713>



Three **news sites/blogs** you could follow and read on a daily basis:

- Politics Online newsletter FREE subscription [created by examiners]
<https://www.politicsonline.co.uk/newslettersignup>
- BBC News <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>
- Sky News <https://news.sky.com/uk>

