

A Level Politics: Bridging Work 2024

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 to 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

Please note: At the time of writing this bridging work, a General Election has just been called. When you complete this bridging work, the General Election will have happened. You will be expected to have knowledge of this election, the campaigns and results when you start the course.

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 a 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: A guide to the 2024 General Election

Create a guide to the 2024 Election. Your guide **must** include the following:

1. A list of the main parties who campaigned
2. A brief summary of each party's manifesto promises
3. The final results – i.e. which party won, number of seats won per party
4. Any significant moments from the election night

Criteria:

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

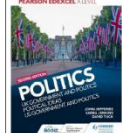
Sources of information:

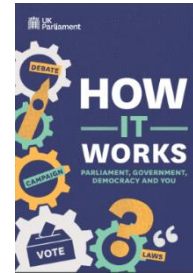
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>
- <https://news.sky.com/>
- <https://yougov.co.uk/>
- Party websites e.g. www.conservatives.com/, [/labour.org.uk/](http://labour.org.uk/), www.snp.org/
- www.google.co.uk
- Anything from the reading/viewing lists on the website and in the course guide:
<https://www.klshistory.co.uk/a-level-politics.html>

A-Level Politics Paper 1 & 2 Course Guide



Essential Information:
Teaching Staff: Miss Hardingham
hardinghamc@kls.herts.sch.uk
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





Task Three: Key Words

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	Executive	Select Committee
Suffrage	Judiciary	Legislative
Political Participation	Parliamentary Reform Acts	Committee
Democracy	1911 and 1949	Government Bills
Direct Democracy	Human Rights Act 1998	Private Members Bills
Representative Democracy	Constitutional Reform Act	Political Party
Member of Parliament (MP)	2005	Party Whips
General Election	Fixed Term Parliament Act	Party Rebel
Devolution	2011	Coalition government
Devolved Assemblies	House of Commons	Partisan
Parliament	Constituency	Partisan Dealignment
By-election	Frontbencher	Pressure Group
Referendum	Backbench MP	Sectional Pressure Group
Manifesto	The Speaker	Causal Pressure Group
First-Past-The-Post (FPTP)	The Opposition	Insider Pressure Group
Constitution	House of Lords	Outsider Pressure Group
Uncodified Constitution	Crossbencher	Lobbying
Parliamentary sovereignty	Life Peer	Petition
Legislature	Hereditary Peer	

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:

5. Current Cabinet members
6. Current Shadow-cabinet members
7. Current leaders of key political parties [Conservative, Labour, SNP, LibDem, Green, DUP, Sinn Fein, Plaid Cymru, Reform UK]
8. Current First Ministers [of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland]
9. The Speaker of the House of Commons [since 2009]
10. Former leaders of core political parties *since 1997* [Conservative, Labour, SNP, LibDem]
11. Other significant individuals we will learn about: *Dominic Cummings, Nigel Farage, Caroline Lucas, Douglas Carswell* [describe who they are / why they are significant]
12. 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/, www.snp.org/
- <https://members.parliament.uk/>
- www.google.co.uk
- Anything from the reading/viewing lists on the website and in the course guide:
<https://www.klshistory.co.uk/a-level-politics.html>

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)

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 – www.bbc.co.uk/news

Task Three - <https://assets-learning.parliament.uk/uploads/2019/12/How-it-Works-booklet.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://jcross.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Politics-Find-your-Way-Booklet.pdf>

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)



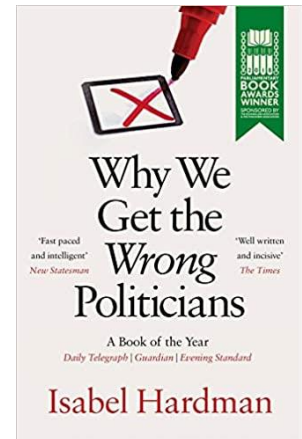
To read

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 and apps** you should follow and read on a daily basis:

- BBC News <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>
- Sky News <https://news.sky.com/uk>
- The Independent <https://www.independent.co.uk/>