



Welcome to A Level Politics

Your course

You will be studying AQA A Level Course Code 7152. Details of the specification and course assessment can be found here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/politics/a-level/politics-7152>

We encourage you to become familiar with the course specification as soon as you start your course in September.



"There's never been a better time to study Politics."

Firstly, thanks for choosing to take A Level Politics, an amazing subject and a fascinating course, which I am sure that you will enjoy hugely.

It is vital that you engage in Politics by reading newspapers, watching the news, listening to podcasts and discussing current affairs with friends and family.

Our survey that I carried out with outgoing Year 13s showed not only that they loved the A Level but also the ones who got the most out of it were the ones who immersed themselves in the subject. I and the rest of the Politics team are hugely looking forward to teaching you for the next couple of years.

Here are your tasks for the summer, which should keep you busy. To keep things simple, I am asking you to bring all work, as a complete project to your first Politics lesson. Please email me on jellis@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk if you have any questions on the tasks or about the course in general.

Mr Ellis

Summer bridging work

Read through carefully to make sure you understand what you are required to hand in. **You will need to hand in this work during your first lesson in September.**

You are required to complete **ALL** of the activities in this transition pack for submission to Mr Ellis for your FIRST Politics lesson. **The A Level in Politics is a fun, embracing yet challenging qualification.** It will develop your thinking skills and vastly expand your knowledge of politics both in the UK and in the wider world. There will be eight taught hours per fortnight. It is then expected that students spend the equivalent class time outside class (free periods/home) on outside reading.

Warm up task

First up, have a go at the Political Compass test, you do not have to reveal your answers but will get you thinking.

<https://www.politicalcompass.org/test/en>

Politics in the UK

This is a detailed and comprehensive assignment that you have been given. **Do not rush it. You should expect to spend longer on these tasks than any homework you have completed before.** A Level Politics will be a significant step up from the work you have completed in Year 11.

Task One – People in Politics

- a) Look at the below photographs of British politicians. You must identify who they are which party they belonged to and whether or not they were Prime Minister (PM) or Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition (HMO). Get your family involved in this task – your parents will remember many of these faces, if you don't (Number 1 is top left – number 10 is bottom right)



b) There are four 'great offices of state' in the UK. Look up what these are, who currently hold these positions and what they involve.

Task Two – News and Elections – keeping a news journal

Politics is a subject, which cannot be unplugged from news and current affairs. Twitter is seen by some to be the best way to follow Politics – journalists, politicians and politicians use it alike to share news and information as well as discuss political issues. I would advise that you create yourselves Twitter accounts as soon as possible and follow the below users for Political information and news:

You **must** follow the St George's Politics social media accounts if you do not already:

Instagram : [@stgeorgespolitics](#)

Twitter : [@stgeorgesgovpol](#)

You should also follow these Twitter accounts:

@Britainelects (for news and updates on all things electoral in the UK)

@BBCNews / @SkyNews (or any other news station of your choice – or even more than one!)

@bbcquestiontime (the UK's most-watched political talk-show: BBC Question Time)

@AmpColl_GovPol

@RishiSunak (UK Prime Minister)

@POTUS (the president of the United States of America)

@DEEUgov (The Department for Exiting the European Union)

@politicsforall (Good for summarising Politics from other sources)

@politicsJOE_UK

@LBC

@swchspolitics

In addition, a range of political journalists like...

@mrjamesob (James O'Brien)

@SophyRidgeSky (Sophy Ridge)

@maitlis (Emily Maitlis)

@nickferrariLBC

@NIAbbot

Your second task is to keep an eye on these Twitter accounts (as well as wider sources – the news and shows on TV, newspapers and others) over the summer and make a note of any particularly interesting news that is relevant to Politics in the UK and the USA.

You **need** to purchase a diary or journal with dates and make a note of key events that happen over the summer – can you update this at least once a week.

Task Three – British Political History

You should create an A3 or A4 Political History timeline for the UK. On your timeline you should include a number of features such as (but not necessarily ONLY these – and for an extension, include the dates at which major UK political parties were founded):

The signing of the Magna Carta, the opening of the House of Commons, the introduction of the Bill of Rights, the Act of Union, Representation of the People Acts and European Communities Act, European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020.

Task Four – Parties and Issues

To start, you should quickly research the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat parties. What do they stand for? Then, use the internet, textbooks and your imagination to create your own political party which will stand at the next election. You should include the party's name, some points as to what the party stands for and three key policies your party will introduce if they are elected including **why** you would introduce them. These policies will cost money - will people have to pay more tax or would you make savings elsewhere? You have to **justify** your decisions. Some topics to consider might be:

Health
Crime
The European Union
Housing
Education

You will be issued with textbooks at the start of Year 12; however, I do recommend purchasing your own copy of the core textbook:

a) So, that you can use it to help you over the summer **and**

b) It means that you can make notes and mark it, which you will not be able to do with a school copy.

Please see link below for textbook.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/AQA-level-Politics-Government-Comparative/dp/1398311324>

If you have any further questions, you can email me on jellis@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk