



DIXONS
SIXTH FORM
BRADFORD

SUMMER WORK

**A LEVEL
POLITICS**

STUDENT NAME:

20
26

Contents

About the Summer Work.....	2
Welcome to Politics	3
Subject outline.....	3
Careers & Higher Education	4
Links to key information:	4
Summer Work Tasks	5
Task One: Short research task.....	5
Task Two: Who are these people and why are they important in Politics?	8
Task Three: Long Answer Questions	11
Task Four: Ideology Research Task.....	12
Reading list	Error! Bookmark not defined.



About the Summer Work

This booklet contains a number of tasks that students are expected to complete to a good standard in order to be able to be enrolled in this subject.

Please complete these tasks on A4 paper and bring them with you to your first lesson.
The work handed in should be:

- written in black or blue ink on A4 lined paper
- written in full sentences with no copying and pasting from external sources
- have all compulsory tasks completed
- Have students' full names on each sheet
- multiple sheets should be connected together

This booklet also contains significant additional information and a range of optional tasks. We would encourage you to complete all the tasks including the optional ones to fully prepare for Sixth Form study.

Welcome to Politics

Subject outline

Welcome First Year Politics students, you have made an excellent choice in taking a subject that will help you understand how the world works and your place in it. We are living in *unprecedented* times, there has never been a better time to study this subject. Brexit, Covid-19 and the recent US and UK elections have all changed the world we live in. This is a time of great change and this subject will be an able guide to help you understand what is going on, why it is happening and how you can make a change.

Great Politics students are highly engaged with the news, keep up to date with a range of newspapers and often are quite active on political social media. Politics requires students to read large volumes of information and be able to write detailed and focused essays, so it is a subject for those who enjoy expressing their opinions. We expect students to regularly spend time looking at BBC News, the Guardian, the Times, the Economist and Politico, as well as listening to the *Today* programme on Radio 4 and watching *Question Time* on Thursdays. Keeping up with what is going on in UK and US Politics is essential for success in this subject.

The course is made up of 3 examined units that all take place at the end of Year 2:

Paper 1 UK Politics and Core Ideology - 2 hour paper 33%

Paper 2 UK Government and Non-Core Ideology (Feminism) - 2 hour paper 33%

Paper 3 USA Politics - 2 hour paper 33%

We spend the first year investigating British politics- we look at how our democratic institutions work, what factors in society lead to political action, and interrogate the dominant ideologies that underpin British politics - Liberalism, Socialism, Conservatism and Feminism.

In the second year we jump into US politics, and there is so much going on. What is happening between Iran and the USA? What happened to President Trump's tariffs? Will the democrats stage a comeback in the November elections? We also ask how much power the US president should have, compared with how much power he does have!

Careers & Higher Education

Politics is a great A level in terms of careers, as it is highly versatile. Many students who take Politics are unsure what to expect, but often enjoy it so much that they end up taking it as their University course. Politics is highly relevant and is really useful for any job that has to react to political events such as journalism, the law, finance, consultancy, accountancy, local government and civil service sector jobs. In terms of degrees, Politics is excellent preparation for Politics, History, Economics, Law, Sociology, Public Policy, Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE), English and Geography. It is well suited to any degree centred on extended writing and analysis of large volumes of information.

Politics, like other essay- based subjects, is excellent for providing students with a range of desirable and useful service sector skills. You have to be able to read and research topics rapidly and effectively, summarise and explain challenging concepts, build persuasive, carefully evidenced arguments and be able to critically analyse a range of different arguments and situations. These skills are desirable across a range of different sectors from business and finance, to local and national politics and academia.

The local labour market has relevant jobs in the education, legal and public administration sectors, there over 150,000 jobs in West Yorkshire that would welcome students with a Politics qualification. Communication skills are identified as the highest single skill requirement in Yorkshire. This is something that Politics is particularly good at developing as constant debates and discussions are how we teach and writing effective written reports are what we aim for to ensure exam success. All of this is also supplemented by the fact the recent creation of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Mayor, currently Tracy Brabin, has created a number of specifically political jobs and opportunities in West Yorkshire, on top of the numerous Councillor and Civil Servant roles that exist across the region.

We currently have two former students elected to Bradford's Council.

Links to key information:

Course information guide:

<https://www.dixons6a.com/uploads/files/Politics.pdf>

Specification:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/politics-2017.html>

Summer Work Tasks

Task One: Short research task (90 minutes)

Use the following link and your own research to help you answer the questions below:

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

Ensure that you answer in your own words; **do not copy and paste!**

Page 6	What is democracy?	
Page 6	What are the 5 features of liberal democracies?	1 2 3 4 5
Page 7	What is the difference between direct and representative democracy?	

Page 7	What are the differences between the delegate and Burkean concepts of representation?	
Page 8	What is the difference between an election and a referendum?	
Page 10	What are the 3 most important <u>advantages</u> of referendums?	1 2 3
Page 10	What are the 3 most important <u>disadvantages</u> of referendums?	1 2 3
Page 12	What is a constitution? What does it mean to describe the UK's constitution as uncodified?	
Pages 13-15	Explain Parliament's	

	<u>Representational</u> <u>role</u>	
Pages 13-15	Explain Parliament's <u>Scrutiny</u> role	
Pages 13-15	Explain Parliament's <u>debate</u> <u>role</u>	
Page 17	What are the three types of members in the House of Lords? (explain what each type is)	1 2 3
Page 17	What are the benefits of having a second law making chamber?	1 2 3
Pages 24-25	Give an example of a political campaign which is <u>raising</u> <u>awareness</u>	
Pages 24-25	Give an example of a political campaign using a <u>petition</u>	
Pages 24-25	Give an example of a political campaign using <u>direct action</u>	
Pages 24-25	Give an example of a political campaign using <u>popular</u> <u>protest</u>	
Pages 24-25	Give an example of a political campaign using <u>lobbying</u>	

Task Two: Who are these people and why are they important in Politics? (90 minutes)

Use the following links and your own research to find out:

	Name & Link	Significance?
	Keir Starmer https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4nn78d1djro	

	John Swinney https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn03klze4m6o	
	Kemi Badenoch https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c1d59k513qgo	
	Alexander 'Boris' Johnson https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-politics-49090445	
	Liz Truss https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-62750866	

	Andy Burnham https://manchesterreporter.co.uk/andy-burnham/ https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cp8pml5z8p6o	
	Rhun Ap Iorwerth (his name is pronounced "Reen app yore-eth") https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cxee8lgz44ko	
	Angela Rayner https://news.sky.com/story/angela-rayner-uks-new-deputy-prime-minister-and-levelling-up-secretary-12978052	
	Wes Streeting https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2026/may/14/wes-streeting-how-the-grandson-of-an-armed-robber-became-a-key-player-in-uk-politics	

Task Three: Long Answer Questions

(120 minutes)

It is an important time to be studying US and UK politics. To help you gain an understanding of current events please create a document which describes the five most important UK political stories of the Summer.

Part 1

For each story explain what has happened, and why. Explain the implications of the story and why it is controversial. You might want to compare various viewpoints on the story and use a range of sources.

Place those stories in order of importance.

Part 2

Write a few sentences explaining why you have ordered them in the way that you have.

Task Four: Democracy research and writing task (150 minutes)

One of the major topics of our course is democracy. This is the concept that the people ought to have decision making power in our system. With that in mind we would like you to use the following resources to draw up a list of reasons why the UK might be considered to be an effective democracy, and a list of reasons why the UK may fail to be a full democracy

Feel free to select any ideas you feel are appropriate. Bring in some examples into your arguments and see if you can say which ones are most important and why.

- [Here](#) is an introduction to the concept of democracy.
- To give you some ideas you may wish to listen to the '[Rethinking Representation](#)' or the '[Can Democracy work](#)' podcasts on BBC Radio 4.
- [Here](#) is some research from the House of Lords You can also do any other research you want.
- [Here](#) are some of the failings of the UK's democracy.

This should be at least a page long. You could create either a table or a pair of mind maps.

Finally...

Download these apps:



(BBC News; The Guardian; X/Twitter)

If you haven't made a Twitter/ X account, it is vital to do so now. It is an excellent resource to help you broaden your subject knowledge and keep up to date with current developments. When you have created your own account, follow these:

@a_levelpolitics

@unherd

@PoliticsJOE_UK

@GuidoFawkes

@novaraedia

Make sure that you check it and read some of the articles that are shared there every week.

Listen to and watch:

Podcasts:



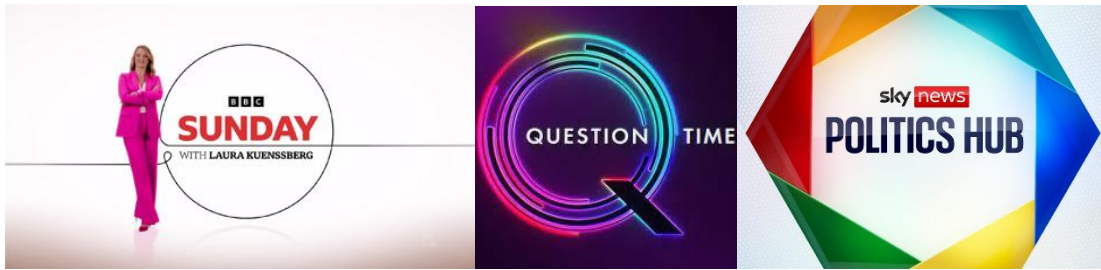
Watch these

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Subscribe to these YouTube channels

<https://www.youtube.com/@PoliticsJOE>

<https://www.youtube.com/@Vox>

<https://www.youtube.com/@restispolitics>

<https://www.youtube.com/@Bungacast>

<https://www.youtube.com/@ITVNews>

<https://www.youtube.com/@TheEconomist>



Listen to these on the radio



Read these newspapers:

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**The
Guardian**

**The
Economist**

NewStatesman

The Telegraph


THE TIMES

**THE
SPECTATOR**

Further reading

Politics is a subject which relies on your building up your subject knowledge. It links well with History, Law, Politics and English Literature. It is good to get into the habit of reading widely around the subject.

For those of you interesting in more, please read [Talking To My Daughter by Y.Varoufakis](#)

THE SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER

YANIS
VAROUFAKIS

Talking to
My Daughter



A BRIEF HISTORY
OF CAPITALISM

'Utterly accessible, deeply humane
and startlingly original'

NAOMI KLEIN

VINTAGE

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