

Useful websites (you MUST keep up to date with current political events)

<https://www.parliament.uk/> (use the ABOUT section and explore each part to learn the basics of how our system works there are helpful guides and videos)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/commons/>- House of Commons events and current legislation

<https://www.parliament.uk/lords/> House of Lords UK events and current legislation

<https://www.gov.uk/> official website of the government- useful for keeping track of current issues for debate and legislation which is being considered or passed.

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics> A news website useful for current affairs and scrutiny (criticism) of the government it is a left wing leaning paper (not extreme left wing!)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/politics> A news website useful for current affairs and reports on government developments. It is supposed to be unbiased but the BBC has many right wing (not extreme) editors and political writers.

https://getrevising.co.uk/resources/edexcel_politics_unit_1_and_unit_2_complete_notes
Extra revision notes although please be aware- these are labelled COMPLETE notes and they are NOT! They are useful though for the content which is there. Examples do need updating.

ESSENTIAL TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Participate in lessons- ask and answer questions
- Make detailed and thorough notes- keep organised.
- Make a folder- use dividers to keep your notes organised-

Section 1: Transition Work

Section 2: UK Politics Paper 1

Section 3: UK Government Paper 2

Section 4: Essays and feedback with model essays

- Read widely and thoroughly
- Keep up to date with current affairs
- Speak to your teacher or email them regularly for help and support
- Reflect on your essays and where you can improve your work
- Debate issues and current affairs with friends and family



TASK 1: Glossary-

Government and Politics is a NEW subject so you will find it difficult at first. The first thing to help you feel more confident is finding out the meaning of key terms and words which are unfamiliar. Try and find out the meaning of the key words below and write a definition of each into the box by the side. The first two have been done for you.

Key Word/Term	Meaning
Government	<p>The people with power and authority to govern (rule) a state (political area- usually a country). The government of any country is usually split into 3 parts.</p> <p>The EXECUTIVE branch- which makes POLICIES or suggestions for laws which should be passed. In the UK this is the government (Prime Minister and his or her Cabinet of Ministers)</p> <p>The LEGISLATIVE branch-which passes the laws or legislation after they are suggested by the executive. In the UK this is the Houses of Parliament (House of Commons and House of Lords)</p> <p>The JUDICIAL branch- which rules on whether the laws are fair and also upholds the laws. In the UK this is all of the courts with the SUPREME COURT at the very top level.</p>
Politics	This is the process of problem solving- trying to manage the resources in a state (political area- usually a country), the people and ensure that everything runs smoothly. Politics is also the relationship between the government and the governed (citizens).
Legislation	
Cabinet	
House of Commons	
House of Lords	
Monarch	
Parliament	
Election	
Referendum	
First Past the Post	
MP	

Lord/ Peer	
Supreme Court	
Democracy	
Minister	
Constituency	
Front Bencher	
Back Bencher	

Task 2

Over the summer we would like you to keep a diary of key political events that happen. You must then find *at least* two different points of view from sources with different opinions that help explain these political events. These events may be local, national or international in nature.

Date	Description	Source 1 eg - The Guardian newspaper	Source 2
1/8/21	<i>MP So-and-so resigned.</i>	<i>In the Sun newspaper, Blah Blah said "Yadda, yadda, Yadda."</i>	<i>However, on the Andrew Marr Show, Kier Starmer said "Dinky dink dink."</i>

The following sources could be used help you, but of course you are able to use other reputable sources:

- www.bbc.co.uk
- www.guardian.co.uk
- BBC iPlayer – News

Shows

- Panorama
- Question Time - BBC - Thursdays
- BBC Parliament – Prime Minister’s questions (PMQs)
- Daily Politics - BBC
- Sunday Politics - BBC - Sunday 12:00pm
- The Andrew Marr Show – BBC - Sunday 9:00 am
- Channel 4 News – Weekdays 7:00pm
- Sky News – 24 hour
- BBC News channel - 24 hour

More you can do...

For those of you who may already feel that Politics is the direction you want to head in, or if you just want to get the most out of studying A Level Politics; have a look at the top tips below. In many ways these suggestions go beyond the scope of the A Level course but would be excellent for demonstrating to universities and employers that you are passionate about politics.

Remember that at university Politics can be studied as a single subject or in conjunction with a huge range of other subjects such as History, Geography, Economics, Business and English to name but a few. Beyond university a number of careers will require political awareness and a solid understanding of political system

- Keeping up with current affairs is a must for all Politics students but you may wish to take a deeper look. The Economist, Foreign Affairs and The Spectator are some of the best weekly journals. You also can not beat the ‘Today’ program on Radio 4 for daily political coverage- the Pod cast is very good.

- Read some biographies of some recent key politicians- Tony Blair- *A journey*. Barack Obama- *Dreams of my fathers* for example. For a more specialised reading lists see Mrs Oldfield.
- There are some excellent political films you could watch and write a review of, including; *The Deal*, *Nixon* and *The Iron Lady*.
- There are also very good TV series that give you an insight into the workings of government- *The Thick of it*, *The West Wing*, and a golden oldie- *Yes Minister*.
- Become a young member of one of the political parties. Attending local meetings and maybe the annual party conference will give you an invaluable insight into how political parties function.
- If not a political party, then get involved with a pressure group. There are pressure groups who campaign on a huge range of issues so there is bound to be something that sparks your interest.
- You could try and arrange work experience or a shadowing opportunity with a local councillor, you M.P. or one of your M.E.Ps. Follow these politicians on their websites and on Twitter- be aware of how they represent you.
- You could run a campaign at School or in Sixth Form where you raise awareness of a key issue.
- Get involved in the student Council- democracy in action in your school!
- Write to your local M.P. a Peer from the House of Lords, local councillor or M.E.P and invite them to come in to school to talk to your year group.
- Download the weekly House of Commons and Prime Minister's Questions Podcasts