



Shenley Brook End Sixth Form
Summer Transition Tasks for
Government & Politics

Due date Monday 11th September 2023

AQA A Level Politics

Objectives: To develop an understanding of UK Politics and understand some of the key terms for the subject

Task 1

Over the summer you should widen your political knowledge by following important and interesting stories from the world of politics in the UK. By the end of the summer, you will need to choose **one story** that you believe to have a particular significance to UK politics and be prepared to present and share this story in the first couple of weeks of year 12. In your presentation you should be able to address the following:

1. What is the story all about? (Are there key individuals? Is it part of a long running issue or is this a standalone issue?)
2. Why did you choose this story or issue?
3. Why is this story significant?
4. What can it tell us about Government and Politics in the UK?

The most important thing is that you understand your story and you can explain it to other students. The way that you present to other students is your choice, but you should aim to give a 1 to 2-minute summary of the questions above. The following websites may be useful in your research:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/>

<http://www.politics.co.uk/>

[News, sport and opinion from the Guardian's UK edition | The Guardian](#)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/>

[Simple Politics](#)

Task 2

To give yourself a head start you should create a glossary (aim for 30 words maximum for each term) of some of the most common terms used across the year. Those key terms are:

Democracy

Legitimacy

Representation

Liberal Democracy

Accountability

Mandate

Constituency
Pressure Group
First Past the Post voting system
Democratic deficit
Constitution
Parliamentary Sovereignty
Devolution
Parliamentary Government
Presidential Government
Fusion / Separation of Powers
Cabinet Government
Judicial Independence
Judicial Neutrality
Civil Liberties

Wider reading / watching

Inside the White House, Andrew Marrs History of Britain, David Cameron.

Biographies by politicians I can recommend Jon Bercow's, Robin Cook and Barrack Obama in particular, but there are many more!

There are also general introduction books to British Politics like 'dummies guide' and politics an introduction which are light reads.

Reading the news and watching Question time and PMQ also a good introduction to the subject and podcasts - I like Americast and the Global news one on BBC Sounds.

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