Shenley Brook End Sixth Form

Summer Transition Tasks

Subject:

Politics

Due date:

Monday 7 September 2026

Complete all the assessment tasks and be ready to complete the in-class assessments in your first 3 weeks of term!

Remember – this summer task and knowledge tests will be reported on in your First Progress Report on 6 October 2026

AQA A Level Politics

Objectives: To develop an understanding of UK Politics and understand some of the key terms for the subject. Two tasks to complete.

Time to spend in total – research and preparation for your essay – this needs to be written by you not AI... **approximately 7 hours.**

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 from the last 12 months and write an opinion piece/ essay about it.

In your essay you should be able to address the following criteria:

Marking Criteria – this report will be used as part of the first grade you will receive for this subject. TOTAL 25 MKS, AO1 5 MARKS AND AO2/A03 10 MARKS PER SECTION

AO1- knowledge – have you used a variety of sources, is the information accurate/ relevant? Who is involved, is this a one-off event or is it linked to other political issues?	
AO2- analysis – have you thought and commented on the significance of this event?	
AO3- evaluation- why did you chose this event and what is your opinion of it in terms of context in UK politics	

Ideas for 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. You can add additional words to your research and glossary as we go through the course.

This should be on Word though PowerPoints are also valid. Including research time this should take you 2 hours to complete.

Essential 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
Suffrage
Alternative vote
Additional Member system
Civil rights
Rational choice
Valence issues
Demographics

You will have 3 knowledge checks on these words in the first two lessons in September so make sure you know which is which!

Wider reading / watching

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

Biographies by politicians I can recommend Jon Bercow's, Rory Stewart, 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 Newscast, Americast and the Global news one on BBC Sounds. There are also many more on other podcast platform.