



A-Level Politics
Transition Tasks
Year 11 → Year 12

Compulsory Tasks These must be completed before you start your course in September	Date completed
Key UK political Knowledge In Sixth Form you are expected to arrive at your lessons having already learnt the key facts in advance. This will involve completing reading before the lesson and the completing a task or taking notes on it Complete all activities pages 1-7	
Current affairs Politics is ever changing and it is vital that you keep up to date with these changes. You must create log of 15 political UK developments that you have read about. Use the template at the end of the booklet Use these sites to help you https://www.bbc.co.uk/news https://news.sky.com/ https://www.itv.com/news/ https://www.theguardian.com/uk https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics Good podcasts: BBC Newscast, The Rest is Politics	

Challenge task	Date completed
Suggested Reading • Anthony Seldon and Daniel Collings, Britain under Thatcher (Seminar Studies In History, Routledge, 1999) • Political Ideologies by Vincent Geoghegan 10 Mar 2014 • The Politics Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained	
Suggested Videos/ films / Lectures Introduction to British Government How has Brexit reshaped British politics? Introduction to Power and Politics in Today's World	
Suggested Online Courses 1. What is politics? The politics of racial violence in Britain Understanding Political Concepts	

Activity 1

Reading [Link](#)

Task 1: Key dates in UK democratic History. Read page 4-5 in the linked article. Set it out as below

Date	What happened
1215	
1265	
1430	
1689	
1832	
1838	
1866	
1889	
1918	
1928	
1969	
1997	

Task 2: Read page 7

Define Direct and Representative democracy

Define the 3 theories of representation:

1. Delegate Theory
2. Mandate Theory
3. Burkean Theory

Task 3: Read page 8

Take note under the headings

1. General Election
2. Devolved Assembly/Parliament Elections
3. Local Elections
4. By-Elections
5. Referendums

Task 4: Read page 12

Answer the questions

2. What is an uncoded constitution
3. What does parliamentary sovereignty mean
4. What is the legislature
5. What is the executive

Task 5: Copy out each of the events in the table below and write down one way it altered politics in the UK

Event	How it altered politics in the UK
1215 Magna Carta	
1689 Bill of Rights	
1706 & 07 Acts of Union	
1832 Reform Bill	
1911 & 49 Acts of Parliament	
1958 Life Peerage Act	
1972 European Communities Act	
1998 Human Rights Act	
1998 Good Friday Agreement	
1998 The Scotland Act, Government of Wales Act	
2005 Constitutional Reform Act	
2018 EU Withdrawal Act Link	

Task 6: Read Page 20

Answer these questions

6. What is a government bill
7. What is a private members bill
8. What chamber of parliament can bills start in
9. What are the 6 stages a bill must pass through
10. What happens during the committee stage page 19
11. What has to happen before a bill can become law

Activity 2: Copy out each key term and write a definition

Key term	Definition
Legitimacy	
Pluralist democracy	
Democratic deficit	
Participation crisis	
Franchise / suffrage	
Think tanks	
Lobbyists	
Left wing	
Right wing	
First-past-the-post (FPTP)	
Additional Member System (AMS)	
Single Transferable Vote (STV)	
Supplementary Vote (SV)	
Safe seat	
Marginal seat	
Minority government	
Coalition government	
Class dealignment	
Partisan dealignment	
Governing competency	
Disillusion and apathy	

Manifesto	
Mandate	
Foundational equality	
Formal equality	
Equality of opportunity	
Social contract	
Meritocracy	
Tolerance	
Limited government	
Egoistical individualism	
Developmental individualism	
Negative freedom	
Positive freedom	
Laissez-faire	
Keynesianism	
Harm principle	
Minimal state	
Enabling state	
Hierarchy	
Authority	
Change to conserve	
Atomism	
Noblesse oblige	
Anti-permissiveness	
Radical	
Human imperfection	
Empiricism	
Fraternity	
Co-operation	
Capitalism	
Common ownership	
Communism	
Evolutionary socialism	
Marxism	
Revisionism	
Social justice	
Class consciousness	
Keynesian economics	

Activity 3

Task 1: Answer the questions below

1. What do we mean by the term cabinet	
2. Who is the current Prime minister	
3. Who is the current Home Secretary	
4. Who is the current Chancellor	
5. Who is the current Health Secretary	
6. Who is the current Education Secretary	
7. Who is the current Foreign Secretary	

Task 2: For each of the roles above describe what that role entails Set it out as below

<https://www.gov.uk/government/ministers>

An example done for you

What is the role of Prime minister	is ultimately responsible for the policy and decisions of the government. As leader of the UK government the Prime Minister also: oversees the operation of the Civil Service and government agencies. chooses members of the government.
What is the role of Home Secretary	
What is the role of Chancellor	
What is the role of Health Secretary	
What is the role of Education Secretary	
What is the role of Foreign Secretary	

Activity 4:. Read the article below and watch the clips and answer these questions

1. Describe the 4 main functions of parliament
2. List the two parts which make up the UK's parliament
3. How do you become a member of the House of Lords and how many members are there?
4. How do you become a member of the House of Commons and how many members are there?

Clips

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RAMblz3Y2JA>

<https://learning.parliament.uk/resources/what-is-the-house-of-commons-video/>

<https://learning.parliament.uk/resources/how-laws-are-made/>

<https://learning.parliament.uk/resources/who-is-in-the-house-of-lords/>

What is Parliament?

What is the job of Parliament?

The main functions of Parliament are:

1. to pass laws
2. to provide, by voting for taxation, the means of carrying on the work of government
3. to scrutinise government policy and administration, including proposals for expenditure
4. to debate the major issues of the day

Parliament is made up of 2 parts:

- The House of Lords
- The House of Commons

The House of Lords

The House of Lords is made up of people who have inherited family titles and those who have been given titles because of their outstanding work in one field or another. There are 675 members of the Lords. The main job of the House of Lords is to 'double check' new laws to make sure they are fair and will work.

The House of Commons

The House of Commons has 650 members who have been elected by local residents to represent an area of the country in Parliament. The members are called MPs (Members of Parliament). Each MP represents one of 650 constituencies (areas) in the UK and is a member of a political party, such as New Labour or the Conservative party. The Commons is the most important place for discussing policies and making laws.

Activity 5:

The two major parties in the UK are the Conservative and Labour Party. Click on the links to watch some clips and read some articles about their history and policies today. Then write a summary of what you have learnt about each 300 words on each party.

Conservative Party

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3fi-lhelrY>

<https://www.historyextra.com/period/georgian/conservative-party-history-britain-tories-facts-robert-peel-prime-ministers/>

Current policies <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-outlines-his-five-key-priorities-for-2023>

YOU MUST COMPLETE YOUR OWN RESEARCH

Labour Party

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_3A_nChO1G8

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TYNWgoIXGc>

<https://www.historyextra.com/period/20th-century/labour-party-history-facts-origin-uk-first-prime-minister-britain/>

Current policies <https://labour.org.uk/missions/>

Activity 6: YOU MUST COMPLETE YOUR OWN RESEARCH

Politics in the News

For each of your 15 entries you **MUST** set it out as below

What did you read or listen to	What you learnt [50-100 words]

Example

What did you read or listen to	What you learnt [50-100 words]
Rest is politics episode number 142 Is this the end of Boris Johnson	Boris Johnson was found guilty by the Privileges Select Committee of lying to the House of Commons and also to the committee. He was banned from parliament for 90 days. This was a very serious ban one of the longest ever recommended for a MP. As a result B Johnson resigned as a MP. He criticised the committee as unfair and undemocratic. This posed problems for the PM R Sunak as to if he should support the ban suggested by the committee and he decided he would not vote on the issue