

## Year 11-12 Transition to Politics A Level



### Welcome to Year 12!

Politics is exciting & dynamic because people disagree- they disagree about how people should live, what principles should guide behaviour, who should get what and how society should be organised. This aims to help kick-start understanding of new and specialised vocabulary, as well as offer an overview of how we got to the current state of British politics.

### Historical context of UK political system



Until the Magna Carta, England was an absolute monarchy – the King was sovereign. Today the monarchy is limited and sovereignty has passed to parliament. Separate nations have become part of UK (although there are demands for independence). Unlike many nations, there is no single point at which the UK became a modern democracy, thanks to its uncodified constitution.

### Democracy in the UK.

Explore the websites and produce the following

1. 4 Key provisions of the Magna Carta
2. comparison table of types/definitions of democracy - direct, representative
3. a glossary of new vocabulary & definitions, to include: sovereignty, franchise, democracy, the constitution, the executive, separation of powers, referendums, legitimacy, democratic deficit & turnout.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xo4tUMdAMw>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/guides/z9hnn39/revision/2>

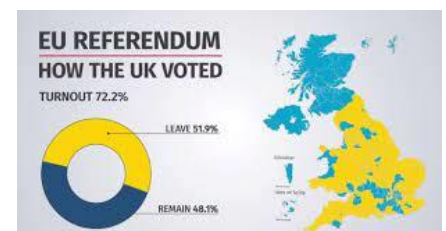
<https://www.britpolitics.co.uk/uk-elections-voting-direct-democracy>

<https://www.tutor2u.net/politics/reference/democracy>

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

### The UK political system

The traditional way of understanding British politics is the Westminster model, that is an uncodified constitution, doctrine of parliamentary sovereignty, an independent judiciary uphold the rule of law, a single party government given the plurality electoral system and a representative democracy.



The definition above has a considerable number of terms find out what they and these others mean (add to your glossary)

Elective dictatorship

legislature

judiciary

Referendum

rule of law

electoral system      convention      prorogative powers      devolution      uncodified

bicameral      Fixed Term Parliament Act      a select committee

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

1. explore the case study on referendums - why do you think there was a significantly higher turnout for the EU referendum than the AV 2011 referendum?

## The Parliamentary system



Britain has a bicameral legislature and both the House of Commons and House of Lords, make laws, check & challenge the government and represent views

Using the booklet (above) and the link below, answer the following:

1. What are the roles of MPs?
2. What are the functions of politics parties?
3. What does the House of Commons and House of Lords do?

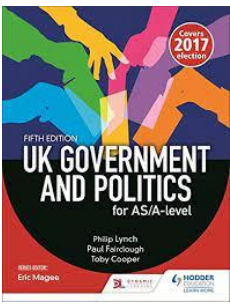
<https://www.parliament.uk/about/how/role/> - use links on this page to explore UK parliament

have a go - play the game! <https://learning.parliament.uk/en/resources/mp-for-a-week/#cta-target>

4. Watch the news over the holidays and create a 10 question (with answers) quiz - this could be in crossword/dingbat/Q&A format

## Recommended course text Y12

## Other essential components



**Blogs:** <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/>

**What could I watch?** The news! Have I got news for you, Question time, PMQs, the Mash report, The Left Leg, Panorama, Dispatches, Andrew Marr making of modern Britain,

**What can I do?** Keep an actual or virtual scrapbook of articles, headlines, current issues

UK Government and Politics for AS/A-level (Fifth Edition) by Peter Fairclough

## **Talks & Podcasts**

[https://www.ted.com/talks/roly\\_stewart\\_how\\_to\\_rebuild\\_democracy](https://www.ted.com/talks/roly_stewart_how_to_rebuild_democracy)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQSMr-3GGvQ> (facebook's role in Brexit)

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/politics/blog/2020/politics-podcasts/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qjfq/episodes/downloads>