

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. A comparison table between direct & representative democracy. What are they and their advantages/disadvantages
2. A glossary of key concepts - legitimacy, constituents, accountability, polls, representation, pluralism, decentralism, civil society, the rule of law, parliamentary sovereignty and constitution.

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

<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>

<https://studyrocket.co.uk/revision/a-level-politics-edexcel/uk-politics/democracy-and-participation>

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

uncodified

electoral system convention prorogative powers devolution

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 the EU referendum (page 11) 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 links below, answer the following:

1. What are the roles of MPs?
2. What are the functions of politics parties?
3. What does parliament 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 and create a mind map/table or spidergram of the some of the national issues and a separate one for global news.

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.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>