

Welcome to A Level Politics

Throughout your A Level studies, we would like you to have access to the following resource:
Pearson Edexcel A Level Politics 2nd edition: UK Government and Politics, Political Ideas and US Government and Politics, by Sarra Jenkins (Author), David Tuck (Author), John Jefferies (Author); Publisher: Hodder Education; ISBN: 9781398369160. This could be in either print or e-book format. <https://www.hachettelearning.com/politics/pearson-edexcel-a-level-politics-2nd-edition-uk-government-and-politics-political-ideas-and-us-gov>

Understanding UK Government and Politics Today Task 1: 2 hours

As an introduction to your A Level studies, we would like you to complete some independent research on the UK's political structures, institutions and processes. Use the How it Works booklet <https://learning.parliament.uk/en/resources/how-it-works-parliament-government-democracy-and-you-16-18-booklet/> and the hyperlinks below to gain a preliminary understanding. We will be going through it much more deeply in our studies but this research will help you to gain some foundational knowledge. Enjoy exploring and engaging with this fascinating subject and I look forward to teaching you more about it from September! 😊

Subject Content	Summary	Hyperlinks
Constitution (30 minutes)	A constitution contains the rules by which a country is organised, including the specific powers and duties of the government and the rights and responsibilities of all its people. The UK has an uncodified constitution: its rules have never been written down together in a single legal document and some have not been written down at all.	https://electoral-reform.org.uk/ Watch the video: https://consoc.org.uk/the-constitution-explained/the-uk-constitution/ Changing Britain's constitution: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h9XFTorvsBU
PM and the cabinet – The Executive (30 minutes)	The national government of the UK has responsibility for developing and implementing policy, and for drafting laws. It is also known as the Executive. Government members sit on the benches to the right of the Speaker. The cabinet is the senior decision-making body in government. Members of the cabinet are chosen by the PM of the day.	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zqd8tcw#z828h4j https://www.gov.uk/government/how-government-works https://members.parliament.uk/government/cabinet
Parliament (45 minutes)	The UK Parliament has two Houses that work on behalf of UK citizens to check and challenge the work of Government, make and shape effective laws, and debate/make decisions on the big issues of the day.	What is the House of Commons: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8GXKtvsxgdg What is the House of Lords: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a7WO4DmKvWA

		Who is in the House of Lords: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=urwQuL4pQmg Making Laws: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iM4CKYCrW7Y Take a tour of Parliament: https://learning.parliament.uk/360-parliament-tour/ https://www.parliament.uk/ https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/how-elections-work/types-elections/uk-parliament https://supremecourt.uk/
Supreme Court (15 minutes)	The UK Supreme Court is the final court of appeal in the UK for civil cases, and for criminal cases from England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Supreme Court hears cases of the greatest public or constitutional importance affecting the whole population.	

Wider Reading: Task 2: (Up to 2 hours across the summer)

Keep a **Politics Diary** to record the key political events that occur between now and when you begin your A Level Politics. This will allow you to become more familiar with the subject and will help to increase your background knowledge. Don't overwhelm yourself, just record the key facts and events. It is important that you use reliable, well researched and verifiable sources to gain your knowledge. These are useful sites:

- ★ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/politics>
- ★ <https://www.theguardian.com/politics>
- ★ <https://www.theweek.co.uk/>
- ★ <https://lgspolitics.wordpress.com/>

I would encourage you to sign up for the free newsletter from Politics Online:

<https://www.politicsonline.co.uk/politics-online-a-level-newsletter/>

Optional Extra Task: I am also a fan of podcasts for keeping me abreast of what is going on in Politics. I would recommend:

- ★ BBC Newscast <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/p05299nl>
- ★ Rest is Politics (the free episodes).

We will be studying Edexcel A Level Politics and their webpage is:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/politics-2017.html>

We look forward to you joining us for A Level Politics! 😊