

# A Level Politics Year 11

## Transition Pack

*"This isn't quite the same  
as being Mayor of London,  
is it?"*



You are required to complete **ALL** of the activities in this transition pack for submission in the first week of the new academic year. **The A Level in Politics is a fun, embracing yet challenging qualification.** It will develop your thinking skills and vastly expand your knowledge of politics both in the UK and in the wider world. There will be nine taught hours per fortnight. It is then expected that students do three to five hours per week of independent study at home and during their approximately 20 fortnightly free periods.

# Politics in the UK

This is a detailed and comprehensive assignment that you have been given. **Do not rush it.** We advise that you complete different parts of the transition pack at different points in the Summer holiday, rather than leaving it all until the final week of your break. **You should expect to spend longer on these tasks than any homework you have completed before.** A Level Politics will be a significant step up from the work you have completed in Year 11.

## People in Politics- Tasks 1 to 3

Look at the below photographs of British politicians. You must identify who they are, which party they belonged to and whether or not they were Prime Minister (PM) or Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition (HMO). Get your family involved in this task – your parents will remember many of these faces, and some of them might be better suited even to your grandparents!



You must then create a timeline of Britain's Prime Ministers- from when the name was first used until today. For each Prime Minister you should give their dates of office and why they stopped being Prime Minister- were they voted out and why? Did they resign and why?

### News and Elections- Task 3-5

Politics is a subject which cannot be unplugged from news and current affairs. Twitter is seen by some to be the future of Politics – it is used by journalists, politicians and politicians alike to share news and information as well as discuss political issues. I would advise that you create yourselves Twitter accounts as soon as possible and follow the below users for Political information and news:

**@Britainelects (for news and updates on all things electoral in the UK)**

**@BBCNews / @SkyNews (or any other news station of your choice – or even more than one!)**

**@bbcquestiontime (the UK's most-watched political talk-show: BBC Question Time)**

**@BorisJohnson (prime minister)**

**@POTUS (the president of the United States of America)**

**@DExEUgov (The Department for Exiting the European Union)**

**And a range of political journalists like Julia Hartley-Brewer, Owen Jones, etc...**

Your second task is to keep an eye on these Twitter accounts (as well as wider sources – the news and shows on TV, newspapers and others) over the Summer holidays and make a note of any particularly interesting news that is relevant to Politics in the UK. You may even find some stories which are interesting internationally, particularly if you choose to follow Donald Trump...

Thirdly, you should watch the news regularly, keeping up to date with BBC Newsnight and what's happening in America. Make this a habit.

### British Political History- Task 6

You need to create an A3 or A4 Political History timeline for the UK. On your timeline you should include a number of features such as (but not necessarily ONLY these – and for an A grade extension, include the dates at which major UK political parties were founded):

The signing of the Magna Carta, the opening of the House of Commons, the introduction of the Bill of Rights, the Act of Union, Representation of the People Acts and European Communities Act. This will be the focus of the first topic we will study next year.

### Parties and Issues- Tasks 7-9

To start, you should quickly research the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat parties. What do they stand for? Then, use the internet, textbooks and your imagination to create your own political party which will stand at the next election. You should include the party's name, some points as to what the party stands for and three key policies your party will introduce if they are elected including **why** you would introduce them. These policies will cost money - will people have to pay more tax or would you make savings elsewhere? You have to **justify** your decisions. Some topics to consider might be:

**Health**

**Crime**

**The European Union**

**Housing  
Education**

**American Politics- Task 10**

To begin with you need to have an understanding of American history and how it came to be a country in its own right. Research the American Revolution and the American Civil Wars. Make a timeline of US presidents and what they achieved in their time in office- what are they famous for? Find out about the American Constitution- what does it set out? How does it work? Then find out about the role and purpose of the President. What do they do? What are they allowed and not allowed to do?

**If you have any further questions, please contact us at the school. 😊**

**Mrs Frederick/Ms Hocking/Miss Charles**