

Transition to A-Level Politics

Over the summer you will need to complete a few tasks to help prepare you for the A-Level in Politics

This is the outline of the course components:

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
UK Government and Politics	US Government and Politics Comparative Politics	Political Ideologies

Task 1 - UK Politics

Democracy

One of the first topics you will study is 'democracy'. To understand the meaning of this you should:

Watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LX1UI0oX9DY>

This is a slightly satirised view of democracy but does give the basic ideas of what democracy means. As you watch the video, answer the following questions:

1. What is the meaning of democracy?
2. What makes up Parliament?
3. What is the difference between the House of Commons and the House of Lords?
4. What do MPs do once elected?
5. Explain the membership of the House of Lords. What do they do?

One of the methods of democracy in the UK are referendums. Read this article:

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

And complete the following tasks:

1. Explain what is a referendum is
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of referendums?

EXTENSION (optional): Watch this TedTalk on What is Democracy?

Task 2 - UK Politics

Political Ideology

Have you heard of the terms 'right wing' and 'left wing'? Research the meaning of these terms.

To find out where you might be on the political spectrum, complete this test on the political compass website: <https://www.politicalcompass.org/test>

Task 3 - UK Politics Constitution

Watch [this](#) video and write one page of notes explaining the meaning of a codified constitution and whether the UK should adopt one.

Further Reading/Extension Tasks

If you'd like to complete more tasks relating to politics you could complete one of the free online courses [here](#)

Also, have a look at the reading list below for some summer reads!

An Introduction to Political Philosophy by Jonathan Wolff.

Leviathan by Thomas Hobbes

The End of History by Francis Fukuyama

On Liberty by John Stuart Mill

Presidential Power by Richard Neustadt

British Politics: A Very Short Introduction by Tony Wright

A History of Modern Britain by Andrew Marr

Johnson at 10: The Inside Story by Anthony Seldon

The Communist Manifesto by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels

A Vindication of the Rights of Women by Mary Wollstonecraft

The Social Contract by Jean-Jacques Rousseau

The Republic by Plato

Animal Farm by George Orwell

1984 by George Orwell

But What Can I Do? by Alasdair Campbell