

Sixth form transition work – Politics

Week 1 (then continuing to the end of summer alongside additional tasks).

Current affairs:

An integral part of being a successful politics student is having a good knowledge and understanding of current political events.

Please complete the “politics news journal – summer transition” for your Week 1 task and then throughout the summer.

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Week 2

UK Politics – There has just been a general election (well 2 years ago!)

1. Who is the Prime Minister and who is in their cabinet? (Names and positions). Who is likely to be the next UK Prime Minister?
2. How many seats are there are in the House of Commons?
3. How many political parties have seats in parliament in 2026? (List the parties).
4. How many seats does each party have?
5. Complete the “politics news journal – summer transition”

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Week 3

UK Government – the basics

1. What are the 3 branches of government, what are their roles and how are they different?
2. What type of constitution does the UK have? How is this different from the USA's constitution? (2 ways it is different).
3. Identify and explain 3 differences between the House of Commons and the House of Lords.
4. Complete the “politics news journal – summer transition”.

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Week 4: UK politics

1. What is the voting age for a UK general election?
2. Who cannot vote in a UK general election?
3. There has been a lot of debate around lowering the voting age. Research and explain one argument for and one argument against lowering the voting age.
4. Do you believe that the voting age should be lowered? Justify your response.
5. Complete the “politics news journal – summer transition”.

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Week 5

UK government

1. Make a list of the UK's Prime Ministers from 1900 – present, including which party they were from.
2. Choose three of the Prime Ministers on the list and write a summary of any achievements or challenges that they faced e.g. Thatcher and the miners' strike or Churchill and WWII.
3. Complete the “politics news journal – summer transition”

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Week 6

US politics –

1. Who is the current US President? Explain a story in the news you have read about them.
2. Which parties dominate US politics?
3. How many members are in the US House of Representatives?
4. How many members are in the US Senate?
5. Research and explain a difference between the US House of Representatives and the UK House of Commons.
6. Research and explain a difference between the US Senate and the UK House of Lords.
7. Complete the “politics news journal – summer transition”

Further reading, podcasts, shows, websites etc.

1. BBC Parliament – Sky channel 504 and www.parliament.uk
2. Watch, read and listen to the news! (Channel 4, BBC, ITV, Sky, BBC Radio 4 etc).
3. Read a high-quality newspaper to keep abreast of current affairs and developments (The Guardian, The Times, The Telegraph, Financial Times (you get a free subscription if you sign up with your school email)).
4. Politics Shows: Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg; Peston; Politics Live, countless online shows
5. Podcasts: *The A-Level Politics show*, *The Rest is Politics* with Alistair Campbell and Rory Stewart, *‘Political Currency’* by Ed Balls and George Osborne, *The News Agents* with Jon Sopel and Emily Maitliss, *The Fourcast*, *The New Statesman*, *The Daily*.
6. Social Media– follow political journalists, MPs, political accounts from newspapers/tv shows, government departments etc.
7. BBC Sounds – some fantastic wide-ranging political podcasts and documentaries – explore this fantastic resource!!

Sixth Form

Suggested websites:

Any pressure group websites e.g. www.greenpeace.org.uk

www.bbc.co.uk

www.guardian.com

www.labour.org.uk

www.libdems.org.uk

www.conservative.com

www.electoral-reform.org.uk

www.statistics.gov.uk

www.washingtonpost.com

www.nytimes.com

www.washingtontimes.com

www.realclearpolitics.com

www.politics1.com

www.democrats.org

www.rnc.org