



The Bridge to Post-16 Summer Work



Politics Edexcel

This pack contains a programme of activities and resources to prepare you to embark on your Post-16 course in Politics in September.

It should be completed throughout the remainder of the Summer term and over the Summer Holidays to ensure you are ready to start your course in September.

You MUST have this pack completed before your first lesson in the subject

The resources include:

1. Links to three websites where you can research the topics you will be exploring in the course and get a flavour of what you will be learning about in Post-16
2. Research task on key pre-knowledge topics that will help you to be successful in your course.
3. Other relevant revision/questions to help bridge between GCSE and Post-16 courses
4. Suggested therapies to help you if you are struggling with the tasks

Overall we suggest you spend around 3 hours of total work working through the tasks for Politics

Therefore in total, across your 3 subjects you should be completing 9 hours of Summer Work.

Useful Websites

<https://www.prechewedpolitics.co.uk/>

<https://www.parliament.uk/education/>

<https://www.parliament.uk/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk>

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/>

<https://www.channel4.com/news/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RAMblz3Y2JA&safe=true> (links to useful videos which explain the main functions of Parliament)

Podcasts:

The News Agents

The Rest is Politics

Political Thinking with Nick Robinson

Newscast

The Economist Radio

NewStatesman Podcast

Matt Forde's Political Party

The Guardian's Politics Weekly

BBC Radio 4's The Political Party
The UK in a Changing Europe
The Times Red Box politics podcast
The Spectator Podcast
FT Politics
Ayes to the Left Show

Research Task

Create a guide to Parliament

The House of Parliament is the centre of politics in the UK! It is both the home of the UK's legislature (where laws are made) and the place where key debates are held about the key matters of the day. Students will be expected to understand the workings of Parliament (it is one of the main topics!) but also following recent developments. To help you better understand this important (but often obscure) institution and its work, you are going to create a 'Guide to Parliament'.

- A) Use the UK Parliament Website and the UK Parliament Youtube Channel to research the key information. Also check out the Institute for Government's website for 'explainers'

<https://www.parliament.uk/>

https://www.youtube.com/c/ukparliament/playlists?view=50&sort=dd&shelf_id=11

<https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/how-parliament-works>

- B) Add annotations the diagram of the Commons chamber to explain the meaning of the key terms.
- C) Find out the meaning of the other Parliament key terms.
- D) Research your local Member of Parliament and complete a biography page for them.
- E) Watch Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs). Held every Wednesday, it is the highlight of Parliament's wee. Since Parliament is in recess (holiday!) over the Summer months, you will likely need to find the most recent PMQs and watch the debate on iPlayer. Write a review of PMQs.

ALL THE RESOURCES TO COMPLETE THIS ARE BELOW!

Part A: One Page Summary Notes Page on Parliament

A) Use the UK Parliament Website and the UK Parliament Youtube Channel to research the key information. Also check out the Institute for Government's website for 'explainers'

<https://www.parliament.uk/>

https://www.youtube.com/c/ukparliament/playlists?view=50&sort=dd&shelf_id=11

<https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/how-parliament-works>

Main Points	Details
Overall Summary	

Part B. Find out the meaning of the key terms for the House of Commons. Use <https://www.parliament.uk/site-information/glossary/> to help you.

Government Front Bench/
Cabinet:

Dispatch Box:

Back Bench Member of Parliament:

Civil Servants:

Clerks:

Speaker:

Press Gallery:

The Opposition:

Leader of the Opposition:

Shadow Cabinet:

The Mace:

Hansard:



Bar of the House :

Black Rod :

Sergeant at Arms:

Part C: Find out the meaning of the other Parliament key terms.

Prime Minister's Questions	
Parliamentary Session	
Queen's Speech	
Bill	
Amendment	
Independent MP	
Coalition	
Division	
Peers	
Recess	
Vote of No-Confidence	
The Lobby	
Parliamentary Privilege	

Aye and No	
Point of Order	
Motion	
Majority	
Parliamentary Arithmetic	
Parliamentary Sovereignty	
Select Committee	
House of Lords	
Proroguing Parliament	
Front bench MP	
Parliamentary Privilege	
Opposition Days	
Party Whip	

Part D. Research your local Member of Parliament and complete a biography page for them. Use <https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>

Name:

Constituency:

Party:

Date first elected:

Share of the vote/number of votes in 2019 election:

Role in the Government (eg ministers etc) or role in Parliament (eg, Membership of Committees)?

Photo

Recent contributions to Parliament (speeches, questions, written contribution etc)

Voting Record (look at how they have voted on recent bills. Did they vote with or against the government?):

Recent news stories (what have they been up to? What views do they have on issues like Brexit, Rwanda, Boris Johnson etc)

Part E. Watch Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) on iPlayer and write a review.

What date was the PMQs held?

Summary of the topics or issues covered:

The Government:
Performance of the Prime Minister (another minister if PM not present).

What answers did they give?

How well did they come across? Did they effectively answer questions?

Strengths:

Weaknesses:



Performance of the Leader of the Opposition (or other shadow minister if PM not present)

What questions did they ask?

How well did they come across? Did they effectively challenge the PM/ Government

Strengths:

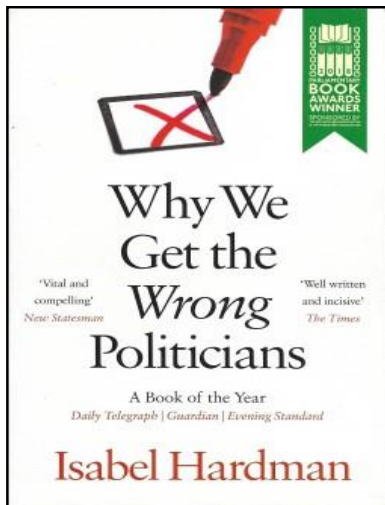
Weaknesses:



Verdict: who won? Which side (Government or Opposition) came off better? Why?

Other Tasks

Why we get the Wrong Politicians Reading Task



The most successful Politics students read widely. One of the best books to help you gain a better understanding of UK Politics is Isabel Hardman's '*Why we get the Wrong Politicians*'. Hardman is a journalist who has written for newspapers and magazines from both sides of the political spectrum. In her book she covers the role of parties, the work of MPs and Parliament in a readable, accessible manner. She also raises many of the issues and debates which you will need to form your own judgement on as part of the course.

- **Buy a copy of *WWGTWP*.** Either the kindle version (approx. £5) or a second hand copy (Amazon, ABE books etc).
- **Read the Introduction and the First Chapter** ("Getting in").
- **Use the ideas Hardman presents to create a page of *Cornell Notes*** (see next page for a blank template). Watch the explainer videos to understand how to take Cornell notes <https://lsc.cornell.edu/how-to-study/taking-notes/cornell-note-taking-system/>

Feel free to read the whole book over the summer, you will be expected to do it by January anyway as compulsory reading!

Suggestions if you are struggling

E-mail t.bithell@johntaylorfreeschool.co.uk if you have any questions about the Politics Summer Work.