

A-Level Politics Induction Day Preparation



This research-based project is designed to give you an ideal grounding for A-level study.

Research and complete at least **two tasks** to give you a good idea of what to expect on a politics course. Politics is all around us and this is a great opportunity to start exploring the great mass of sources around us. If you then choose to study politics this will give you a good head start for your A-level politics course.

Present the tasks in any format you like – this could be a PowerPoint, a poster, a leaflet or on A4. The project is due in on the July induction days (Thursday/Friday 1 / 2 July)

Good luck and enjoy 😊

Mr Linnell





The Edexcel Course

A-level Year 12

Topics

Autumn Term = Unit 1: UK Politics

including democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour & the media

Spring Term = Unit 2: UK Government

including the constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, relationships between the branches, culture & identity

Summer Term = Unit 1: Core Political Ideologies

including conservatism, liberalism and socialism

A-level Year 13

Topics

Autumn Term = Unit 2: Non-Core Ideologies

on feminism

Spring Term = Unit 3: Global Politics

including sovereignty, global governance, political and economic, human rights, environmental, power and developments, regionalism, the European Union

Summer Term = Unit 3 Global Politics / Revision

including comparative theories and revision of all units

100% exam (3 x 2 hour papers), 0% coursework

Overview	Content	Assessment
Component 1 UK Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political Participation Core ideas (Liberalism, Conservatism and Socialism). 	A range of short and long answer questions.
Component 2 UK Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK Government Optional ideas (choose one from anarchism, ecology, feminism, multiculturalism and nationalism). 	A range of short and long answer questions.
Component 3 Comparative Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Either US Government and Politics or Global Politics. 	A range of short and long answer questions.



Task 1: UK Politics



Your task is...

Research politics in the UK and make a mind-map of one of the following major political parties in the UK (Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat, Green or SNP (Scottish National Party)). Watching *Question Time*, the news as well as reading newspapers should help with this. Include:

- core beliefs of the party
- the origin of the party
- prominent policies of the party
- the current leadership of the party
- the position of the party currently (in local, regional and national elections)

Plus One Challenge

Explain divisions in the political party you have chosen, as not everyone agrees in a party.

Website support for Task 1 can be found at:

<https://www.conservatives.com>

<http://www.labour.org.uk>

<http://www.libdems.org.uk>

<https://www.greenparty.org.uk>

<https://www.snp.org>





Task 2: UK Government



Your task is...

Look at the issue of Brexit and Parliament over the last few years. What has the Brexit process shown us?

- Prepare two lists of arguments for and against Brexit being a benefit for the UK
- Prepare a report into the constitutional outcomes of Brexit for the UK
- How has it affected the role of the Prime Minister and Parliament?
- Explain why Brexit has been so difficult for the UK Constitution leading to a 'constitutional crisis', particularly in Northern Ireland and Scotland

Plus One Challenge

Why has Brexit exposed the weaknesses of our parliamentary system?

For Task 2 a good starting point is found at:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/politics/uk_leaves_the_eu

<http://www.independent.co.uk/topic/brexit>





Task 3: Political Ideas



Your task is...

There are many political ideas. Choose from the following and make a timeline of key thinkers and developments in that ideology:

- liberalism
- conservatism
- socialism
- feminism
- nationalism

Plus One Challenge

You could also find out about a famous political thinker and write a side on their ideas and influence.

For Task 3 a good starting point is found at:

<https://oll.libertyfund.org/pages/major-political-thinkers>





Task 4: Global Politics



Your task is...

In the modern world globalisation has been a big factor in changing the role of the nation state. Select one of the following issues:

- economic globalisation
- political globalisation
- cultural globalisation

Plus One Challenge

You could link the Covid-19 pandemic to some of these ideas to have contemporary examples.

For Task 4 a good starting point is found at:

https://www.economicsonline.co.uk/Global_economics/Globalisation_introduction.html

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20120522-one-world-order>

<https://www.globalpolicy.org/globalization/globalization-of-politics.html>





CHALLENGE TASKS!



A-level is all about independent learning, so why not also undertake one of these?

Extra reading and study will really help at A-level. Here are ten ways to become an expert politics student. How many can you provide evidence for?

1. Watch *Question Time* on BBC iPlayer to help with debates in politics.
2. Read a broadsheet newspaper regularly.
3. Speak to friends and family about political issues.
4. Attend a free lecture at the University of East Anglia as part of their politics department.
5. Visit the Houses of Parliament in London.
6. Contact your MP or party candidate to get work experience.
7. Read articles from political magazines such as the *New Statesman* or *The Spectator*.
8. Attend a political meeting or debate in Norwich or even read about an online petition.
9. During election campaigns read the free literature delivered to your door.
10. Watch *Newsnight*, *Peston*, *This Week* or *The Politics Show* on television for up to date examples. Listen to *Any Questions* or various politics shows on BBC Sounds.

**Please bring the two pieces of work
to the July induction day**

Good Luck!