



POLITICS ACCESS DAY PACK

26 June 2019 2023

ABSTRACT

This pack contains a full breakdown of your Politics A Level course. Do not be scared away but feel supported. Rather than give you another document in September, this is the course outline and revision checklist in one. We have also included summer work, which will be utilised in your first lessons in September and beyond. In the final section, you will find an essential resources list, ideas for work experience and an extended bibliography. If you have any questions between now and September, please email to the school office at office@highdown.reading.sch.uk and your query will be sent to us. Welcome to Politics...

Mrs S. Chamberlain and Mr. S Lilley

Politics A Level

A Level Politics Checklist

Paper 1

UK Constitution	Completed
<p>Key concepts and terminology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • codified• uncodified• statute• common law• conventions• authoritative opinions• The royal prerogative• rule of law• parliamentary sovereignty• individual and collective rights. 	
<p>Students should develop awareness of the significance of the following historical documents to the development of rights in the UK:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magna Carta (1215) • Bill of Rights (1689) • Act of Settlement (1701) • Parliaments Acts (1911 and 1949) • European Communities Act (1972). 	
<p>Students should analyse and evaluate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the nature and sources of the British constitution • contemporary legislation and current issues regarding rights • issues and debates around recent constitutional changes • debates about the extent of rights in the UK • two examples of constitutional changes since 1997, such as the establishment of devolved legislative bodies in constituent countries of the UK, the introduction of a Freedom of Information Act, adoption of the Human Rights Act, changing composition of the House of Lords • areas where individual and collective rights are in agreement and where they are in conflict. 	

UK Parliament	Completed
<p>Key concepts and terminology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scrutiny of executive• Commons• Lords• MPs and peers• delegates and trustees• Burkean theories of representation• delegate theories• mandate theories• trustees• parliamentary privilege• opposition• legislation• debate• redress of grievances• campaign• referendum. 	
<p>Students should analyse and evaluate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scrutiny of the executive and how effective scrutiny of the executive is in practice • parliamentary debate and the legislative process - Commons• Lords • theories of representation - Burkean, delegate, mandate theories • the roles and influence of MPs and peers • the significance of Commons and Lords:• work of committees• role of the opposition• the extent of Parliament's influence on government decisions:• Party discipline enables the government to routinely outvote opposition• government control of civil servants' appearances before Select Committees• membership of those committees is largely controlled by the Whips' offices. • interactions of parliament and other branches of government 	

The Prime Minister and Cabinet	Completed
<p>Key concepts and terminology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • core executive• prime minister• primus inter pares• cabinet• inner cabinet• cabinet committee• individual and collective responsibility• accountability. 	
<p>Students should analyse and evaluate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how policy is made • the relationship between Prime Minister and cabinet • the difference between individual and collective responsibility. Examples might include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • resignation of Sir Thomas Dugdale – Crichton Down (1954)• resignation of Iain Duncan Smith over Welfare Reforms (2016) • two examples that demonstrate the power of the Prime Minister and cabinet to dictate events and determine policy making. One example must be from 1945–1997. The second example must be from 1997 to the present. Examples might include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introduction of poll tax (1990) 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • invasion of Iraq (2003) • government/parliament relations – accountability/interest. 	
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The Judiciary	Completed
Key concepts and terminology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supreme Court• judicial independence and impartiality• separation of powers• ultra vires• judicial review. 	
Students should analyse and evaluate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the composition of the judiciary and the appointments process • the role of the Supreme Court and its impact on government, legislature and policy process • judicial influence on government • importance of ultra vires, judicial review and the Supreme Court's interactions with and influence over the legislative and policy making processes 	

Devolution	Completed
Key concepts and terminology: • devolution• The Scottish Parliament and Government• The Welsh Assembly and Government• The Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive.	
Students should analyse and evaluate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the roles, powers and responsibilities of the different devolved bodies in the UK • debate around devolution in England • existing devolution in England • impact of devolution on government of the UK. 	

Democracy and Participation	Completed
Key concepts and terminology: • direct democracy• representative democracy• suffrage• participation• partisan dealignment	
Students should develop awareness of development of the suffrage in the UK – debates and issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how suffrage has changed since the Great Reform Act (1832) to the present • debates regarding gender, class, ethnicity and age • the significance of the Chartists, Suffragists and Suffragettes • suffrage as a human right 	
Students will be required to analyse and evaluate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the nature of democracy • different types of democracy – direct democracy, representative government • patterns of participation and different forms of participation 	

Elections and Referendums	Completed
Key concepts and terminology: • majoritarian and proportional electoral systems• representative democracy• suffrage• participation• voting behaviour• manifesto• campaign• referendums.	
Students will be required to analyse and evaluate the characteristics of different systems used in parliamentary elections and in elections to one of the devolved bodies in the UK including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • debates and issues around the performance of those systems • the advantages and disadvantages of those systems • three key elections since 1945 should be selected for detailed study. These should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the 1997 general election • one election from before 1997 • one election since 1997. 	

<p>The study of these elections, the wider political context in which they occurred and the techniques used by political parties in their campaigns will provide perspectives on the issues and outcomes of each election, particularly in relation to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • patterns of voting behaviour/changes over time – as revealed by relevant national data sources, and explanations of how and why they varied in different elections • the influence of the media on the outcomes • the reasons for and the impact of party policies on the outcomes • the reasons for and the influence of manifestos on the outcomes • the impact of campaigns and leadership on the outcomes • the role of elections and their influence on policy and policy making • likely effects of the electoral system on the party system.. 	
<p>.These elections should be selected because they exemplify particular characteristics of the British electoral system, electoral behaviour or electoral outcomes eg:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an election resulting in a landslide victory for one party • an election where results reveal a clear discrepancy between the number of votes and the number of seats gained • an election which shows how large numbers of voters are effectively disenfranchised by the preponderance of voters for one party in large areas of the country • an election the outcome of which is greatly influenced by a particular leadership style or personality <p>Students should analyse and evaluate the nature and use of referendums in the UK and their impact.</p>	

Political Parties	Completed
<p>Key concepts and terminology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ideology• party structure• party systems• party funding• party functions• minor parties• political agenda 	
<p>Students should analyse and evaluate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the origins, ideas and development of the Conservative, Labour, and Liberal Democrat parties and how these have helped shape their current policies • party structures and functions of Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat parties • issues and debates around party funding • relations with, and influence of, the media • factors affecting electoral outcomes • policies of minor parties and their impact on political debates and political agenda • development towards a multi-party system in the UK and its impact on government and policy. 	

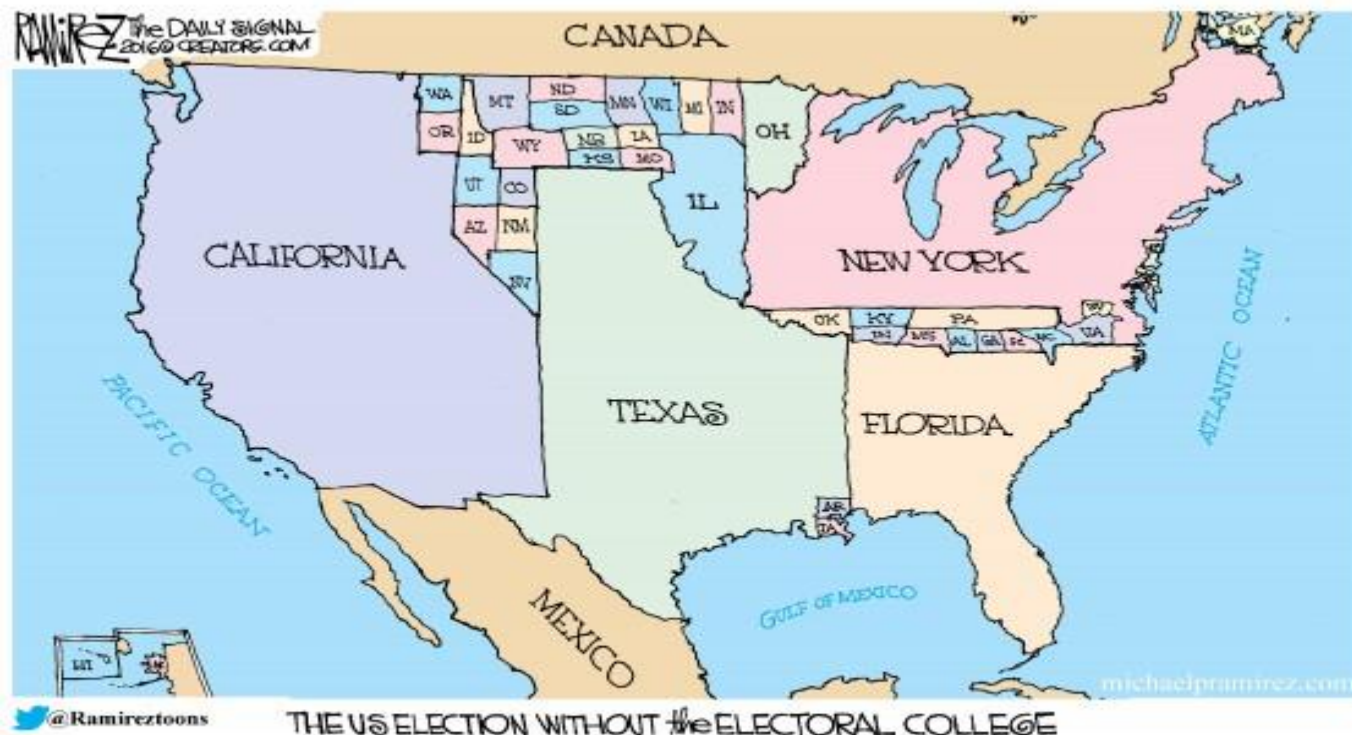
Pressure Groups	Completed
<p>Key concepts and terminology:</p> <p>pluralism• political agenda• insider and outsider pressure groups• promotional and interest groups</p>	
<p>Students should analyse and evaluate:</p> <p>pressure groups and democracy – pluralism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • other influences on government and parliament: • think tanks• lobbyists• corporations• media• typologies of pressure groups, including a detailed study of one insider and one outsider group • methods used by pressure groups • factors likely to affect the political influence of different groups, such as membership and resources • links with political parties, government, and the media. 	

European Union		Completed
Key concepts and terminology: • EU institutions		
Students should analyse and evaluate: aims of the EU and the extent to which they have been achieved. • the impact of the EU on UK politics and policy making.		

Conservatism	Socialism	Liberalism
<p>Core ideas and principles of conservatism and how they relate to human nature, the state, society or the economy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pragmatism • tradition • human imperfection • organic society/state • paternalism • libertarianism (specifically neo-liberalism) 	<p>Core ideas and principles of socialism and how they relate to human nature, the state, society or the economy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • collectivism • common humanity • equality • social class • workers' control 	<p>Core ideas and principles of liberalism and how they relate to human nature, the state, society or the economy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • individualism • freedom/liberty • state • rationalism • equality/social justice • liberal democracy
<p>Each ideology focuses on the ideas of key thinkers and beliefs, which are essential to the ideology. This is just a brief summary</p> <p>The above ideologies appear on the Unit 3 examination paper. We have also looked at nationalism as an ideology and utilise lots of world, current and historical, examples in our teaching.</p>		

The Year 13 course brings a comparative unit between the UK system and the US system. For each topic we look at how this compares between the two countries and your examination questions will ask you to compare and contrast each system. This will cover the areas of:

1. The Constitution and federalism
2. US Congress
3. US Presidency
4. US Supreme Court and US civil rights
5. US democracy and participation (elections, party membership and interest groups)
6. Comparative theories



Summer Tasks

These look a little prescriptive but as you can see we have a lot of work to fit in a very short space of time. You'll have tasks to complete for each teacher which will be used in the very first weeks of September so bring your summer holiday work to class. It is not an enrichment activity – but vital preparation material.

Mrs. Chamberlain and Mr. Lilley

Overall stuff

Listen to a podcast or two

NewsAgents [The News Agents - Podcast \(globalplayer.com\)](https://www.globalplayer.com/podcasts/the-news-agents/)

NewsCast [BBC News - Newscast](https://www.bbc.com/news/health-51111111)

Guardian Politics Weekly <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/series/politicsweekly>

Nick Robinson's Political Thinking

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04z203l/episodes/downloads>

Owen Jones (focus on left wing grassroots activism and ideas in the Labour Party)

<https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/this-is-distorted/political-ramblings-with-owen-jones-and-ellie-ohagan>

Book a tour of the Houses of Parliament, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (summer access days)

Join a political party or pressure group

Talk to people – have discussions and learn!

Mrs. Chamberlain

Why did the Conservatives win the 2019 election?

[General election 2019: 10 things you need to know about the campaign - BBC News](#)

[How Boris Johnson won the 'Brexit election' - Bing video](#)

[Brexit Party 'won't stand in 317 Tory seats' - does it make Johnson win likelier? - YouTube](#)

From these pages, and anything else, you may have read/understood about the election, answer the above question in 750 words

You may wish to consider the following:

- reasoning behind calling an election in 2019
- what the polls said about the election result over the course of the 7 week campaign
- manifesto issues
- the style of the campaign
- tactics and campaigning methods used
- the progress of the opposition parties
- the overall results or individual results (shock ones like Dennis Skinner, etc)

Be prepared to justify your thoughts with your classmate in the first lesson in September. It makes for a great analytical ice-breaker

Mr. Lilley

Prime Minister's Timeline

You need to make a timeline of all British Prime Ministers and Leaders of the Opposition from 1964 to today (beginning with Harold Wilson). How you present your timeline is up to you, but it must show five things:

* The party that the Prime Minister belonged to.

* A picture of each of the Prime Ministers and Leaders of the Opposition.

* All general elections.

You may find Wikipedia lists rather helpful for this task.

Remember, a timeline looks like a picture, with each year given an identical distance (e.g. 1 cm). It is not just a list! A list won't quickly show how long a Prime Minister was in power for, and will make it difficult to quickly compare tenures between Prime Ministers.

You can make your timeline digitally, or crack out the scissors and Prit Stick – it doesn't matter. Just have fun!

Extension:

You may enjoy watching these videos whilst making it!

Coalition - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ep6TUfprGc>

The Deal (Blair vs Brown) - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7_3nt-GRqc

TORY, TORY, TORY – Ep. 1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TgSSoYCM00A>

Tory, Tory, Tory – Ep 3 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OaBjlq8LKOQ>

Dispatches – Gordon Brown – Where did it all go wrong?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A00f18HgKKI>

Dispatches – Cameron Uncovered <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2e9uLFQ2P8I>

5 Days that Changed Britain - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRHUNxVCnxw>

Theresa v Boris – The Battle to be PM <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7wBpJu4duQ>

Liz Truss - [liz truss tenure as PM - Google Search](#)

Textbooks

You'll need two textbooks for the course. There are electronic versions available but here is the link
[AQA A-level Politics: Government and Politics of the UK, Government and Politics of the USA and Comparative Politics: Amazon.co.uk: Lemieux, Simon, Hammal, Rowena, Fairclough, Paul, Bennett, Anthony J: 9781398311329: Books](#)

[Political ideas for A Level: Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism, Nationalism, Multiculturalism, Ecologism: Amazon.co.uk: Kelly, Richard, McNaughton, Neil: 9781471889516: Books](#)

Have a great summer
Stay aware of political events