

# A-Level Politics

## Preparation work for Sep 2024



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 your first class in September.

**Good luck and enjoy 😊**

*Mr Linnell (Teacher of Politics)*





# 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 Ideas

*including liberalism, socialism and conservatism*

## A-level Year 13

### Topics

Autumn Term = Unit 2: Non-Core Political Ideas

*on feminism*

Spring Term = Unit 3: Global Politics

*including comparative theories, the state and globalisation, power and developments, global governance, political and economic and regionalism*

Summer Term = Unit 3 Global Politics / Revision / Exams

*including governance of human rights and the environment and revision of all units*

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

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

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





## 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.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 last few years the Invasion of Ukraine has been a huge dramatic moment in world politics. Can you investigate and answer?

- Why Russia attacked Ukraine?
- What is NATO and why is Russia angered by it?
- How does this change global politics since the end of the Cold War in 1991?

### **Plus One Challenge**

You could link the economic world problems to the Ukrainian invasion and explain how that is impacting on the UK economy and the West.

For Task 4 a good starting point is found at:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nK-yJD\\_fAtk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nK-yJD_fAtk)





## 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* or other news on television for up to date examples. Listen to *Any Questions* or various politics Podcasts such as *Newscast* on BBC Sounds.

**Please bring the two pieces of work  
to your first class in September**

**Good Luck!**