

People, Politics and Participation

You are required to complete all the tasks detailed in this handout, and to produce your own booklet. Your knowledge and understanding of this work will be assessed during the first weeks of the AS Government and Politics course.



- As with other social science subjects you need to demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of a range of key terms. These terms form the basis of the political language that you will become familiar with over the course of year 12, and you will become experienced in using this language in essays and short answer questions.

- You are required to work your way through the following tasks, completing them by the end of the summer holiday, and submitting

them in the first lessons of year 12. There will be a prize for the student who has clearly made the most effort - although we may be persuaded to award more than one prize!

- This booklet contains tasks for you to complete, along with selected stimulus items for you to read and digest. The stimulus items should give you a flavour of some of the areas we will be looking at over the course of the autumn term. Read carefully!
- This is a detailed and comprehensive assignment. Don't rush it. Break it down into small tasks and PLAN how you are going to spend your time over the coming weeks. This will provide you with the opportunity to develop excellent study skills in preparation for your AS studies in September.
- You are about to embark upon an exciting stage of your learning - and in two short years will be heading off to University, so EXPECT to be challenged, EXPECT to scratch your head, EXPECT to take longer over these tasks than you may have been used to in year 11. Don't forget, you will now be spending ALL your time doing 3 or 4 subjects - so at first it may seem strange to be spending so long on one thing - but you'll get used to it. It's all part of the learning process and moving you on to be confident independent 6th form learners.



TASK 1 - Name the Winners and Losers!

Look at the following pictures of politicians. Your task is to identify them and decide which ones made it to become Prime Minister, and which ones were destined to remain leader of the opposition. Under our electoral system - politics is all about winners and losers, and sometimes those in opposition are remembered better than those in office!!



Who are these people?? I bet your parents know most of them..... so go on - get the adults in your family to get their thinking caps on, and help you to complete this task - you may need to enlist the help of grandparents or elderly neighbours for a couple of these photographs!!



TASK 2 - Knowledge of Key Terms

You will be using a lot of specialist language in your A level studies - so this activity is designed to kick start your learning - and test your willingness to do the nuts and bolts work of locating information and making notes.

Using a textbook/political dictionary give definitions of the following concepts. Where possible - also give an example.

TERMS

Democracy

Direct democracy

Representative democracy

General election

By election

Referendum Party

Apathy

Partisan alignment

Churn

Tactical voter

Floating Voter

Loyal voter

Swing

Pressure group

Ideology

Turnout

Class alignment

Volatility

TASK 3 - Understanding the Functions of Political institutions and actors

In paragraphs of no more than 20 lines each, explain what the following ARE and what they DO. (You will need to write more about some than others!!). This task is designed to test your skills of interpretation.

House of Commons
House of Lords
Prime Minister
Civil Service
Cabinet
Member of Parliament
Party Whips

'A' Grade Extension work - what is the difference between the House of Commons and the House of Lords? How are their powers different? Which one is more powerful?

(Research and completion of this task will help staff to identify the most able learners - so want to give this bit a go .. give it your best shot)

TASK 4 - Political participation - Pressure groups

Using the internet - you are to **carry out research** on a pressure group of your choice.

Examples you could use, are: Greenpeace (environmental), Amnesty International (political), and N.F.U (Interest). I have only given you 3 examples - you can find out for yourselves about the many other groups that are out there.

Once you have selected your pressure group, you are to **design an information leaflet** to include the following information:

- The name of your chosen pressure group
- What the pressure group stands for
- How the group publicises its activities
- The main tactics used by the group in order to achieve its aims
- Any recent media coverage of its activities



Task 5

Choose two British PMs - one in power between 1945 - 1997 and one in power after 1997. E.g. Thatcher and Blair or Major and Cameron and **describe the main events and policies of their prime ministership**. This could include the relationship they had with their cabinet. Key events that happened, laws that were passed or any other key information or quotes.

