

<b>Subject:</b>		Politics			
<b>Exam Board</b>		Edexcel			
<b>Head of Department</b>		Mr Neville and Miss Goodhart			
<b>Assessment</b>					
<b>Component 1: UK Politics and Core Political ideas</b>		<b>Component 2: UK Government and Non-core political ideas</b>		<b>Component 3: Comparative Global Politics</b>	
33.3%	Written Exam, 2 hours	33.3%	Written Exam, 2 hours	33.3%	Written Exam, 2 hours
<p><b>Welcome to Politics</b>, This transition pack will provide you with a brief outline of the course structure and a reading list of sources and videos. You may wish to use these sources before and throughout the course to improve your wider understanding. This pack also contains some interesting and fun activities to get you ready for the first few weeks of the course. Please submit your work by the set <b>due dates</b> to <a href="mailto:sixthform@sta.islington.sch.uk">sixthform@sta.islington.sch.uk</a> for the attention of Mr Neville</p>					
<b>Curriculum Map (Term 1)</b>					
<b>Autumn term 2020: UK Politics</b>			<b>Autumn term 2020: UK Government</b>		
<p><b>Political Participation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Political parties</b></li> <li>• <b>Democracy</b></li> <li>• <b>Participation</b></li> </ul>			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>The UK constitution:</b> Key features and development. Labour and Conservative constitutional reforms since 1997. How Devolution has changed the constitution. Debates on further reform to the constitution</li> <li>2. <b>UK parliament:</b> Structure, functions and powers. How does parliament hold the government to account?</li> </ol>		
<b>Subject Specific Reading List:</b>		<p>Read a broadsheet newspaper as often as you can. When online, try to read a balance of articles from right and left leaning papers (eg The Telegraph and the Guardian)</p> <p>Watch: the news, Question Time – BBC 1 Wed/Thurs, The Andrew Marr Show BBC 1 Sunday AM, Newsnight – Weeknights BBC 2 10.30pm, Radio 4 – Week in Westminster 11am Saturday</p>			
<b>Useful Websites:</b>		<p><a href="http://alevelpolitics.com/">http://alevelpolitics.com/</a>  <a href="https://www.prechewedpolitics.co.uk/">https://www.prechewedpolitics.co.uk/</a>  <a href="http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/forumdisplay.php?f=276">http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/forumdisplay.php?f=276</a>  <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/politics">http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/politics</a> ○  <a href="https://www.totalpolitics.com/">https://www.totalpolitics.com/</a> ○  <a href="http://www.theweek.co.uk/politics">http://www.theweek.co.uk/politics</a>  <a href="http://www.politics.co.uk/">http://www.politics.co.uk/</a></p>			

# Politics A-Level: Year 11 Transition Pack

*"This isn't quite the same  
as being Mayor of London,  
is it?"*



Are you truly interested in the news and current affairs? Are you interested in discussion and debate? Are you interested in what individuals stand for/ what politicians stand for/ what political parties stand for? Are you looking forward to a journey through the corridors of power and coming out with a thirst to learn more? Firstly, congratulations on wisely choosing a fantastic A level course. We have had a great set of Politics results in 2019 at St Aloysius, and I anticipate all the year 13 students gaining A\*-C grades in the summer. I hope you have managed to speak to some of the Sixth Formers about the course and why it has been an exciting, stimulating and challenging course to study, particularly given

You are required to complete **ALL** of the activities in this transition pack for submission 29<sup>th</sup> May and then the second set of activities for submission on 26<sup>th</sup> June. **A Level in Politics is a fun, embracing yet challenging qualification.** It will develop your thinking skills and vastly expand your knowledge of politics both in the UK and in the wider world.

# Task 1

Due: Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Email: [sixthform@sta.islington.sch.uk](mailto:sixthform@sta.islington.sch.uk)

## Activity A: What is Politics?

*“Politics is the study of how a people, a nation or a state is governed.”*

When most people think of politics, they think of old, wealthy men (only sometimes women, and only sometimes ethnic minorities) in offices, making deals and agreements that will affect millions of people, just for personal gain. And it's true that some decisions are made that way, but politics is much more than that.

Politics is about power, about people, equality, war, conflict, debate, cooperation, freedom, money, etc. – it's about the relationship between the state (the government) and its citizens, or the state and other states. It governs everything we can and will do in our lives.

One of the reasons politics is so exciting is that it changes every single day based on the actions of individuals. Less than 500 people (in a country of 330 million) decided the result of the 2000 presidential election that made George Bush president. In 2001 he invaded Afghanistan and in 2003 he invaded Iraq. These two things have changed the Middle East and global politics, perhaps forever. Closer to home, if just one out of every 50 people who voted to leave the EU had voted differently, we wouldn't have left. Each individual vote is vital, and yet 28% of all the people who could vote and registered to vote in that referendum didn't turn out on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. It would take just a small number of them to change the result.

Your first task is to help you garner an understanding of what Politics is really all about. Use the internet (e.g. Wikipedia, YouTube and other sources) to research and understand what the following key terms mean and create a short definition for each *in your own words*.

You are welcome to try to get your families involved in this – they may have some understanding of these concepts already! The most important thing in an A level is *your understanding* – so it's not about having the “right” or “word-perfect” definition, it's about you *understanding* what a concept means 😊

Term	Explanation
Power	
Authority	
Legitimacy	
Government	
Politics	
Civil society	
Executive branch	
Prime minister	
Cabinet	
Legislative branch	

Parliament	
House of Commons	
House of Lords	
Judicial branch	
Supreme Court (UK – not US!)	
Rule of Law	
Westminster Model	
Elective dictatorship	
Direct democracy	
Representative democracy	
Sovereignty	
Parliamentary sovereignty	
Referendum (UK – not US!)	
Constitutional monarchy	
Fusion of powers	
Separation of powers	
Devolution	
Labour Party	
Conservative Party	
Liberal Democrats	
Brexit Party	
Liberalism (Ideology)	
Conservatism (Ideology)	
Socialism (Ideology)	
Nationalism (Ideology)	

# Activity B: Two: British Politics

**Due: Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020**  
Email: [sixthform@sta.islington.sch.uk](mailto:sixthform@sta.islington.sch.uk)

Go to these links here for the UK's three major parties:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2019-50524262>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2019-50501411>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2019-50459123>

These links summarise their key manifesto policies in the 2019 general election, which you may remember voting in at school. I would like you to choose a few policies of your choose and explain below why you support OR do not support that policy. You must choose at least 1 policy from each manifesto to discuss your agreement to or opposition to (therefore compulsory is to do 3) – if you want to extend yourself and go further, you can do more than 3 by copying and pasting the spaces I have provided.

Party: \_\_\_\_\_

Manifesto policy:

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Agree/disagree & why:

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Party: \_\_\_\_\_

Manifesto policy:

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Agree/disagree & why:

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Party: \_\_\_\_\_

Manifesto policy:

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Agree/disagree & why:

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# Activity C: British Politics

**Due: Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

Email: [sixthform@sta.islington.sch.uk](mailto:sixthform@sta.islington.sch.uk)

Next I want you to conduct some research into the role of your local MP. Many of you may already know that St Aloysius is in Islington North constituency and the MP for that area is Jeremy Corbyn, it may be that he is your MP too if you live close to the school. You can find out here: <https://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/find-your-mp/>

I would like you to find out who your local MP is and the following details about them:

MP's name:

Political party:

Constituency (the area they represent):

Areas they have a particular interest in:

And finally, look at their voting record (found here <https://www.theyworkforyou.com/> by clicking 'voting record') and jot down some ways in which they've voted in parliament. For example, my MP when I was at university, Julian Sturdy (Conservative) voted against laws to promote same-sex marriage, and voted for increasing VAT rates.

## Activity D: Making a Case

**Due: Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

Email: [sixthform@sta.islington.sch.uk](mailto:sixthform@sta.islington.sch.uk)

Now I would like you to make a case for and against a particular issue. Politics at A level will require you to make judgements about issues. You need to create a for/against case for the issue of: *should we lower the voting age from 18 to 16?*

This will require you to write at least three paragraphs (approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 full typed A4 page – but if you like you can write more). You can use websites like this: <https://yougov.co.uk/topics/politics/articles-reports/2012/02/15/and-against-lowering-voting-age> or Google search “for and against [issue]” to get more information about the issue at hand. I’ve written a sample paragraph below – I’m interested in you ARGUING your case with evidence!

*Some who think we should extend the vote to 16- and 17-year-olds say that it may lead them to understand political issues more if they have to research them. If under 18s have to make choices on issues like taxes, the NHS and the size of the army, they would have to research them, so this will improve their understanding and they will make good choices. However, this argument doesn't hold water because over-18s as it is rarely research political issues – if we don't have adults researching taxes, the NHS or the size of the army before elections why would we expect children to? Therefore, this is not a good argument for extending the vote to 16- and 17-year-olds.*

Write your paragraphs below or better still type/write it separately and attach it to this document. Once you have completed this, you have finished the first set of activities for Politics A level – well done!



# Politics in the UK

**Due: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020**  
Email: [sixthform@sta.islington.sch.uk](mailto:sixthform@sta.islington.sch.uk)

## Task 2: Activity A – People in Politics

Look at the below photographs of British politicians. You must identify who they are, which party they belonged to and whether or not they were Prime Minister (PM) or Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition (HMO). Get your family involved in this task – your parents will remember many of these faces, and some of them might be better suited even to your grandparents!



My answers:

## Activity B: Keeping up with the Cabinet!

**Due: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

Email: [sixthform@sta.islington.sch.uk](mailto:sixthform@sta.islington.sch.uk)

The Cabinet of the United Kingdom is the collective decision-making body of the government, composed of the Prime Minister and other heads of departments, such as Minister for Education or Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Cabinet is comprised of around 20 MPs from the ruling Party, chosen by the Prime Minister. Sometimes it's hard to keep up with the changes in the top team, especially after a Cabinet re-shuffle. Your task is to find the name of the current postholder for each Cabinet position below. Here is a current picture to help you:






1. Prime Minister: (not too difficult!)
2. Chancellor of the Exchequer:
3. Home Secretary:
4. Foreign Secretary:
5. Health Secretary:
6. Education Secretary:
7. Defence Secretary:
8. Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster:
9. International Trade Secretary:
10. Environment Secretary:
11. Culture Secretary:
12. Business Secretary:
13. Justice Secretary:
14. Transport Secretary:

## Activity C – Current Affairs Diary

**Due: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

Email: [sixthform@sta.islington.sch.uk](mailto:sixthform@sta.islington.sch.uk)

Politics is a subject which cannot be unplugged from news and current affairs. Twitter is seen by some to be the future of Politics – it is used by journalists, politicians and politicians alike to share news and information as well as discuss political issues. I would advise that you create yourselves Twitter accounts and follow a range of politicians and political commentators. Below are a list of podcasts, TV shows and Twitter accounts you can watch/follow.

	<a href="#">Stitcher – A-level politics podcast</a> <a href="#">Beyond Westminster</a> <a href="#">BBC politics podcasts</a> <a href="#">The Westminster Hour</a> <a href="#">Politics.co.uk podcasts</a>	<a href="#">Guardian ‘politics weekly’ podcasts</a> <a href="#">Going the way of the dodo</a> <a href="#">10 of the best podcasts</a> <a href="#">Takes from the lobby</a> <a href="#">Learn out loud podcasts</a>
	<a href="#">iPlayer Climate Change Playlist</a> <a href="#">World economic forum videos</a> <a href="#">Politics Live – BBC iPlayer</a> <a href="#">The Andrew Marr Show</a> <a href="#">The Politics Show</a>	<a href="#">Question Time</a> <a href="#">BBC Parliament</a> <a href="#">Cabinet Confidential</a> <a href="#">Globalisation if Good – Johan Norberg</a> <a href="#">Excellent documentary on Thatcher</a>
	<p><b>@Britainelects (for news and updates on all things electoral in the UK)</b> <b>@BBCNews / @SkyNews (or any other news station of your choice – or even more than one!)</b> <b>@bbcquestiontime (the UK’s most-watched political talk-show: BBC Question Time)</b> <b>@BorisJohnson (prime minister)</b> <b>@DExEUgov (The Department for Exiting the European Union)</b> <b>@easypoliticsUK (Simple Politics – great short summaries)</b></p>	

### Your task is to keep a current affairs diary:

1. Every day you must listen to, watch or read what is going on in the country and make a list of the top three news stories. There is a LOT going on at the moment politically – it is a fascinating time to be studying politics as things are changing so fast. A good start on how corona is changing politics can be found here:  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/mar/28/coronavirus-has-completely-changed-how-uk-politics-works>
2. In your diary (you can do this as a google doc, or just in an exercise book/lined paper) make a list of the top three stories, including a brief outline of what has happened.
3. At the end of each week you must select one of these stories and write a short editorial on it. This should include:
  - An objective explanation of the issue. How it has progressed across the week.
  - Opinions from different viewpoints.
  - Your opinion

## Activity D – Timeline

**Due: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020**  
Email: [sixthform@sta.islington.sch.uk](mailto:sixthform@sta.islington.sch.uk)

You need to create an A3 or A4 Political History timeline for the UK. On your timeline you should include a number of features such as (but not necessarily ONLY these – and for an A grade extension, include the dates at which major UK political parties were founded):

The signing of the Magna Carta, the opening of the House of Commons, the introduction of the Bill of Rights, the Act of Union, Representation of the People Acts and European Communities Act. It's important to have an understanding of the political history of the country in order to understand how we have got to where we are today.

## Activity E – Political Parties

**Due: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020**  
Email: [sixthform@sta.islington.sch.uk](mailto:sixthform@sta.islington.sch.uk)

To start, you should quickly research the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat parties. What do they stand for? Then, use the internet, textbooks and your imagination to create your own political party which will stand at the next election. You should include the party's name, some points as to what the party stands for and three key policies your party will introduce if they are elected including **why** you would introduce them. These policies will cost money - will people have to pay more tax or would you make savings elsewhere? You have to **justify** your decisions. Some topics to consider might be:

Health  
Crime  
The European Union  
Housing  
Education

## Task 2: Extension

**Due: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020**  
Email: [sixthform@sta.islington.sch.uk](mailto:sixthform@sta.islington.sch.uk)

## Country Research Task

Why don't you push yourself a bit further and look beyond the UK? Now that you have more of a grasp of UK politics you now have an opportunity to choose any country of your choice and research it. Your country of choice cannot be the UK. Some suggestions are:

United States of America // France // Germany // Spain // Poland // Greece // Turkey // Canada // Mexico // China // South Korea // Russia.

You need to research using sources of your choice (as with the above, Wikipedia is useful but you should use other sources too): what is the political history of the country? What kind of political system are they? What are the major political institutions - do they have a parliament/president/prime minister/etc.? How democratic are they? What are the major political parties and issues in that country? How often are elections held? How rich/poor are people in this country compared to the UK and USA? What's going on (politically) in that country right now? How are they dealing with Covid-19 for example? Again, this should be about one A4 typed page, but should have pictures/diagrams as necessary, not just a set of notes.

**Well done for completing this booklet. I look forward to reading your responses!**