

## **Politics A Level—Summer Preparation Work ( Edexcel exam board UK and USA)**

This work will get you ready for your Politics course and ensure you can contribute to your first induction lessons.

### **Activity 1 Political compass**

Are you **left wing** (want a more equal society) or **right wing** (more traditional)?  
**Libertarian** (allowing individual freedom or **authoritarian** (strict order, rule from above)

Take the online test at [www.politicalcompass.org](http://www.politicalcompass.org).

- a. Explain where you are on the political compass and why.
- b. How do you compare to some famous people.
- c. Research the famous person closest to you on the political compass.
- d. Make a diagram to show where you are on the compass and why so that we can discuss it in September.

### **Activity 2 Elections and mis-elections**

In 2016 Donald Trump became President with less actual votes than Clinton.  
In 1951 Churchill was returned to power in the UK even though the Conservatives got thousands fewer votes than the Labour Party.

For each case make a detailed powerpoint to explain how the electoral system meant that in these 2 democracies, the side with the most actual votes “lost” the election.

### **Activity 3 Pressure Groups**

In the first module we will look at democracy, elections and political parties and pressure groups.

- a. Find out the difference between a pressure group and a political party.
- b. Research a pressure group such as Amnesty International, The BMA, Surfers Against Sewage, UNISON ect)
  
- c. Make a factsheet that explains with **specific examples**
- d. how your pressure group is organised.
- e. What resources do they have?
- f. How many members

! What are some **stand out successes ... what have they achieved? Failures....**

## Activity 4

Over the summer we would like you to keep a diary of key political events that happen. You must then find *at least* two different points of view from sources with different opinions that help explain these political events. These events may be local, national or international in nature.

| Date   | Description                    | Source 1 eg - The Guardian newspaper                               | Source 2  |
|--------|--------------------------------|--|---|
| 1/5/20 | <i>MP So-and-so re-signed.</i> | <i>In the Sun newspaper, Blah Blah said "Yadda, yadda, Yadda."</i> | <i>However, on the Andrew Marr Show, M Gove said "Dinky dink dink."</i> |

**The following sources could be used help you, but of course you are able to use other reputable sources:**

🔗 [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

🔗 [www.guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk)

🔗 BBC iPlayer – News

### Shows

🔗 Panorama

🔗 Question Time - BBC - Thursdays

🔗 BBC Parliament – Prime Minister’s questions (PMQs)

🔗 Daily Politics - BBC

🔗 Sunday Politics - BBC - Sunday 12:00pm

🔗 The Andrew Marr Show – BBC - Sunday 9:00 am

You are rewarded for having up to date examples that show the powers and limits of the Prime Minister, the President, the role of Parliament and Congress.

The strengths and weaknesses of democracy in the USA and UK ... so have this in mind when picking your examples. Good luck!