

Welcome to A-Level

Transition from Year 11 to Year 12.

Name:

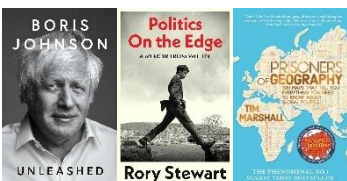
As you prepare to begin your journey into Edexcel A-Level Politics, you're stepping into one of the most dynamic and relevant subjects you can study. Politics shapes the world around us—from the laws we follow to the rights we enjoy—and understanding it gives you the power to engage with society in a meaningful way. To hit the ground running in September, it's essential that you complete the summer transition work. This isn't just homework—it's your first step toward becoming politically fluent. By building a strong foundation now, you'll be better equipped to analyse current affairs, debate key issues, and understand how power operates in the UK and beyond. So dive in, stay curious, and get ready to think critically about the world you live in!

In this booklet there are **three activities** that will help prepare you for Year 12. However remember those with a good political fluency (understand the political world) will naturally do well in this subject, so where you can keep up with what is going on in politics.



Television programmes like Sunday Politics with Laura Kuenssberg (BBC Sunday 9:00am) and Peston (ITV Wednesday 10:45pm) are weekly programmes that interview politicians and political figures. These are great for understanding the different political views that exist within the UK, and watching how politicians respond.

Podcasts like The Rest is Politics are released weekly (multiple platforms), Rory Stewart and Alastair Campbell discuss current global political events. This is a fantastic way to understand the significance of current events, and hear predictions on what are the likely outcomes.



There are countless **books** available for politics, these can often be picked up cheaply in second hand bookshops or from a local library. Our current A-Level politics students recommend the following 'Politics on the Edge' by Rory Stuart, 'Unleashed' the official biography of Boris Johnson, 'Prisoners of Geography' by Tim Marshall, 'British Politics: A Very Short Introduction' by Anthony Wright.

Remember this is what we study in A-Level Politics so look out for things related to these...

Paper 1 UK Politics & Core Ideologies	Paper 2 UK Government & Non-Core Ideology	Paper 3a Comparative Politics: USA
Democracy & Rights	Constitution	US Constitution
Electoral Systems	Parliament	US Congress
Voting behaviour & the media	The executives	US President
Political Parties	Relationships between the branches	US Supreme Court & Civil Rights
Liberalism (ideology)	Feminism (ideology)	US Democracy & Participation
Conservatism (ideology)		US vs UK Comparative Theories
Socialism (ideology)		

Activity One:

Identify your own political views

In 2024 there was a General Election in the UK. If you had been allowed to vote, who would you have voted for? You do not need to share this; voting is anonymous in the UK. However, what would have been the main reason you would have voted for that party or MP?



← Now take this survey... <https://voteforpolicies.org.uk/survey>

This has the election policies of the 2024 General Election but hides which party said them. That way you can see which party best aligns with your own political views. You can either take the short survey that selects three prominent issues, or for more accurate results you can select the issues that would have swayed your vote.

Again, you do not need to say which party policies you best aligned with for the 2024 General Election, but how does it align with who you said you would have voted for at the start.

- The same Close Very surprised

In June 2024 the Labour Party promised “change” in their manifesto (<https://labour.org.uk/change> →). A year later what is your view on the current government? Do you think that they have achieved their promises, or are failing? Expand on this by explaining your reasoning.



Change

Activity Two:

How do people express political views?



There are many political campaigns currently in the UK trying to convince the government to make change. Identify one that is close to your heart, and research it. For example you might be interested in the Conservative campaign to “end the Family Farm Tax”, you might have views on the Assisted Dying Bill, you might think we should re-join the EU, or you might be interested in eco campaigns such as promoting or challenging Net Zero policies.

Name of Campaign (if it has one yet): _____

Who is behind it: _____

What are they wanting to achieve: _____

What methods are they using for their campaign (e.g. protest, social media, etc): _____

Do you think they will achieve their aims? If so when, if not then why?: _____

Activity Three:

Engaging in democracy, contact your MP



First of all, identify your local MP if you don't know who it is
← <https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>



Research their voting record
← <https://www.theyworkforyou.com/>



Using the details you can find on the website above, contact them about any issue you wish. This could be a national issue or something local, to ask them questions about their political career, or even to request work experience or a tour of Parliament

Notes on contacting your Member of Parliament

- Members of Parliament will only reply to someone who is their constituent, that is why it will request an address. They will often cross reference this against the Electoral Roll (those registered to vote in their constituency, you can register to vote from the age of 16), if you are not yet registered you will need to mention that you are a student. Otherwise the email might be ignored as political spam
- Contact can either be done through their email or filling in forms on their websites, avoid contact through social media.
- Ensure that Parents/Carers are aware that you are making contact with your MP.

Who is your MP: _____

Summarise what you said to them:

Did you get a reply, if so how long roughly did it take:

Did the reply actually answer what you asked, summarise their reply:
