

A-Level Taster Session

Mr T. Bayston (CH4)

Task one: Sign in....

Task two: If you could have voted in the 2026
Makerfield Election, who would you have voted for?

- Put your vote in the box, one vote.
- Candidates are the Lincoln constituency 2024 (so no SNP...)

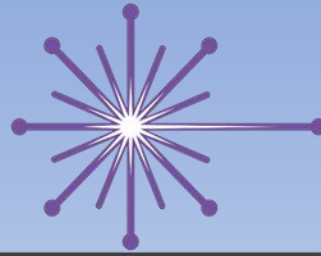
Task three: Introduce yourself to those around you.



THE PRIORY ACADEMY

LSST

POLITICS



Paper One:

UK Politics and Core Ideologies



Paper Two:

UK Government and Non-Core
Ideology (Feminism)



Paper Three:

USA Comparative Study



Our department non-negotiables...

Everyone has a voice.

- ✓ Share your views - But respect others will have different, and that views need to be appropriate for a 6th form environment.
- ✓ Join in with discussion and debate.

A strong attitude to independent study is **essential**.

- ✓ We are a contemporary subject, it is constantly changing and updating. You cannot just rely on what you learn in lessons.
- ✓ Pre-reading before lessons is part of our routine.
- ✓ Engagement in pod-casts and wider reading is part of the weekly homework.

We are an essay based subject.

- ✓ 6 hours of essay based exams at the end, you must be happy with extended writing and meeting deadlines.

Select your Cabinet.

You have just been made Prime Minister and need to pick your team. You have 18 possible candidates for ministerial roles.

These people all want roles because it gives them influence and extra pay (additional £22k-£72k on top of their £92k salary).

In teams you need to decide who to keep and who to drop. If you are keeping them you need to assign them a role.

- You do not need to fill all the roles.
- You can create new departments (e.g. “levelling up” and “Brexit” Secretaries)

Note: All characters are fictional and AI has been used to create their image. They are not supposed to reflect current or past politicians.



What roles can you offer?

“The Great Offices of State”

Deputy Prime Minister
Chancellor of the Exchequer
Foreign Secretary
Home Secretary

The Lesser Offices of State

Secretary of State for Defence
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Secretary of State for Education
Secretary of State for Business and Trade
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Secretary of State for Transport
Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions
Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
Secretary of State for Scotland
Secretary of State for Wales

Junior Ministerial Roles (Under Secretaries)

Works for a department, but not in charge.
Can be unspecified (e.g. Health Minister) or specified (e.g. Minister for the Middle East)

**Good or bad choice for
your cabinet?**

Hugo Fairclough MP



**Good or bad choice for
your cabinet?**

Tommy Churchill MP



**Good or bad choice for
your cabinet?**

Isobel Marchant MP



**Good or bad choice for
your cabinet?**

Ed Basket MP



**Good or bad choice for
your cabinet?**

***Edward 'Ned'
Carroway MP***



**Good or bad choice for
your cabinet?**

Priya Deshmukh MP



**Good or bad choice for
your cabinet?**

Malcolm Havers MP



Task used in Year 12 looking at reasons why people are selected for cabinet.

- Experience
- Image and Elector ability
- “Big Beasts”
- Party Unity

In 2016 Theresa May appointed Boris Johnson as Foreign Secretary as a way to control him because he was seen as a rival.



Year 12 Lesson: Paper 2 Influence of Cabinet.

Select your Cabinet.

Take on the role of the Prime Minister. From these fictional candidates select who would form your Cabinet and which you would ditch.

- There are 20 candidates as you do not have enough to select a full Cabinet.
- If they are going to your Cabinet you need to give them a role, this can be a big secretary of state role like Foreign Secretary or a junior minister role in the department for their party.
- For each role able to explain why you have chosen them, and why for that role - *Justification* For those you are rejecting, explain why they are rejected.
- Cut out your cabinet and stick them in, explaining why you chose them. This can be done as a team or big paper game.

<p>Amira Khan MP</p> <p>A veteran MP and human rights advocate, Amira has been in Parliament for over two decades in all areas of government. A loyal ally of the Prime Minister, she is known for her diplomatic stance and her ability to influence. A political goal of the party, she is able to work in a supportive role in Parliament, she is a symbol of progress and inclusion and will feature with the media.</p>	<p>Geetha Patel MP</p> <p>A political insider, Geetha is a media magnet who is often on the news. Through her extensive experience and her involvement in the party, she is a strong social media following and connections with 250,000 followers. Her past includes a failed social media campaign, but her involvement in the party has made her a popular figure.</p>	<p>Stephen Langan MP</p> <p>A social media-savvy MP in his second term, 28-year-old Stephen is rising the star with a degree in artificial intelligence completed through distance learning. He has been a vocal supporter of the Prime Minister but is seen as a potential rival due to his growing popularity among younger voters and his political stance on progress.</p>	<p>Michelle Brown MP</p> <p>A former House Secretary of the previous government and constitutional expert, Michelle is a respected and experienced member of the cabinet, and at 55 is the oldest MP in the House. She is openly critical of the Prime Minister's leadership and has in the past been removed from the Conservative Party for her strong language about his leadership and government cuts to welfare support.</p>
<p>Priya Dhillon MP</p> <p>A former MP and politician, Priya entered politics to reform education. She is compassionate, competent, and a strong supporter of the Prime Minister. Through her extensive work, she has been elected as a professional background officer in charge of a team of 100 in the education department and three new research centres.</p>	<p>Tamara Khan MP</p> <p>A rebellious and outspoken MP, Tamara is known for her fiery speeches and a past altercation with a journalist. A former teacher at a South London public school, she entered politics when she was elected to the House of Commons. Despite her strong views, she has a small but loyal following among young voters.</p>	<p>Elliot Vance MP</p> <p>A long-serving and experienced policy expert, Elliot is a moderate and a proven leader in the party. He is a former teacher and has a strong background in education and social issues. He is seen as a reliable and steady hand in the cabinet.</p>	<p>Julian Smith MP</p> <p>A former member of the military who served in the Middle East, Julian is a strong supporter of the Prime Minister's leadership and has in the past been removed from the Conservative Party for his strong language about his leadership and government cuts to welfare support.</p>
<p>Lucy Clarke MP</p> <p>A dynamic MP of Nigerian descent, Lucy is a passionate advocate for social justice and education. Through her extensive work with social justice think tanks, she has become a leading voice in the party. She has served two terms and is a former junior minister in the department of education.</p>	<p>David Pearson</p> <p>A quiet but very influential figure in the party, David is a former head of the think tank 'Policy First' and has a strong background in policy. He is seen as a steady hand in the cabinet and is a former junior minister in the department of education.</p>	<p>Ruby Singh MP</p> <p>A former primary school teacher of 25 years, Ruby is a moderate and a proven leader in the party. She is a former teacher and has a strong background in education and social issues. She is seen as a reliable and steady hand in the cabinet.</p>	<p>Edward Ford MP</p> <p>A former member of the military who served in the Middle East, Edward is a strong supporter of the Prime Minister's leadership and has in the past been removed from the Conservative Party for his strong language about his leadership and government cuts to welfare support.</p>
<p>Leah Fells MP</p> <p>A former City lawyer and investment strategist, Leah has a strong background in finance and economics. She is a former junior minister in the department of education and has a strong following among young voters.</p>	<p>Tony Al-Mansoori MP</p> <p>A former City lawyer and investment strategist, Tony has a strong background in finance and economics. He is a former junior minister in the department of education and has a strong following among young voters.</p>	<p>Isabel Mitchell MP</p> <p>A former member of the military who served in the Middle East, Isabel is a strong supporter of the Prime Minister's leadership and has in the past been removed from the Conservative Party for his strong language about his leadership and government cuts to welfare support.</p>	<p>Colin Gray MP</p> <p>A former member of the military who served in the Middle East, Colin is a strong supporter of the Prime Minister's leadership and has in the past been removed from the Conservative Party for his strong language about his leadership and government cuts to welfare support.</p>
<p>Nora Patel MP</p> <p>A former member of the military who served in the Middle East, Nora is a strong supporter of the Prime Minister's leadership and has in the past been removed from the Conservative Party for his strong language about his leadership and government cuts to welfare support.</p>	<p>Maria Bellamy MP</p> <p>A former member of the military who served in the Middle East, Maria is a strong supporter of the Prime Minister's leadership and has in the past been removed from the Conservative Party for his strong language about his leadership and government cuts to welfare support.</p>	<p>Robert Cranston MP</p> <p>A former member of the military who served in the Middle East, Robert is a strong supporter of the Prime Minister's leadership and has in the past been removed from the Conservative Party for his strong language about his leadership and government cuts to welfare support.</p>	<p>Oliver Mitchell MP</p> <p>A former member of the military who served in the Middle East, Oliver is a strong supporter of the Prime Minister's leadership and has in the past been removed from the Conservative Party for his strong language about his leadership and government cuts to welfare support.</p>
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Tasks for the summer....

These are designed to ensure you are ready for the topic areas we will be starting with in September...

- Democracy (Mr T. Bayston)
- Ideologies (Mr J. Schofield)

Please bring these with you to your first lessons.

NOTE: The contacting an MP task can be upwards of 4 weeks for a reply... don't leave it too late!

THE PEOPLE ACADEMY
LSST POLITICS

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 Reston (TV 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 in Politics are released weekly (multiple platforms). Rory Stewart and Aislinn 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 Stewart, 'Unashamed' 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...

Topic 1 UK Politics & Core Ideologies	Topic 2 UK Government & Non-Core Ideology	Topic 3 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
Liberation (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://jostepolitics.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.

 _____

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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?: _____

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Activity Three:

Engaging in democracy, contact your MP

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

Research their voting record
← <https://www.thepool.org.uk/>

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: _____

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Other things you can do....

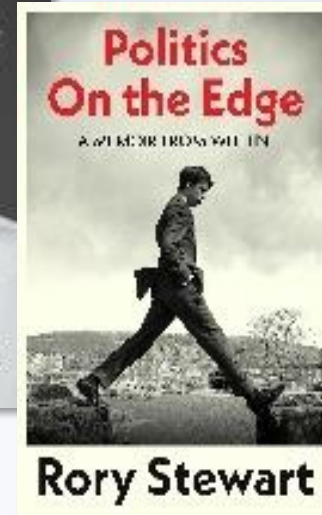
Shopping.

You will be provided an exercise book but you will need....

- *Highlighters*
- *Post-it notes*
- *Folder to store extra notes*












Boost your political fluency.

- Books
- News articles
- Podcasts
- TV political shows and documentaries.



Makerfield by-election

Vote share and change from the 2024 election

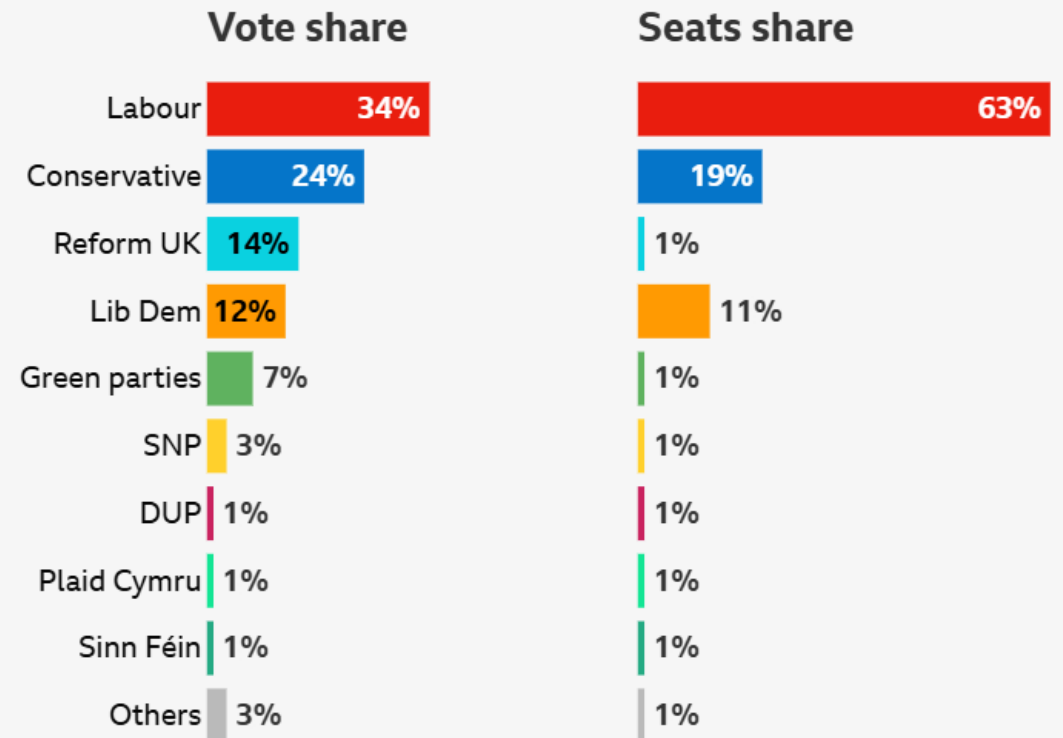
	Candidate	Vote share	Change
	Labour and Co-operative Andy Burnham	55% 	▲ +10
	Reform UK Rob Kenyon	35% 	▲ +3
	Restore Britain Rebecca Shepherd	7% 	▲ +7
	Conservative Michael Winstanley	2% 	▼ -9
	Green Sarah Wakefield	0.7% 	▼ -4
	Lib Dem Jake Austin	0.4% 	▼ -6

Turnout 59%. Top six parties

B B C

General election results 2024

Share of the UK vote and share of seats in Parliament



How did your voting match up?