

Anglo European Sixth Form

Summer Transition Work 2025

Subject: A Level Government and Politics

Exam Board: Edexcel

Qualification: A Level

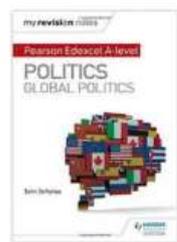
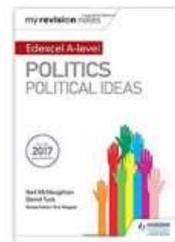
A Level Politics is a fun, engaging, yet challenging qualification. It will develop your thinking skills and vastly expand your knowledge of politics both in the UK and in the wider world. Everyone begins the course from different starting points. Some students already have a good understanding about where power lies and how decisions are made in the UK that they have gained from watching the news and discussing events – like Brexit and elections – at home. For others, Politics is something they don't know much about yet – but are eager to learn more! In many ways, learning Politics is like learning a new language, with lots of weighty concepts to get your head around. Completing the activities in this document will give you a sound footing for the beginning of the course, and get you thinking about some of the big questions we will tackle. You could start writing down thoughts and questions ready for the start of the course. Also, organisation is really important at A Level, so make sure you are prepared for September with: - ring binders (you will need one for each teacher- you will need 2!) - dividers for each binder (10 pack) - highlighters/different colour pens

You can access the full specification here:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/politics-2017.html>

There are many textbooks published for A Level Politics. You **don't need** to buy a particular textbook for the course, as we will provide you with a selection of the best resources for each topic.

However, Hodder's **My Revision Notes for Edexcel AS/A-level Politics** would be useful resource if you wish to invest. They are handy for pre-reading (ahead of the course, and before each lesson) and for final exam revision.



Compulsory tasks:

These tasks must be completed by students before their first lesson in September. These tasks will be reviewed by the class teacher.

Activity 1- Pre-Reading

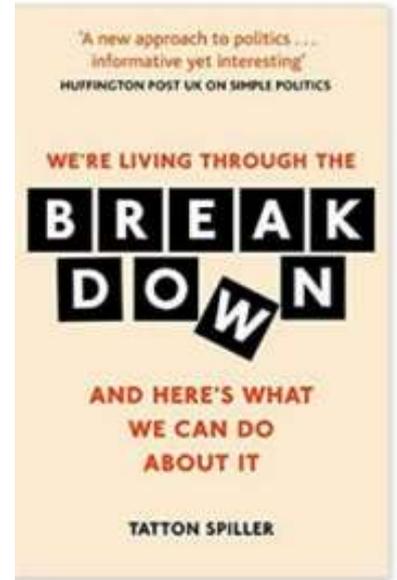
This book is written in a very accessible style, for beginners to Politics. It explains different viewpoints on the big topics in political debate, and how change happens. The final section (Appendix) takes a look 'under the hood' of UK politics to explain the many of the concepts that we cover in UK Government. You can buy a physical copy from many online retailers or you can get it on Kindle etc.

This book was written by the man behind the excellent site:

Simple Politics

<https://www.simplepolitics.co.uk/>

You should follow them on social media, and sign up to their weekly email (it's quiet in the summer, but through the year it provides useful updates and analysis on what's happening in Westminster and around the world)



Activity 2- You will need to download the following booklet:

<https://assets-learning.parliament.uk/uploads/2019/12/How-it-Works-booklet.pdf>

Read through the booklet and complete the following activities:

TASK ONE: IN YOUR OWN WORDS, DEFINE THE FOLLOWING KEYWORDS/PHRASES

KEYWORD OR PHRASE	DEFINITION
Politics	
Suffrage	
Political participation	
Democracy	
Direct democracy	
Representative democracy	
Member of Parliament (MP)	
General election	
Devolution	
Devolved Assemblies/Parliament	
By-election	
Referendum	
Manifesto	

First-Past-The-Post (FPTP)	
Constitution	
Uncodified constitution	
Parliamentary sovereignty	
Legislature	
Executive	
Judiciary	

Role of Parliament	
Parliamentary Reform Acts 1911 and 1949	
Human Rights Act 1998	
Constitutional Reform Act 2005	
Fixed Term Parliament Act 2011	
Bicameral legislature	
House of Commons	
Constituency	
Frontbencher	
Backbencher	
The Speaker	
The Opposition	
House of Lords	
Crossbencher	
Life Peer	
Hereditary Peer	
Select Committee	
Legislative Committee	
Government Bills	
Private Members Bills	
Political Party	
Party Whips	
Party Rebel	
Coalition Government	

Dealignment	
Pressure group	
Sectional Pressure group	
Causal Pressure group	
Insider Pressure group	
Outsider Pressure group	
Lobbying	
Petition	

Task two: investigate the role of an MP

a) Research your local MP, who are they; which party do they represent; which constituency do they represent; what have they recently shown an interest in; research their voting history to see where they stand on key issues (not just Brexit!) <https://members.parliament.uk/>

b) Investigate the role of an MP by playing the game in the link:
<https://learning.parliament.uk/resources/mp-for-a-week/#cta-target>

<p><u>WHAT I'VE FOUND OUT ABOUT MY LOCAL MP</u></p>	<p><u>WHAT I'VE DISCOVERED ABOUT THE ROLE OF AN MP</u></p>
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Task 3- one of the biggest issues in politics is whether 16-year-olds should have the right to vote!

Read the source below and answer the following questions.

In the UK, the minimum voting age is 18, except in Scotland, where 16-and-17-year-olds have been given the right to vote in local and Scottish parliamentary elections. By and large, 16-year-olds haven't yet entered the world of home ownership, employment, tax or pensions but these economic issues are often at the forefront of election campaigns. The main argument against lowering the voting age is that a lack of experience in these matters prevents young people from making a considered judgement at the ballot box. Opponents also point to the fact that 18 to 24-year-olds have the lowest turnout of any age group in elections, reflecting an apparent lack of interest in politics. These critics question whether an even younger generation would be any different. And there are concerns that teenagers who do want to cast their votes would be impressionable and easily influenced by radical politics, or would not fully think things through and would blindly vote for the same party as their parents. But calls to lower the voting age come from a range of sources- adults as well as teenagers themselves, backed up by youth organisations, pressure groups and politicians. 16-and-17-year-olds in the Isle of Man, Jersey, Guernsey, Brazil and Austria already have the vote. They can also vote in some elections in Germany, Malta and Norway. Evidence from the Scottish Independence Referendum, substantiated by research from Austria and Norway, shows aided by encouragement from families and schools- 16-and-17-year-olds have higher rates of turnout than 18 to 24-year-olds. For supporters, it's about giving young people a say in matters that directly affect them, such as tuition fees. It's also thought that lowering the limit will encourage civic-mindedness at an earlier age and establish an interest in the political system, which will be continued throughout a person's life. Scotland's positive experience of including 16-and-17-year-olds in the 2014 Independence Referendum led to the lowering of the voting age for local and Holyrood elections. A study by the University of Edinburgh during the Referendum found that some teenagers were initially doubtful of their own abilities to make the right decision, but that this led them to actively seek out information to help inform their judgement. In some cases, teenagers even influenced their parents' voting intentions with their new-found knowledge. But as there are no immediate plans for the UK Government to debate lowering the voting age for general elections, it is unlikely that all 16-year-olds will get the chance to put that to the test any time soon.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/zsbtbk7> and <https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/campaigns/votes-at-16/>

1) Define the following political and non-political words from the source.

Parliamentary elections	
Forefront	
Ballot box	
Turnout	
Impressionable	
Radical politics	
Blindly	
Pressure groups	
Substantiated	
Tuition fees	
Civic mindedness	
Referendum	
Holyrood	
Voting intentions	

2) Using two different coloured highlighters, indicate:

- a) The arguments in the source that support the view that 16 to 18 year olds should be given the vote.
- b) The arguments in the source that support the view that the voting age should remain at 18.

3) Match up 3 arguments that support the view that 16 to 18 year olds should be given the vote with 3 counter-arguments that support the view that they should not.

ARGUMENTS FOR	ARGUMENTS AGAINST

Advisory tasks:

These tasks will support you to excel in the course. They may not be explicitly reviewed by your teachers, but they will allow students to demonstrate a genuine passion for going “above and beyond” in this subject

Suggested Viewing

There’s a lot to choose from here, so pick and choose what appeals to you! Watching these will give you a good grounding – particularly if you watch with an adult who can share their experiences and thoughts!

BBC iPlayer	What’s it about?
Thatcher: A Very British Revolution	UK’s first female PM – how she gained, held on to, and lost power, and how her premiership changed the political landscape in Britain
Blair & Brown: The New Labour Revolution	The story of two powerful personalities at the heart of a political phenomenon. Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and their closest allies chart the rise and difficult legacy of New Labour.
Taking Control: The Dominic Cummings Story	How the strategist behind the Vote Leave campaign, who became the PM’s most senior adviser, played a key role in the Brexit process
Everything Has Changed with Laura Kuenssberg	The former BBC Political Editor looks back on Brexit, Covid and other political challenges, over the last seven years (March 2022)

YouTube	
Andrew Marr’s Making of Modern Politics	Tracks how politics became increasingly about leader’s personalities and celebrity in post-war era
The Brexit Storm: Laura Kuenssberg's Inside Story	Political journalist’s behind-the-scenes explainer of the attempts by Theresa May to achieve a Brexit deal, up to April 2019
Yes Minister	An 80s sitcom unpicking the relationship between a government minister and their civil servants. An absolute classic

lhavenotv.com	
An idiot’s guide to politics	Tongue-in-cheek look at the state of modern politics in the UK and the roots of disengagement