

A-level Politics

Upper Fifth Transition Pack



The Politics Department is delighted that you have chosen to study our course for A-level. We hope that you engage with the activities contained within this document ahead of your return to the classroom in September.

A-level Politics is a fun and embracing, yet equally challenging, qualification. It will develop your thinking skills and vastly expand your knowledge of politics both in the UK and in the wider world.

The analytical and evaluative skillset that you will develop is highly sought after by all academic university departments.

There will be nine taught hours per fortnight in class. It is then expected that sixth form students complete three to five hours per week of independent study, making effective use of study periods.

Politics in the UK and the USA

This is a detailed and comprehensive assignment that you have been given. **Do not rush it.** We advise that you complete different parts of the transition pack at different points in the Summer holiday, rather than leaving it all until the final week of your break. A-level study will be a significant step up from the work you have completed in the Upper Fifth.

Task One - Important Political Figures

Look at the photographs below of key UK and US political figures. You need to research their position within Parliament or Congress and write down a detailed job description of their key roles.



Sir Keir Starmer
- Prime Minister



Rachel Reeves -
Chancellor of the
Exchequer



Shabana Mahmood -
Home Secretary



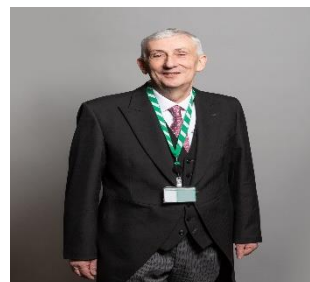
James Murray -
Secretary of
State for Health



Yvette Cooper -
Foreign
Secretary



Peter Kyle -
Secretary of
State for
International
Trade



Sir Lindsay Hoyle
- Speaker of the
House of
Commons



Kemi Badenoch -
Leader of the
Opposition



Donald Trump -
*President of the
United States of
America*



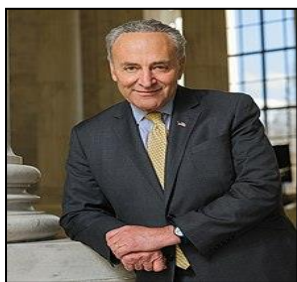
JD Vance -
*Vice President of
the United
States of
America*



Mike Johnson -
*Speaker of the
House of
Representatives*



John Thune -
*Majority Leader
in the Senate*



Chuck Schumer
- *Minority
Leader in the
Senate*



Steve Scalise -
*Majority Leader
in the House*



Hakeem Jeffries
- *Minority
Leader in the
House*



Chuck Grassley -
*President Pro-
Tempore*

Task Two - News and Elections

Politics is a subject that cannot be unplugged from news and current affairs. X is seen by some to be the present 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 yourself an X account and follow the users below for political information and news:

@Britainelects (for news and updates on all things electoral in the UK)

@BBCNews / @SkyNews (or any other news station of your choice - or even more than one!)

@bbcquestiontime (the UK's most-watched political talk-show: BBC Question Time)

Your second task is to keep an eye on these X accounts (as well as wider sources - the news and shows on TV, newspapers and others) over the summer holidays and make a note of any particularly interesting news that is relevant to Politics in the UK or US.

Task Three - British Political History

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 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.

Task Four - Parties and Issues

1. To start, research the Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat, Green, Reform UK and SNP parties. What do they stand for? Make a list of their key policies.

USA Research Task:

Your final research task is to choose one of the following parties: **Republican Party** or **Democratic Party**.

You need to research the history of the party, their ideology and policy beliefs (including their most recent election platform), their electoral performance (is the current president from that party? Do they have a majority in Congress? How well did they do at the last elections (Nov 2024 for the presidential election). **You then need to turn this into an informative leaflet/flyer about that party (including pictures). It should not be just a set of notes.**