

Introductory Day June 2022

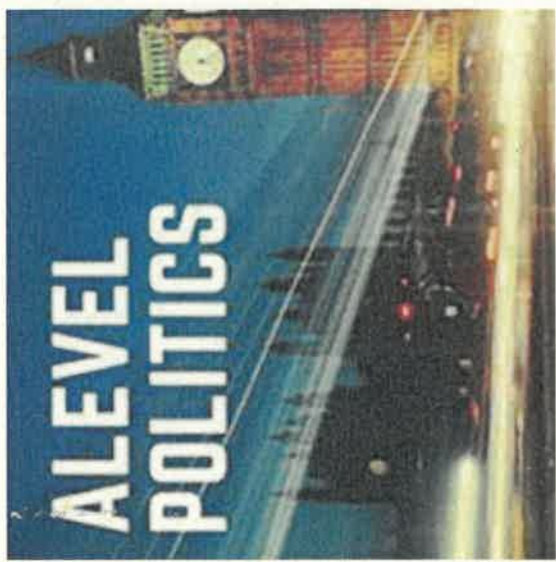
A Level Politics

Getting Started






- Democracy and Participation
 - Political Parties
 - Electoral systems
 - Voting behaviour and media
 - The Constitution
 - Parliament
 - PM and Executive
- The relationship between the different branches of government





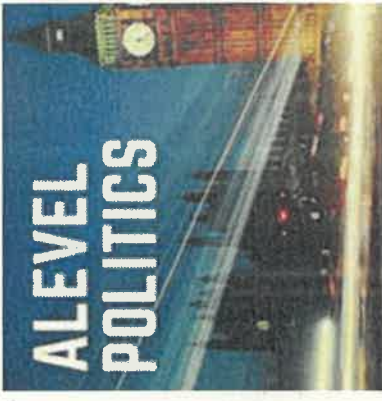
- Liberalism
- Conservatism
- Socialism
- Nationalism

Issue	Answer
Exam Board	Pearson Edexcel
Assessment	3 x 2 hour exams at the end of year 2 (Component 1,2,3)
Textbook	UK Government and Politics – Neil McNaughten US Government and Politics – Anthony Bennet
What can I do to prepare	See the rest of this booklet!




- US President
- US Congress
- The Supreme Court and Civil Liberties
 - US political Parties
- US democracy and participation
 - The Constitution of the USA
- Comparative UK/USA politics

NAME:	
Reason(s) for choosing politics:	
Which High School did you go to?	



Welcome to A Level Politics at Notre Dame

Welcome to this introductory day at Notre Dame High School. The aim of today is to allow you to get a taste what we cover in politics and to give you an idea of how to get started.

This booklet contains some of the activities we are doing today, but mostly it contains some task to help get you into the 'swing' of politics ahead of starting in September.

You will notice, how I have not suggested getting lots of textbooks or start reading classic texts, but have instead opted for you listening to a political podcast, watching some news and finding out about an MP. I have done this because I think it is important for you to realise that politics is a 'current affairs' subject and so that does mean that you need to be interested and engaged in things that are happening now and so I think that this is a much better way to get you started, and hopefully more enjoyable and immediately relevant too. We will start by looking at 'What is Politics?' in September.

I have also included some questions for you to have a go at. This booklet can be handed to me in your first lesson in September.

To the left of this box, I have included the equipment that you will need to study effectively once on the course. Please ensure that you do have the compulsory equipment before you arrive. Above I have put images of the two main textbooks I recommend for the course for those who do want to do some initial reading. (please note that we do have a classroom set of the US books and I use workbooks for teaching which includes more detailed reading both from textbooks and other sources and so it is not essential that you have to commit to the expense of purchasing textbooks)

I am very much looking forward to exploring politics with you over the next two years. If you have any questions after today's session then do please contact me: aspalding@ndhs.org.uk

Compulsory Equipment/Requirements

Item	Tick that you have
A4 lined notepad	
Pens (You will need black and blue biro. Black for writing and blue for Connecting - 1 mark in green)	
A4 ring binder or folder	
Course textbook (You will need to purchase)	
Working college computer access (username and password)	
Suitable space at home for studying (if you have not, think about how you can achieve this)	
Have accessed google classroom site for subject and looked around	
Optional items	
File dividers	
Ruler	
Coloured pens/pencils	
Dictaphone to record lessons	



TASK 1: Listen to a podcast: The Rest is Politics

Action	Your Response
What was the name of the edition that you listened to?	
What is the name of the two presenters?	
Research something of their past. Summarise some key bits of information about their previous careers.	
What topics were debated in the episode you listened to?	
What new things did you learn from listening to this episode?	
What question (s) would like to ask them to help you understand what they were debating in greater depth?	

Pick one topic they discussed and summarise the discussion below. Did they agree or disagree?

--

In your judgment: Who had the best argument on this topic and why?

TASK 2: Watch the news



Your Response

<p>Which News Bulletin did you watch (Broadcaster, time and date)</p>	
<p>What was the lead story today? (i.e. the headline, first story?)</p>	
<p>What stories in the programme were about politics?</p>	
<p>What stories in the programme what non-politics stories?</p>	
<p>What new thing did you learn about the UK/world from watching this bulletin?</p>	
<p>How often do you watch the news each week?</p>	
<p>Where do you normally get your news from?</p>	

Summarise more about the lead story? What was the story about, what the key issues, debates, problems? What did the item teach you about the story?

What questions would you have asked of anyone involved in the lead story to help you understand the subject matter better?

TASK 3: Find your MP

Action	Your Response
Key web-links for you	www.theyworkforyou.com https://members.parliament.uk/members/commons
What is the name of your MP?	
Which political party are they from?	
What is the name of the constituency your MP represents?	
How long have they been the MP for your area? What is their majority?	
On what issues in the House of Commons has your MP voted on and how have they voted (pick 5)	
What topics of interest are recorded for your MP?	
What methods are available for contacting your MP?	
Does your MP have a website? Are they on social media? What does it teach you about how MPs represent their area?	
What question would like to ask your MP?	

WATCH: The film at www.parliament.uk/about/how/role/
 Summaries in your own words what the main functions of parliament are:



Blank area for writing summaries of the film's main functions of parliament.

What questions do you have about Parliament having watched the film?

Blank area for writing questions about Parliament.

TASK 4: Some introductory politics questions. How many can you answer already without having to look it up?

Question	Your response
Who is the Head of State in the UK?	
Name the Two Houses of Parliament	
What is the name given to an area an MP represents?	
Who is the Head of Government in the UK?	
Which political party is currently in government in the UK?	
Which political party is the official opposition to the government in the UK?	
The Prime Minister is also an MP? Is this true or false?	
Is the Prime Minister is elected or appointed to their role as PM?	
What is the name of the Highest Court in the UK?	
How many MPs are in there in the UK?	

Question	Your response
Who is the First Minister of Scotland?	
What party do they lead?	
Who is the first minister of Wales	
What Party do they represent?	
Who became Britain's first female prime minister in 1979 and how long was she in power?	
Which leader of the Labour Party is the only one to have won three consecutive general elections?	
What is the name of the only Green Party MP?	
Who governed with the conservatives in a coalition between 2010-2015	
Which international body did the UK leave on 31 January 2021	
When did we vote to leave it?	

True or false?	T or F
The election system to elect MPs is called First Past the Post.	
Most members of the House of Lords are there because their father passed them the their title?	
The name given to laws produced by Parliament is legislation.	
In the UK we vote on Sundays like most other European Countries.	
The speaker of the House of Commons Sir Lyndsay Hoyle is NOT an elected MP.	
Boris Johnson is the first PM to have been found to have broken the law	
The Welsh Assembly changed its name to the Senedd	
Keir Starmer is the Mayor of London	
Sajid Javid is the Chancellor the Exchequer	
Ed Davey is the leader of the Lib Dems	
Mps cannot also be members of the Scottish Parliament	
The Queen can refuse to sign an Act of Parliament into UK law	