



The Thomas Hardy School

Summer Preparation Task

Government & Politics A Level

Purpose of task:

To increase your knowledge and understanding of current politics. To prepare students for Politics A level.

Recommended resources:

Daily broadsheet newspapers such as Times, Guardian, Independent, Telegraph, high quality news documentaries and web-sites.

Task:

1. Learn one sentence definitions for the key words below. There will be a short test on these in one of the first lessons.
2. Watch two TV news programmes e.g. Newsnight, Question Time etc. and WRITE A TWO PAGE REPORT including:
 - Which ONE story in the news you thought was most important, roughly what it was about and why you thought it was most important.
 - Complete some background research to help you understand the story.
3. Create a timeline of the Prime Ministers from 1979-2017 include their political party and election result.
4. Also create a timeline of key milestones in the widening of the franchise in relation to class, gender, ethnicity and age, including:
 - The 1832 Great Reform Act
 - The 1918 Representation of the People Acts.
 - The 1928 Representation of the People Acts.
 - The 1969 Representation of the People Acts.

Additional information:

SOME KEYWORDS

Parliament	Main law making body in the UK consisting of House of Commons and House of Lords
Government	Those members of the Commons and Lords chosen (by the leader of the largest party in the Commons) to run the country
Cabinet	The 20 or so most important members of the Government
Prime Minister	The leader of the largest party in the Commons
Minister	Another word for members of the Government – each Minister (there are over 100) is usually given responsibility for a policy area such as Health or Schools
Leader of the Opposition	Leader of the largest party that opposes the Government
General Election	Next one to be held in May 2015 – nearly all adults (over 18) will be entitled to vote for a candidate to represent their local community (eg West Dorset or South Dorset) in the Westminster parliament

Deadline for Task: First lesson in week commencing 11th September 2017

Party	Group of people who share the same political beliefs and try to get elected – main parties in the UK are Conservatives, Greens, Labour, Liberal Democrat and UK Independence Party
Pressure Group	Organisation that campaigns to persuade Government but does not stand for election like a party does eg Friends of the Earth

Recommended reading & activities list:

Owen Jones – The establishment: And how they get away with it (2015)

Marr A - A History of Modern Britain (2009)

Bloor K - A-level Politics Made Easy Hardcover (2006)

www.bbc.pol.uk – useful first point for factual research

<http://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/>

<http://www.parliament.uk/>

<http://www.politicsteacher.co.uk/>

<https://politics-blog.ashbournecollege.co.uk/>

<http://alevelpolitics.com/>

Deadline for Task: First lesson in week commencing 11th September 2017