The Thomas Hardye School

Summer Preparation Task

Politics A Level
Edexcel 9PLO

Purpose of task:

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

Task: PLEASE COMPLETE ALL OF THE TASKS BELOW

1. Learn the one sentence definitions for the key words below. There will be a short test on these in one of the first lessons.

2. Watch one TV news programmes e.g. Newsnight, Question Time, Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg 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.

3. Create a timeline of the Prime Ministers from 1979-2024 include their political party and election result.

4. Summarise the key manifesto policies in the 2024 general election. For at least 4 political parties.

5. Then select three policies (one from each political party) and explain why you support OR do not support that policy. If you want to extend yourself and go further, you can do more than 3.

   The links below will help with this research.
   https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/general-election-labour-manifesto-2024-policies-sunak-b2551971.html

   https://www.bbc.co.uk/articles/c4nn27d3n41o

6. Conduct some research into the role of your local MP. Find out who your local MP is and the following details about them:

MP's name:

Political party:

Constituency (the area they represent):

Areas they have a particular interest in:

And finally, look at their voting record (found here https://www.theyworkforyou.com/ by clicking 'voting record') and write down some ways in which they've voted in parliament.

Essential resources:

Pearson Edexcel A Level UK Government and Politics Seventh Edition Paperback – 26 April 2024

by Neil McNaughton (Author), Toby Cooper (Author), £32

It is essential that you read reputable broadsheet newspapers in order to keep up-to date with current affairs. You can look at articles on their websites:

• The Times: http://www.timesonline.co.uk

• The Independent: http://www.independent.co.uk

• The Guardian: http://www.guardian.co.uk

• The Telegraph: http://www.telegraph.co.uk

The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Politics.

Deadline for Task: First lesson in week commencing 14th September 2026

KEYWORDS TO LEARN

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	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
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:

How Westminster Works . . . and Why It Doesn't by Ian Dunt

Prisoners of Geography: Ten Maps That Tell You Everything You Need to Know About Global Politics by Tim Marshall

Politics: A Survivor's Guide: How to Stay Engaged without Getting Enraged by Rafael Behr

Everything You Really Need to Know About Politics: My Life as an MP Hardcover – 22 July 2021 by Jess Phillips

Useful websites

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/politics – useful first point for factual research
http://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/
http://www.parliament.uk/
https://www.politicsexplained.co.uk/
http://alevelpolitics.com/

Useful Podcasts

https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/the-rest-is-politics/id1611374685
Beyond Westminster
BBC politics podcasts
The Westminster Hour
Global News Podcast

Some documentaries/programmes

Cabinet Confidential
Globalisation if Good – Johan Norberg
Inside the commons A behind-the-scenes look at the work of Members of Parliament and House of Commons officials. You can all 4 episodes on YouTube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-w0ry8knIys

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