**Welcome to A-Level Politics!**

We want you to begin to think about some important political concepts, including what the study of politics is about.

**Complete the tasks below and bring them with you to your first lesson.**

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| **Teachers** | * Joyce Malmo * John Belcher * Matthew Page |
| **Assignment details/Resources required** | * Pen and paper * Access to the Internet * Laptop/computer (optional) * Complete the tasks below * Write down your answers on paper or in a Word document |
|  |  |

**TASK 1**

***Define important key words in Politics***

In the first section of the A level politics course, you will learn about the concept of democracy and political participation.

1. **Do some research and find out what is meant by the following terms. Define them:**
   1. Politics
   2. Direct democracy
   3. Representative democracy
   4. Pressure groups
   5. Think tanks
   6. Lobbying
   7. Member of Parliament (MP)
   8. Life Peer

**TASK 2**

***Download news apps and find one news story on the Prime Minister***

In Politics, textbooks go out of date the day they are published. Why? Because the political landscape changes every day, with new examples appearing constantly in the media. Picking which examples to use in your answers to essay questions is really exciting as something that has happened on the day you are taking your A Level exam can appear in your response!

**TO DO:**

1. **Download some news apps on to your phone** (e.g. Guardian, the Independent, POLITICO). The BBC News app is highly recommended as one of them (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/politics>). However, it is useful downloading a few different ones with different biases.
2. **Find a news story on the UK Prime Minister. Then, write a small summary of the story.**
3. **Finally, write down one thing you learned from reading this article this news article?**

**TASK 3**

***Are young people interested in politics?***

**Watch this inspiring Ted Talk by David Pavlu from Switzerland**, who makes a case for why better political education is important to engage the youth in politics processes such as voting.

[David Pavlu: Are young people interested in politics? | TED Talk](https://www.ted.com/talks/david_pavlu_are_young_people_interested_in_politics)

Reflect on what David Pavlu says and write a response to the questions below. There is no right or wrong here, this is just your perspective and judgement.

**QUESTIONS TO ANSWER:**

1. How interested are young people in the UK in politics?
2. How important is it that young people go out and vote?

**TASK 4**

***Interpret statistics from the 2019 General Election***

Being able to read, understand and interpret statistics is part of A Level Politics, particularly when looking at elections results and trying to identify which factors influence how we vote.

Below, you will find a table from the 2019 General Election. **Study the data and write a short paragraph (between 5-8 sentences) to what extent age was an important factor to how people voted in the 2019 General Election.** You have to use the data in the table as evidence in your response.

**Table: *The role of AGE in the UK General Election 2019***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Labour** | **Conservative** | **Lib Dem** | **Other** |
| **18-24** | 56% | 21% | 11% | 12% |
| **25-29** | 54% | 23% | 12% | 11% |
| **30-39** | 46% | 30% | 14% | 10% |
| **40-49** | 35% | 41% | 13% | 11% |
| **50-59** | 28% | 49% | 12% | 11% |
| **60-69** | 22% | 57% | 11% | 10% |
| **70+** | 14% | 67% | 11% | 8% |