

Subject: Politics

Head of Department: Ms Grocock

A Level Specification studied	Edexcel
A Summer task to get you thinking about your potential new A Level...	<p>Research where each of the main UK Political Parties stand on key policy areas (Health care, foreign policy, welfare, taxation, education). Decide which party you would vote for if there was an election this year.</p> <p>Find out who your local MP is, which party do they represent, can you find their views on these main policy issues.</p> <p>Come ready to discuss at least one UK political story that has happened during the holidays.</p>
Five learning challenges to undertake before September:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Research your local MP, who is he/she; which party do they represent; which constituency do they represent; what have they recently shown an interest in; research their voting history to see where they stand on key issues.2. Investigate the role of an MP.3. Watch the news between now and September. Create a 10 question quiz to test the rest of the class when you come back.4. Research one pressure group that currently exists in the UK. Who are they? What type of group are they? (causal, sectional, insider, outsider) What are they campaigning for and why? What methods have they used to campaign? Do you think they have been successful so far?5. Research the arguments for and against giving 16 year olds the vote. Decide what your overall judgement is.
Something to read:	Read any broadsheet newspaper / news website as often as you can.

Something to watch/listen to:	<p>There are some great TV shows that will help you get a really good understanding of both the UK and US political systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes Minister/ Yes Prime Minister• State of Play• Thick of It• House of Cards• Veep• The Good Wife• Scandal• Madam Secretary• The West Wing <p>There are also lots of great podcasts to listen to. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Rest is Politics• The backstory• Parliament explained• New Statesman• Coffee House• The Economist• Week in Westminster• What the papers say• Westminster Hour• Pod Save America
Other useful / links for study:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• https://politicsteaching.com/• http://www.earlhamssociologypages.co.uk/govpol.html#_reviews• https://www.tutor2u.net/politics

