



Politics

We are asking all students to complete some Independent Preparatory Work over the summer, before they join Year 12 in September. You will need to bring this work to lessons as the content will be assessed through introductory assessments which will be completed within the few first weeks of the new term.

Tasks

In preparation for your Politics course in September we would like you to get a real feel for Politics in the UK. These are some tasks which will give you an introduction to Politics in Britain. Remember you have never studied the topic before, so it is important that you do as many tasks as you can!

Knowledge Tasks

Task 1 – Read through the ‘Democracy’ sheet and answer these questions:

1. What are the 3 parts of democracy?
2. What does each of these mean?
3. Why is Democracy so important?

Task 2 – Read through the ‘Constitution’ sheet and answer these questions:

1. What are the functions of a Constitution?
2. What is the difference between a Codified and an uncoded constitution?

Task 3 – Read through the ‘What is Government?’ sheet and answer these questions:

1. What is legitimacy and how can it be gained?
2. What is the source of all political power in the UK?
3. What is sovereignty and what are the differences between legal, political and popular sovereignty?
4. What is the difference between the state and the Government?
5. What are the three branches of Government and what are their roles?

Task 4 – Political news stories

Over the summer use some of the sources of information below to keep up to date about politics in the UK. We'd like you to find out about 5 stories in the news. For each story fill in a table like this:

Headline of the story	Summary of the story (main facts)	Where did you get this information from?	EXTENSION: What does this suggest about politics in 2026?

Task 5

Go to this website and take the quiz to see where you are on the Political Spectrum.

<https://www.politicalcompass.org/> - you could also find out which party is closest to you on the political spectrum.

Extra reading



Sixth Form Summer Work 2026



Books on British politics:

Who governs Britain? By Anthony King

The Establishment By Owen Jones

British Politics – A very short introduction By Tony Wright *

WTF? by Robert Peston *

Why we get the wrong politicians by Isabel Hardman

How Britain really works by Stig Abell

Politics fiction books:

1984 By George Orwell *

The Wall By John Lanchester *

Books on International Politics:

Prisoners of Geography By Tim Marshall *

Divided By Tim Marshall

National Populism: The revolt against Liberal Democracy by Roger Eatwell & Matthew Goodwin

**Highly recommended*