

## Politics A Level 2017-19

### What will you study over the two years?

At BHASVIC we have chosen the Edexcel Politics specification. You can find out further information about the course

here: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Politics/2017/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/A-level-Politics-Specification.pdf>

### Component 1 – UK Politics

- Political Participation – democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media
- Core Political Ideas – conservatism, liberalism and socialism

### Component 2 – UK Government

- UK Government – the constitution, Parliament, Prime Minister and executive, and relationships between the two branches.
- Non-core Political Ideas – Nationalism

### Component 3 – Comparative Politics

- Students study either the USA or Global politics. You will need to make a choice in September. Don't forget to tell the person enrolling you which option you would like to choose.

See handout for more information

# Politics Summer Homework

## How we use homework

At college you will be expected to do homework as preparation *before* lessons. In this homework you will learn the basic information you need in order to take part in the lessons to come. It will usually involve reading some material or watching a video and then answering questions. You must bring these answers to the lesson and you will use this basic knowledge to help you tackle the more tricky aspects of the course in class. You will therefore only be able to participate in lessons if you have done the preparation work on time.

## Your summer homework

### Activity 1

**Aim:** to find out about the structure and functions of Parliament by watching short videos on the Parliament website and answering the questions below. This work is the foundation for the rest of the Parliament topic which we will continue when you come back in September.

**About this task:** Your teacher will also use this work to form an initial judgement of your literacy and thoroughness as a student. It's good to start the course feeling confident and to make a positive first impression, so take your time to do it as well as you can. Write or type your answers on paper and put your name on the top of every sheet. Also add the date the work was done (this is a good habit to maintain and will help you to stay organised). If you use a computer, make sure you can print your work out to hand in.

**You can find all the videos on the UK Parliament channel on youtube. They are:**

**1. 'Introduction to Parliament' –**

8.25mins <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RAMblz3Y2JA&index=1&list=PLi3mInRJqIembDRZ2kdbf6oPbjkqNsPyb>

Alternatively you can watch it split into 5 shorter videos on the 'Introduction to Parliament' playlist if you prefer: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLi3mInRJqIembDRZ2kdbf6oPbjkqNsPyb>

**2. 'What is the House of Commons' - 3.32mins** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dS\\_SLF92e5A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dS_SLF92e5A)

**3. 'What is the House of Lords? Jump Start' - 3.42mins** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-UOLhurGWOc>

**Deadline:** you should hand in this work on paper in the first lesson of term

# **An Introduction to Parliament - Questions**

## **Parliament structure explained**

1. What are the three parts of Parliament?
2. How many MPs are in the elected House of Commons?
3. Who becomes the prime minister after an election?
4. What do cabinet ministers do?
5. Who is the 'opposition' made up of?
6. What does the Speaker do?
7. How many members are in the House of Lords?
8. What are the different types of Lords?
9. What do Lords do?
10. What is the Monarch's role?

## **How Parliament holds government to account**

11. How does Parliament hold government to account through prime minister's and ministers' questions?
12. Who can be on a select committee?
13. How do select committees scrutinise the work of government?
14. How long does the government have to respond to a select committee report?

## **How laws are made**

15. What is a bill?
16. What is a green paper and what is it used for?
17. What is a white paper and who has to agree to take it forward?
18. What does the minister responsible for the bill do next?
19. What do MPs and Lords in Parliament do with the bill?
20. When does the bill become law?

## **Elections and voting**

21. 'In the UK we live in a democracy'. Explain very briefly what this means.
22. What types of elections can we vote in?
23. How often are general elections usually held?
24. What activities might a candidate do to campaign in a general election?
25. What is a manifesto?
26. Who does the elected MP represent?
27. Which party forms the government and who becomes the Prime Minister?
28. What are the three options if there is a hung Parliament?

## **Your voice in Parliament**

29. What age can you register to vote?
30. How can you contact an MP or a Lord?
31. How else can you influence decision-making in Parliament? Give two ways.

## **What is the House of Commons?**

32. What happened to King John in 1215?
33. What happened in the 1265 Parliament and who was responsible?
34. When was the House of Commons first formed?
35. Who can't run as candidates?
36. What are the four things that the House does?
37. Who sits on the front bench?
38. What does the government do in the Commons?
39. What does the opposition do?
40. What do all MPs do?
41. What two priorities do MPs have to balance?
42. What is 'scrutiny'?

## **What is the House of Lords?**

43. What did the Life Peerages Act of 1958 do?
44. What did the Lords Act of 1999 do?
45. Who decides on appointments to the House of Lords?
46. What are the three main functions of the House of Lords?
47. What is a crossbencher?
48. Who sits on the woolsack?
49. How is the party composition of the Lords different from the Commons?
50. What is the benefit of the Lords being unelected?

## **Activity 2: Key Concepts**

**Aim:** to learn the key concepts for Parliament pages 14-16 in the Key Concepts Booklet

(Note: DO NOT LOSE THIS BOOKLET)

**About this task:** Throughout the course there are certain key concepts that you are required to know and understand. By September you should learn all of the key concepts for Parliament. In the first few weeks you will be tested on these concepts.

**Deadline:** First week back in September