

AJK Government and Politics Summer HL



I would like to welcome you to the AJK Government and Politics A level. We have experienced a decade of unprecedented political change that has made the study of politics more relevant than ever. The last decade in the UK has seen:

- 4 general elections in the UK and 4 different prime ministers.
- A referendum that has caused division and reshaped the political landscape.
- A public health crisis that has brought about the toughest restriction of civil liberties ever seen.

In the USA we have seen:

- The first Black president.
- The election of anti-establishment, divisive, Donald Trump
- Unprecedented challenges to the political system.

As a result, I strongly believe that the study of politics is more important now than it ever has been before. I hope that you will finish your politics studies at AJK with a strong understanding of these issues and a firm conviction that you can go and be active, informed and knowledgeable participants in our political system.

This summer home learning will help prepare you for our studies in September. It will give you a broad understanding of the most important recent events and form a foundation for your work in school.

I look forward to welcoming you in person in September,

Mr Stuart.

Summer Home-learning

The French Philosopher, Michele Foucault, wrote that everything is political. In many ways, he was right, politics is really about the existence of power relations, which can be seen in every aspect of life. The questions we need to ask ourselves in politics are: who has power? Who gave them that power? Are they right in exercising that power? Perhaps most importantly, how can we remove people from power?

This pack contains your Government and Politics summer HL. It is designed to take between 2 – 3 hours to complete. You should spread this assignment out over the summer holiday and should bring it with you to your first lesson in September. There are also a number of stretch activities for you to complete if you would like to be extra prepared.

.....

Task 1: As part of your A Level Government and Politics studies, you will need to know the basic policy decisions of the two main political parties; the Conservative Party and the Labour Party.

<https://labour.org.uk/>

<https://www.conservatives.com/>

For each party create a fact file detailing their policies/views on:

- The Economy
- Law and Order
- Education
- Health
- Defence Workers' Rights
- Migration
- Brexit
- Housing
- Transport

Task 2: Create an A4/A3 briefing sheet on each of the following topics:

a) **Conservatism:**

- fundamental ideas and values
- Conservative thinkers and philosophers (Hobbes, Burke, Oakeshott, Rand, Nozick.)

b) **Socialism:**

- fundamental ideas and values,
- different types of Socialism
- Socialist thinkers and philosophers (Marx and Engels, Webb, Luxembourg, Crosland, Giddens.)

c) Liberalism:

- fundamental ideas and values
- Liberal thinkers and philosophers (Locke, Wollstonecraft, Mill, Rawls, Friedan.)

The link below is a good place to start, but you will need to research further using the Internet and/or a library (<https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/a-level/subjects/politics/>)

Additional suggested summer activities:

Optional task 3: Reflection on the 2019 General Election.

Research the 2019 UK General Election and prepare a A3 summary that covers the following areas:

- The result:
- What were the key issues during the campaign?
- How did the following impact the result: leadership, campaigning, region and class?
- What was the impact of the result on the political parties?

Stretch activities:

A key area for A level politics is keeping up to date on current events with regular news sites. Here are a list of newspapers and podcasts that it is worth regularly reading or listening to:

* Coffee House Shots – by the Spectator. ‘Short updates on big issues 15mins.

<https://www.spectator.co.uk/podcasts/coffee-house-shots>

* The Daily – The New York Times. – American news, short and engaging 20 mins.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/20/podcasts/the-daily/jobs-economy-coronavirus.html>

The Red Box Politics Podcast – The Times. – In-depth analysis of British politics 30 mins.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/topic/red-box?page=1>

Reasons to be Cheerful with Ed Miliband. – Former Labour leader takes a look at different issues in depth, fun: 1 hr. <https://www.cheerfulpodcast.com/>

Westminster Hour – BBC Radio 4. – roundup of British politics 60mins.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02nrs6c/episodes/downloads>

The World Tonight – BBC Radio 4. – Global politics roundup. 40 mins.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qt13/episodes/downloads>

Political Thinking with Nick Robinson – BBC Radio 4. – interviews with interesting political figures. 40mins. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04z2031/episodes/downloads>

* The Guardian UK: Politics Weekly – The Guardian. – analysis and commentary of weeks political issues 45 mins. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/series/politicsweekly>

Newspapers:

The Guardian (Left-leaning Free) <https://www.theguardian.com/uk>

The Times: (Centrist /centre-right – has a paywall) <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/>

The Telegraph (right-leaning, some free articles) <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/>

BBC (centrist) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

Financial Times (Right-leaning focus on economics – paid but free if you sign up using this link:)

<https://www.ft.com/join/licence/de142fe7-0fe0-441e-85d6-c4de48caaaa2/details>

Wider Reading:

In addition, I would recommend reading the following books:

‘All out War’ – Tim Shipman, for an in-depth study of the Brexit campaign.

‘Why we get the wrong politicians’ – Isabel Hardman, for a look at the issues with the current UK political system.

TV / Films

For some excellent TV series I would recommend:

The Brexit storm: https://youtu.be/X2wE_mGeZv0

The Brexit storm continues: <https://youtu.be/B8TnGirjEZA>

Secret World of Whitehall (Youtube)

The Cameron years (BBC Iplayer)

The rise and fall of Tony Blair (Youtube)

Now we are one: Blair's years (Youtube)

Brexit: The Uncivil War (Film)

Taking Control: The Dominic Cummings Story (BBC Iplayer)

Dispatches: Gordon Brown, where did it all go wrong (Youtube)

Heath vs. Wilson (Youtube)

Portillo: The Trouble with the Tories (Channel 5/youtube)

The Iron Lady (Film)

Andrew Marr's History of modern Britain (TV Series / Youtube)

The West Wing (TV Series)

Inside Obama's white house (BBC tv series)

Last Week tonight (US Late night news satire).

Crashing the Tea Party (BBC/Youtube)

Knowck Down the House (Netflix)

15 departing congress members tell newbies what to expect (Vice News tonight special - youtube).

RBG (Film).

W (Film).

The Deal (Film).

House of Cards (Netflix)

The Great Hack (netflix)