Your Summer Independent Learning is an opportunity to bridge the gap between GCSE and A Level and prepare for your Y12 course content

Part 1 – Compulsory Content – everyone must complete all parts of the tasks below

Task 1 – Democracy

The debate around 16 year-olds having the vote is becoming a key theme on the debate of improving democracy in the UK in 2018.

Read the source and complete tasks 1, 2 and 3 that lead on from the source.

the SOURCE

In the UK, the minimum voting age is 18, except in Scotland, where 16- and 17-year-olds have been given the right to vote in local and Scottish parliamentary elections. By and large, 16-year-olds haven't yet entered the world of home ownership, employment, tax or pensions but these economic issues are often at the forefront of election campaigns. The main argument against lowering the voting age is that a lack of experience in these matters prevents young people from making a considered judgement at the ballot box.

Opponents also point to the fact that 18- to 24-year-olds have the lowest turnout of any age group in elections, reflecting an apparent lack of interest in politics. These critics question whether an even younger generation would be any different. And there are concerns that teenagers who do want to cast their votes would be impressionable and easily influenced by radical politics, or would not fully think things through and would blindly vote for the same party as their parents.

But calls to lower the voting age come from a range of sources – adults as well as teenagers themselves, backed up by youth organisations, pressure groups and politicians. 16 and 17 year olds in the Isle of Man, Jersey, Guernsey, Brazil and Austria already have the vote. They can also vote in some elections in Germany, Malta and Norway. Evidence from the Scottish independence referendum, substantiated by research from Austria and Norway, shows – aided by the encouragement of families and schools – 16 and 17 year-olds have higher rates of turnout than 18 to 24 year-olds.

For supporters, it's about giving young people a say in matters that directly affect them, such as tuition fees. It's also thought that lowering the limit will encourage civic-mindedness at an earlier age and establish an interest in the political system, which will be continued throughout a person's life. Scotland's positive experience of including 16- and 17-year-olds in the 2014 independence referendum led to the lowering of the voting age for local and Holyrood elections.

A study by the University of Edinburgh during the referendum found that some teenagers were initially doubtful of their own abilities to make the right decision, but that this led them to actively seek out information to help inform their judgement. In some cases, teenagers even influenced their parents' voting intentions with their new-found knowledge.

But as there are no immediate plans for the UK government to debate lowering the voting age for general elections, it is unlikely that all 16-year-olds will get the chance to put that to the test any time soon.

1. Define the following political and non-political terms from the SOURCE

A	Parliamentary elections	
B	Forefront	
C	Ballot box	
D	Turnout	
E	Impresisonable	
F	Radical politics	
G	Blindly	
H	Pressure groups	
I	Substantiated	
J	Tuition fees	
K	Civic-mindedness	
L	Referendum	
M	Holyrood	
N	Voting intentions	

2. Using two differently coloured highlighters, indicate:
a. The arguments in the source that support the view that 16 to 18 year olds should be given the vote
b. The arguments in the source that support the view that the voting age should remain at 18

3. Select 3 arguments from each side and add them to the balanced debate see-saw below.

WEAKER ARGUMENTS

1
2
3

STRONGER ARGUMENTS

1
2
3

Task 2 – Political History and Context

Research online to create a **detailed timeline** of each election in the UK from **1979-2024.** On this timeline **for each election, you need to…**

- Identify who the leaders of the two main parties were
- Identify which party won and how big their victory was
- For each new Prime Minister add some information about…

A) Their political views and policies

B) Their personality and style of government

C) Any important events during their time as PM

The following links will help you – there is a lot of information contained within them so make sure to only focus on adding detail about the bullet points above!

Good for an overview of the results of each election -
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1979_United_Kingdom_general_election

The first section here provides a brief overview of each PM and their governments -
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_history_of_the_United_Kingdom_(1979%E2%80%93present)

Starting in 1979 has an overview of some important events during each decade and their impact
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-18028620

A brief video overview of British PM's and scandals since 2019
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PbyJdq5k2Ys

Task 3 – What do you know about British Politics?

Use Internet research to answer the following questions:

1. How many MPs sit in the House of Commons?

2. What is the job of an MP?

3. How many MPs do the following parties have in the House of Commons*: Conservatives, Labour, Liberal Democrats, Reform UK, Scottish National Party (SNP), Plaid Cymru, Green Party, Sinn Fein, Democratic Unionist Party (DUP)*?

4. Sinn Fein do not take their seats in the House of Commons. Why?

5. Due to this, how many MPs sit in the House of Commons in reality?

6. Which party currently has a majority of seats in the House of Commons? What does this allow them to become?

Task 4 – Current Affairs

One of the most important tasks in Politics is being up to date with current affairs, read the news online, watch the news, Newsnight, question time, etc.

Here are some tasks for you to research;

Find out about your local MP – who are they? What party do they represent? How long have they been in Parliament? What are some of their key beliefs/policies?

Find an example of an important current news story that shows an important aspect of politics, for example, what happened at the most recent election? What important issues is the government trying to deal with? Have there been any recent Political scandals? Bring it in with you and be prepared to discuss it with the class.

Task 5 – Democracy Video

Our first topic is on democracy.

Watch the following video and make some Cornell notes on it. An example of how to do this is shown on the following slides, it is not for Politics but the principle is the same

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ARnQmrLxjBk

What coastal geography affects tsunamis?

Coastal Geography
- Height of the surrounding area.
- how quickly the coast shelves.
- the presence of bays and estuaries.
- depth of water above the fault rupture.

How does gradual shallowing affect a tsunami?

Gradual Shallowing
- Highest tsunamis occur in long and gradual shallowing of the water. Allows 'enough time' for damage to occur.
- e.g. Sri Lanka - waves swept inland for 5km (as it has a flat topography) even though it was 1600 km from the focus.

Why was Bang Tao destroyed?

Phuket Island (2004 Indian Ocean tsunami)
Bang Tao - open bay - completely destroyed. Faced directly on to the oncoming tsunami, funnelled the waves towards the town. Northern part slightly protected.

Why wasn't Surin Beach destroyed?

Surin Beach - sea bed rises steeply so wave did not travel far inland. The headland protected the beach from full force of waves.

Why was Kamala destroyed?

Kamala - open bay, gently sloping sea bed. Waves rushed 1km inland flooding up to 7-8m. The headland to the SW refracted the waves into the bay.

Coastal geography - gradual shallowing causes the highest tsunamis.
Headlands protect areas, bays have most of damage.
Coastal geography of fault rupture zone - affects the size of the tsunami.

Why did the 2005 earthquake only cause a moderate tsunami compared to the 2004 one?

Coastal Geography of the rupture zone
A similar earthquake struck the same area 3 months after the 2004 tsunami. On the 28th March 2005, an 8.7 EQ struck further south along the same fault zone. It extended an additional 350 km southwards than the previous. This only caused a moderate tsunami because:
- the rupture occurred mostly under islands, rather than underwater.
- the channel between the offshore islands and the mainland was relatively shallow in the 2005 event, so there was relatively little water to be displaced.

Summary: Tsunami characteristics - diffraction causes waves to spread into shadow zones.
Deep water waves are when depth of water > λ/2.
Shallow water waves are when depth of water < λ/2.
Shoaling = high amplitude in shallow waters.

Task 6 - Political Ideologies -

As part of your study of politics you will look at a number of *political ideologies* (theories and ideas about how the world works) ...

Watch the short video for each ideology and identify the key ideas, philosophers/thinkers and criticisms/challenges of each of them – finally try to think of at least one policy (a law implemented by a government in the UK) that is based on the values of each ideology. Set this out in a table like the one below...

1. Conservatism - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=khzQ8iOuwgI

2. Liberalism - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KO8OxfFiVv8

3. Socialism - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z_TTYd6yIYI

	Conservatism	Liberalism	Socialism
Key ideas			
Philosophers/Thinkers			
Criticisms/Challenges			
Policies in the UK			

Part 2 – Optional Content – this is not compulsory but will help widen your knowledge of Politics

Task 1 – News Story

What you need to do:

Produce a newspaper style report/article that addresses why young people should be interested in politics.

This is your chance to showcase your own interest in politics!

Think!

Why should young people be engaged in politics in the UK?

- How does politics impact on people's lives?

- How can politics change people's lives?

- Why is it so important that people in society are engaged and active within the political process?

Task 2 – widen your knowledge with the following reading/viewing

Wider reading – Y12 topic 1 democracy and participation

https://www.tutor2u.net/politics/collections/uk-politics-study-notes-for-a-level-politics

Twitter

Start developing your knowledge of current affairs by following:

BBC – News and Politics	The Telegraph	Politics Home
The Guardian	Politicians	BMS Politics
The Times	Government Departments	Study Politics
New Statesman	New College Pontefract Politics	Britain Elects
The Spectator		UK Parliament
The Independent	Simple Politics	UK House of Commons
	Voting counts	

Task 3 – what career opportunities are there in Politics?

https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/politics