

St. Joseph's College A-Level Politics: Summer Transition Work



Welcome to A-Level Politics! This transition work is designed to help you begin thinking like a politics student. A-Level Politics is exciting, dynamic, and deeply relevant to the world around you. By completing this pack of tasks over the summer, you'll develop essential skills and gain a head start for Year 12.

You are required to **bring your completed answers to the FIRST Politics lesson that you have in September. You can submit this handwritten or electronically (guidance will be given in September).**

Introductory task

1. What is Politics?

- A. Politics is about power, about people, equality, war, conflict, debate, cooperation, freedom, money, etc. – it's about the relationship between the state and its citizens, or the state and other states. It governs almost everything we can and will do in our lives. Research what the following key terms mean and write a brief definition for each.

Term	Explanation
Power	
Authority	
Legitimacy	
Government	

The Executive (branch of govt.)	
Prime minister	
Cabinet	
The Legislature (branch of govt.)	
Parliament	
House of Commons	
House of Lords	
UK Supreme Court	
Rule of Law	
Devolution	
Brexit	

Constituency	

B. Write a one-page/350 word answer to the question:

What is politics, and why does it matter?

Include examples from:

- UK politics (e.g., Parliament, elections)
- Global politics (e.g., international relations, conflicts)

Helpful sources:

[Parliament UK](#)

[BBC Politics](#)

[The Guardian Politics](#)

[The results of the 2024 General Election](#)

2. Do some research and answer the following questions.

- What is the name of the Constituency in which you live?
- Who became MP for your Constituency in the 2024 election?
- How many more votes did they get than the person who came second?
- Nationally, what was the % turnout of voters?
- Was the turnout the same, higher or lower than in the 2019 election?

f. Complete the table of national results from the 2024 election.

Party	Number of seats won	Is this up or down on the 2019 election (e.g. -39 seats)	Percentage of the national vote	How many votes did they receive nationally?
Conservative				
Labour				
Liberal Democrats				
Reform				
Scottish National Party				

3. Current Affairs Diary (Ongoing Task)

Start an online/paper *Politics Journal* by tracking **3 political news stories** over the summer.

For each story, write:

- A short summary (100–150 words)
- Your thoughts or opinions
- The source (e.g., BBC, Guardian, The Times). **Try to include a range of topics: domestic, international, and political debate.**

4. Political Ideologies: Introduction (Research Task)

Research the basic ideas of **three main political ideologies**: [Start your research here](#)

- Conservatism
- Socialism
- Liberalism

For each:

- Summarise the core beliefs (in 100–150 words)
- Name a major UK party that aligns with the ideology
- Mention a famous political figure associated with the ideology

5. Essay Practice (Extended Writing Task)

Write a short essay (around 500 words) answering the question:

***The turnout in recent elections has been lowest in the 18-24 age group:
How can young people be more motivated to get involved in politics in
the UK?***

Tips:

- Consider voting systems, representation, the role of Parliament, the House of Lords, and the teaching of politics in primary and secondary school
- Use examples from your own experience and observations

6. General task: get up to date with UK politics

Videos & Podcasts:

- [BBC Newsnight](#)
- [The Rest is Politics \(Rory Stewart and Alistair Campbell\)](#)

Deadline & Submission

Bring your completed work to your **first A-Level Politics lessons in September**. It will form the basis of your initial discussions and help your teacher gauge your starting point. You can submit it all electronically if you wish to (guidance will be given in September), or on paper if you prefer.