

A-level Politics - Summer Work

Understanding British & USA Politics

Part 1 - Follow Current Politics (Core Knowledge)

You need to keep a short weekly politics log over 6 weeks.

You should:

- Follow one major UK political story each week
- Summarise:
 - what happened
 - who was involved
 - why it matters
- Give your own opinion in 1–2 paragraphs

Good sources:

- [BBC News Politics](#)
- [Sky News Politics](#)
- [The Guardian Politics](#)
- [Parliament UK](#)

This will get you used to political terminology, identifying individuals and institutions, and, also, evaluative thinking.

Hand in summaries of 6 separate UK or USA political news stories

Part 2 - Introductory Research Task

Write a 700 – 1000-word response to:

“How democratic are the UK & USA political systems?”

Alternatively, you can produce a short presentation/poster/video.

Criteria:

- Provide a balanced response, i.e. points for and against
- Use evidence to support your arguments
- Provide a balanced judgement

Part 3 — Learn Key Vocabulary

Provide a glossary of the following terms:

- Democracy
- Constitution
- Sovereignty
- Parliament/ Congress
- Executive, e.g. Prime Minister & President
- Judiciary, e.g. Supreme Court
- Devolution
- Federalism
- Referendum
- Pressure group
- Political party
- Electoral system

Optional Tasks

Watch/read political content

Suggestions:

- Question Time [BBC One - Question Time](#)
- Prime Minister's Questions [BBC Parliament - Prime Minister's Questions](#)
- Politics Matters [BBC Two - Politics Live](#)
- Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg [BBC One - Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg](#)
- [How Westminster Works... and Why It Doesn't](#)
- [Politics: Why It Matters: Amazon.co.uk: Gamble, Andrew: 9781509527298: Books](#)

Listen to podcasts

- [The Rest Is Politics](#) (UK & USA versions)
- [Political Thinking with Nick Robinson](#)

And there are many, many more! Come in with your own recommendations.