

## **Politics: Year 12 Preparation 2020**

**TASK 1:** Read – chose one of the following overview books to read in preparation for your study of UK Politics:

- Wright (2003) *British Politics: A Very Short Introduction*
- Heffernan et al (2018) *Developments in British Politics 10*

**TASK 2:** Keeping up to date with developments in UK Politics

- News websites: BBC News Politics, The Guardian, The Daily Telegraph, The Times, Huffpost UK, Politics.co.uk.
- Magazines: The Spectator, The New Statesman.

Bring 5 of your favourite news articles that you have read (each from a different week).

**TASK 3:** Listen to one of the following podcasts:

- Podcasts: Talking Politics, Guardian Politics Weekly, FT Politics Podcast, BBC Week in Westminster, BBC Political Thinking, Matt Forde The Political Party (funny), Times Red Box.

**TASK 4:** Read over the overview of the Politics course below and/or the course specification from Pearson Edexcel (<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/politics-2017.html>). How do your articles link to the course?

**TASK 5** (optional): Enrichment reading – chose from the selection of books below to enrich and deepen your knowledge and understanding of UK Politics.

### **1. Democracy and Participation**

- [Democratic Audit Website](#)
- Cartledge (2016) *Democracy: A Life*
- Cole (2006) *Democracy in the UK*
- Flinders (2012) *Why Democracy matters in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?*
- Flinders (2017) *What kind of democracy is this? Mr Colenutt has a copy.*
- Runciman (2018) *This is how democracy ends*

### **2. Political Parties**

- The websites of the Lib Dems, Labour, Conservative, SNP and DUP parties.
- [Lectures by Vernon Bogdanor on UK Political Parties. Essential viewing.](#)
- Bale (2011) *The Conservative Party from Thatcher to Cameron*
- Thorp (2016) *The History of the Labour Party*
- Podcast Series (2018) [The Long March of Corbyn's Labour](#)
- Podcast Series (2018) [Theresa May: The Brexit PM](#)

### **3. Elections**

- [The Electoral Reform Society](#) is a great resource.
- Farrell (2011) *Electoral Systems*
- Renwick (2011) *A Citizen's Guide to Electoral Reform*
- [The UK Parliament website](#) also has lots of great explanations.

### **4. Voting Behaviour**

- [All articles and resources in the Voting Behaviour Challenge Table Google Doc](#)
- Cowley and Kavanagh (2016) *The General Election of 2015. Mr Colenutt has a copy.*
- Allen & Bartle (2018) *None Past the Post. Mr Colenutt has a copy.*
- Denver et al (1998) *The 1997 General Election. Mr Colenutt has a copy.*
- Norris et al (1998) *Britain Votes: 1997. Mr Colenutt has a copy.*
- [Denver \(2016\) How Britain Voted: 2015 article](#)

## A Level Politics: Overview

**Exam** (Exam board: Pearson Edexcel)

- **Exams:** 3 written exams completed in June 2019.
- **Length:** 2 hours (each).
- **Weighting:** each paper has equal weighting, **33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %** for each paper.

<b>Paper 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas</b>	
<b>UK Politics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Democracy and participation: features/similarities and differences/advantages and disadvantages of current systems of representative democracy and direct democracy; consideration of the case for reform; pressure groups.</li> <li>• Political parties: functions and features of political parties; funding.</li> <li>• Electoral systems: advantages and disadvantages of different electoral systems; referendums and how they are used.</li> <li>• Voting behaviour and the media: case studies of three key general elections.</li> </ul>
<b>Core Political Ideas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservatism: core ideas and principles; differing views and tensions.</li> <li>• Liberalism: core ideas and principles; differing views and tensions.</li> <li>• Socialism: core ideas and principles; differing views and tensions.</li> </ul>
<b>Paper 2: UK Government and Non-Core Political Ideas</b>	
<b>UK Government</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The constitution: the nature and source of the UK constitution, including an overview of the development of the constitution; how the constitution has changed since 1997; role and powers of devolved powers; debates on reform.</li> <li>• Parliament: the role, structure and powers of the House of Commons and the House of Lords; legislative powers; the ways in which Parliament interacts with the Executive, including the role and significance of backbenchers, select committees and the opposition.</li> <li>• Prime Minister and the Executive: the structure role and powers of the Executive; the concept of ministerial power; the powers of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet.</li> <li>• Relations between branches: the Supreme Court and its interactions with, and influence over, the legislative and policy-making processes; The relationship between the Executive and Parliament; The aims, role and impact of the European Union (EU) on UK government; The location of sovereignty in the UK political system.</li> </ul>
<b>Non-Core Political Ideas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nationalism: core ideas and principles; different types of nationalism.</li> </ul>
<b>Paper 3: Comparative Politics</b>	
<b>Global Politics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The state and globalisation: characteristics of a state, nation state and of national sovereignty; the process of globalisation and its impact on the state system; debates about the impact of globalisation, including its advantages and disadvantages.</li> <li>• Global governance – political and economic: origins, role, significance and strengths and weaknesses of the United Nations; NATO; International Monetary Fund; World Bank; the World Trade Organisation; G7/8 and G20.</li> <li>• Global governance – human rights and environmental: Origins and development of international law and institutions, including the International Court of Justice, International Criminal Court, special UN tribunals and European Court of Human Rights; the key issues of these institutions in dealing with human rights; the role and significance of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).</li> <li>• Power and developments: different types of power, including hard power and soft power; state power classifications, including emerging powers, great powers and superpowers; the implications of unipolarity, bipolarity and multipolarity; different systems of government.</li> </ul>