

A Level Government and Politics Summer Tasks

Specification:

We follow the AQA Government and Politics specification. You can have a look at what is on the course here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/politics/a-level/politics-7152/specification-at-a-glance>

Please complete the following three tasks:

Tasks:

- 1) Watch the following video
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HtkWTUrBDdw&list=PLXtShDmDvfwzt2XFMqulsg0SwDrJRybjV>
 - a) Define the following words: democracy, participation, representative democracy, direct democracy.
 - b) In your opinion which is better representative democracy or direct democracy.
- 2) Now watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOUM8RJDbDI>
 - a) Give some examples of recent referendums and their outcomes including the turnout.
 - b) In your opinion are referendums good for democracy or bad for democracy.
- 3) Use the following websites to help answer the questions that follow:
<https://politicsteaching.com/2022/04/04/who-are-the-hereditary-peers-and-why-do-only-92-sit-in-the-house-of-lords/>
<https://www.parliament.uk/site-information/glossary/life-peers/>
<https://lordsappointments.independent.gov.uk/>
<https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/new-lords-appointments-december-2020/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Cruddas,_Baron_Cruddas
 - a) What is the difference between a Life Peer and a Hereditary Peer?
 - b) What is the role of the House of Lords Appointments Commission?
 - c) How many Life Peers has Boris Johnson appointed?
 - d) Why was the nomination of Peter Cruddas controversial?

For Additional Stretch and Challenge

Websites for Further Research and Reading:

<https://studyrocket.co.uk/revision/a-level-politics-aqa>

<https://www.parliament.uk/>

<https://www.eyerevolution.co.uk/blog/get-inside-10-downing-street/>

Books to read:

British Politics: A Very Short Introduction, Tony Wright

Politics: A Very Short Introduction. Kenneth Minogue

American Politics: A Very Short Introduction, Richard Valelly.

Current Affairs Podcasts

BBC Beyond Today - a 30 minute episode available each week day. It takes one current event and explains it in detail. The topics vary and some are more relevant than others. This is a great way to get to grips with an important event without having to watch the news 24/7. Download the BBC Sounds App and subscribe or visit <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06pzmr4>

BBC Week in Westminster - A 30 minute summary of what has happened in parliament each week. Also available on BBC Sounds this will be used as homework to help you get up to date case studies of the political events we are learning about.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qjfq>

New Statesman - A weekly 1 hour podcast covering the political developments of the week. This offers a different interpretation to the BBC. <https://www.newstatesman.com/podcasts>

If you have any questions, please get in touch with Dr Carter jcarter@ccs.northants.sch.uk