



Summer Work for Prospective Government and Politics Year 1 Students

As part of your preparation for the study of Government and Politics at A-Level, you are required to undertake two assignments:

- An essay comparing the British Prime Minister with the American Presidency.
- A commentary on five contemporary political themes based on your reflections from online clips.

For the first assignment, please undertake some research on British Prime Ministers and American Presidents. This can be looking at specific leaders in the last few decades and their aims/achievements, or looking at the role of the Presidency/Prime Minister and what powers each role includes, as well as the limits to their powers. For example, you might research Theresa May's efforts to achieve Brexit, or Tony Blair's achievement of peace in Northern Ireland, or Donald Trump's aim to build a wall along the Mexican Border. Then answer the following essay question:

'When it comes to passing domestic policy, British Prime Ministers are more powerful than American Presidents': To what extent do you agree with the view?

There is no word count, although your essay should comprise of three themed paragraphs in addition to an introduction and conclusion.

Your second assignment is reflection and commentary on contemporary political themes. Politics includes the study of a range of themes and topics. It will enable you to understand how our own political system works, and how our country is governed. It investigates how

another democratic country (USA) is governed in comparison to Britain. It encourages you to consider different ways people participate in politics – through protests, petitions and joining parties and pressure groups. And it invites you to explore some of the big ideas that motivate people to get elected. Studying Politics requires you to think about these themes and topics and to build your own opinions, as well as listening to the views of others who will hold very different views to your own. This helps you to reflect on what you think about these issues, sometimes persuading others of your views, and sometimes being persuaded yourself to develop and change in your political ideas. Please watch each of the video links below, and write some notes explaining your own thoughts and reflections on the issue, either as a paragraph or a few bullet points. Feel free to digress beyond the question if you have additional points you want to include on each topic, and include as much or as little of your own opinion in these commentaries as you like.

- Why is Trump popular with many Americans? What is your judgement of Trump as president?

Highlights of one of President Trump's rallies: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c5FkHuwR0Ec>

- Why do you think most people voted for the Conservative Party in the 2017 General Election? What do people think about when they vote?

Conservative party election broadcast: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YTis-nZ7LcE>

- What do you think about this type of political action (protest)? Is it effective in helping people get their voice heard, or in getting things changed?

Extinction Rebellion protests in London:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/apr/22/people-arrested-at-london-climate-protests>

- Do you think Thatcher was right to fight against people working in the mines and their Trade Unions?

Thatcher's legacy with the unions: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=on7v6h5_4eI

- What did Mill say a government should be allowed to do, and not do? How limited do you think a government should be?

BBC on JS Mill: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-25207049>

Please submit your work on Enrolment Day.

We look forward to seeing you again in the new academic year.