



Notre Dame
CATHOLIC SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Politics

1. View our courses [here](#)

2. Exam board specification:

Here is a link to the A-level Politics syllabus which you can download.

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/politics-2017.html>

The A Level is made up of three papers which will be examined at the end of the course.

- Paper 1 (Paper code: 9PL0/01) UK Politics (and core political ideas)
- Paper 2: (Paper code: 9PL0/02) UK Government (and non-core political idea – anarchism)
- Paper 3: (Paper code: 9PL0/3B) Comparative politics – Global politics



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3. Suggested reading list, websites, pod casts, films etc.

Our core textbooks are:

- UK Government and Politics by Neil McNaughton (Hodder Education)
- Global Politics for A-level by Robert Murphy et al (Hodder Education)

Probably the best way to get ready for A-level Politics is to engage with some political podcasts.

Here is a list of good UK political podcasts

The Guardian Politics Weekly podcast

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/series/politicsweekly>

BBC The Week in Westminster

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

Talking Politics

<https://www.talkingpoliticspodcast.com/>

UnHerd – (a podcast with loads of other great bits of news)

<https://unherd.com/>

The Political Party

<https://www.mattforde.com/podcast>

Reasons to be Cheerful

<https://play.acast.com/s/reasonstobecheerful>

Political Thinking with Nick Robinson

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04z203l/episodes/player?page=2>

You can also follow the political news media on the BBC (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/>) and at The Guardian (<https://www.theguardian.com/uk>)



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4. A summer learning activity

Politics Independent Learning Activity - Who Represents Me?

Introductory Research Task

This task can be completed using these websites: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/politics> , www.parliament.uk , <http://www.number10.gov.uk/> and <https://www.wikipedia.org/> but you are also encouraged to use any other reputable sources you can access. The task should take around 90 minutes.

A. Parliament, The House of Commons & MPs

Parliament is made up of a two-tier structure, the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Members of the House of Commons are called MPs. They are elected by the votes of the citizens of the United Kingdom in general elections. Each MP represents the area of the country that elected them; this is called their constituency. MPs are grouped together in Parliament as members of political parties.

1. Find out how many MPs there are in the House of Commons.
2. Find out the makeup of the different political parties in the current parliament (i.e. How many MPs are there from each party?)
3. Who is your MP and what is the name of your constituency?
4. What political party does your MP belong to?
5. Find five facts about your MPs political party.
6. Find four different tasks that make up the job of being an MP.

B. The Government, the Prime Minister and Minister in the Cabinet

The biggest political party in the Commons will make up the government. Members of the government will be grouped together as Government Ministers in an organisation called the Cabinet. This is the ruling executive - it is **the government**. The leader of the Cabinet and the government is called the Prime Minister (PM).

7. Find five Cabinet ministers, record their names, job titles and the names of the government departments they lead.
8. Record five facts about the Cabinet.
9. Find out five facts about the current Prime Minister.
10. Find the names, political parties and dates of office for the last five PMs (**before** the current PM!).



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11. Find the results of last General Election. What was the % of votes cast for each party (don't worry about really small parties). Now do the same for preceding general election. What changes can you see?