



Chellaston Academy

Politics

Transition Tasks



Summer Activities in Preparation for A level Politics:

You will need to download the following booklet:

<https://assets-learning.parliament.uk/uploads/2019/12/How-it-Works-booklet.pdf>

Read through the booklet and complete the following activities:

Task 1: In your own words write a short definition for each of these keywords/ phrases:

Keyword/ phrase	Definition
Politics	
Suffrage	
Political Participation	
Democracy	
Direct Democracy	
Representative Democracy	
Member of Parliament (MP)	
General Election	
Devolution	
Devolved Assemblies/ Parliament	
By-election	
Referendum	
Manifesto	
First-Past-The-Post (FPTP)	
Constitution	

Uncodified Constitution	
Parliamentary sovereignty	
Legislature	
Executive	
Judiciary	

Role of Parliament	
Parliamentary Reform Acts 1911 and 1949	
Human Rights Act 1998	
Constitutional Reform Act 2005	
Fixed Term Parliament Act 2011	
Bicameral legislature	
House of Commons	
Constituency	
Frontbencher minister	
Backbench MP	
The Speaker	
The Opposition	
House of Lords	
Crossbencher	

Life Peer	
Hereditary Peer	
Select Committee	
Legislative Committee	
Government Bills	
Private Members Bills	
Political Party	
Party Whips	
Party Rebel	
Coalition government	
Partisan	
Partisan	
Dealignment	
Pressure Group	
Sectional Pressure Group	
Causal Pressure Group	
Insider Pressure Group	
Outsider Pressure Group	
Lobbying	
Petition	

Task 2: Investigate the role of an MP.

a.) Research your local MP, who is he/she; which party do they represent; which constituency do they represent; what have they recently shown an interest in; research their voting history to see where they stand on key issues.

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

b.) Investigate the role of an MP by playing the game in the link below.

<https://learning.parliament.uk/resources/mp-for-a-week/#cta-target>

Findings:

a.) My local MP

b.) The role of an MP

Task 3: Watch / read / follow the news over the summer holidays.

Create a 10 question quiz on current political events to test the rest of the class when you come back:

Questions:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.

Task 4: Research one pressure group that currently exists in the UK.

- Who are they?
- What type of group are they? (causal, sectional, insider, outsider) What are they campaigning for and why?
- What methods have they used to campaign?
- Do you think they have been successful so far?

Example Pressure Group:

Task 5: In the taster lesson we discussed whether 16 year olds should be allowed to vote in UK general elections.

Read the source below and answer the questions:

In the UK, the minimum voting age is 18, except in Scotland, where 16- and 17-year-olds have been given the right to vote in local and Scottish parliamentary elections. By and large, 16-year-olds haven't yet entered the world of home ownership, employment, tax or pensions but these economic issues are often at the forefront of election campaigns. The main argument against lowering the voting age is that a lack of experience in these matters prevents young people from making a considered judgement at the ballot box.

Opponents also point to the fact that 18- to 24-year-olds have the lowest turnout of any age group in elections, reflecting an apparent lack of interest in politics. These critics question whether an even younger generation would be any different. And there are concerns that teenagers who do want to cast their votes would be impressionable and easily influenced by radical politics, or would not fully think things through and would blindly vote for the same party as their parents.

But calls to lower the voting age come from a range of sources – adults as well as teenagers themselves, backed up by youth organisations, pressure groups and politicians. 16 and 17 year olds in the Isle of Man, Jersey, Guernsey, Brazil and Austria already have the vote. They can also vote in some elections in Germany, Malta and Norway. Evidence from the Scottish independence referendum, substantiated by research from Austria and Norway, shows – aided by the encouragement of families and schools – 16 and 17 year-olds have higher rates of turnout than 18 to 24 year-olds.

For supporters, it's about giving young people a say in matters that directly affect them, such as tuition fees. It's also thought that lowering the limit will encourage civic-mindedness at an earlier age and establish an interest in the political system, which will be continued throughout a person's life. Scotland's positive experience of including 16- and 17-year-olds in the 2014 independence referendum led to the lowering of the voting age for local and Holyrood elections.

A study by the University of Edinburgh during the referendum found that some teenagers were initially doubtful of their own abilities to make the right decision, but that this led them to actively seek out information to help inform their judgement. In some cases, teenagers even influenced their parents' voting intentions with their new-found knowledge.

But as there are no immediate plans for the UK government to debate lowering the voting age for general elections, it is unlikely that all 16-year-olds will get the chance to put that to the test any time soon.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/zsbtbk7> and <https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/campaigns/votes-at-16/>

1. Define the following political and non-political words from the source.

Parliamentary elections	
Forefront	
Ballot box	
Turnout	
Impressionable	
Radical politics	
Blindly	
Pressure groups	
Substantiated	
Tuition fees	
Civic-mindedness	
Referendum	
Holyrood	
Voting intentions	

2. Using two differently coloured highlighters, indicate:

- a.) The arguments in the source that support the view that 16 to 18 year olds should be given the vote
- b.) The arguments in the source that support the view that the voting age should remain at 18

3. Match up 3 arguments that support the view that 16 to 18 year olds should be given the vote with 3 counter-arguments that support the view that they should not.

Arguments that support the view that 16 to 18 year olds should get the vote.	Counter-arguments that support the view that the voting age should remain at 18

4. You are now going to practice **analysing** one of these arguments. You are going to use **evidence** to back-up your analysis. You may need to do some additional research to answer these questions.

The source states that the 18-24 age group has the lowest turnout in UK elections so therefore even younger voters are likely to have an even lower turnout.	
What is turnout?	
For example, what was the turnout for 18-24 year olds in the recent 2019 general election?	
How does this compare with turnout for this age group in the 2017 and 2015 general elections?	
Why therefore is it perhaps not a good idea to extend the vote to 16 and 17 year olds?	
In the 2014 Scottish Independence Referendum (the first UK election to give 16 year olds the vote) what was the turnout for 16-18 years old? Which age group had the lowest turnout in this referendum?	
Therefore, how does this argument prove that the voting age should not be reduced to 16 years old?	

5. The work you have just done is how you would start to answer the A Level exam question below:

‘Using the source, evaluate the view that the voting age should be lowered to 16 for UK general elections.’

Don’t worry you are not going to have to write a full answer to this question: you are just going to have a go at writing a conclusion to this question using the AS IF approach.

A	Answer (what is your decision should 16 years olds get the vote?)	
S	Substantiate your view	
I	It Depends on...	
F	Future Prospects	

(Resources for this task are taken from tutor2u booklet ‘From the source- Votes at 16’)