



A Level Government and Politics Induction Task

Introduction: Hello! And thanks for choosing to apply for Government and Politics A-Level!

During your AS level studies you will focus on two key topics:

- **Unit 1: People and Politics.** This unit will introduce you to the key channels of communication between government and the people. It will encourage you to evaluate the adequacy of existing arrangements for ensuring representative **democracy and participation.**

AND...

- **Unit 2: Governing the UK** This unit will introduce you to the major governmental processes within the UK. It will encourage you to develop a critical understanding of the role and effectiveness of key institutions, and of the relationship amongst them in the context of multi-level governance.

To get you into the swing of things we've put together a number of useful and really important summer tasks which you will need to bring completed to your first lesson in September. It's ESSENTIAL that you complete these tasks otherwise you'll start the year behind everyone else which won't give the best impression of your commitment to the course!

When you begin the course in September you will be given core text books and reading lists. However, one resource that you should be starting to make use of is the media regarding politics. Make sure you start getting into the habit of watching Prime Minister's question time, the news, and reading through your choice of Newspapers or the BBC News website on politics is also very useful.

- Task:
1. Read the introductory "Discover Parliament" booklet (available from: http://www.parliament.uk/documents/education/online-resources/printed-resources/discover_parliament.pdf) and answer the questions on Worksheet 1 and Worksheet 2 below.
 2. Match the words and definitions on Definitions worksheet. You will be tested on them in the first lesson back!
 3. Identify "a British political issue" that really interests you or that has been in the headlines over the summer. Write a brief explanation of why it is interesting/important and identify 2-3 "controversial questions" that you can ask of the others to stimulate a debate on the topic.

Additional: Explore these two websites www.parliament.uk and www.number10.gov.uk

Due: This will be due for your first lesson back in September.

Set by: If you have any queries regarding the task set please contact Mr Arkinstall on pda@hardenhuish.wilts.sch.uk

Expected Time

Commitment: This task should take you a minimum of 3 hours.

Worksheet 1 - Quiz on "discover parliament" booklet p1-10

1. What is the essential difference between the 659 members of the House of Commons and the 700 members of the House of Lords?
2. What are the two key roles of the Parliament?
3. The Queen is an h..... m.....
4. Which part of parliament has the most political power?
5. Recently Scotland, Wales and N. Ireland have been given their own parliaments and assemblies and more power to decide what happens in their own countries. This process is called.....?
6. The word parliament comes from the French word..... which means to.....
7. What is the job of Government and what is the Government made up from?
8. The House of Commons job is to pass l....., to provide....., to check that the..... and to debate.....
9. What colour are the seats in the House of Commons?
10. There is no minimum length of a Parliament but the maximum length of a Parliament isyears
11. The members of Parliament each represent an area of the country called a.....
12. We vote to select our national Parliament and Government in a
13. In order to vote you must have your name on the E..... R.....
14. The voting system in the UK is called F.....P.....T.....P.....
15. The leader of the largest party in Parliament becomes the
16. The Party with the second largest number of seats is known as the O.....
O.....
17. Parliament spends much of its time debating and passing new laws which are known as S..... Laws
18. Some of our laws have developed from decisions made in law courts. These are known as C..... Law
19. The Government Minister responsible for finance is the of the He explains to Parliament how is going to raise money in a statement known as the.....
20. S..... C..... check the work of government departments.

Worksheet 2 - Quiz on parliament booklet p11-20

1. A proposed new law is called a
2. How many "readings" in the House of Commons must a proposed new law have?
3. Where does the proposed law then go for scrutiny?
4. What does the House of Lords spend most of its time doing?
5. Generally speaking the House of Lords can delay the passage of a proposed new law for no more than about a.....
6. After passing both The House of Commons and House of Lords a proposed law must receive the R.....A..... before finally becoming a law.
7. The House of Lords is also the highest law court in the land. This specialist work is only carried out by highly qualified judges called L.....L.....
8. What 3 groups/types make up the Lords:
L.....P..... ; H.....P.....;
and B.....
9. What colour are the seats in the Lords?
10. What is the job of the Whips in both the House of Commons and House of Lords?
11. Why is "Question Time" so important in both the House of Commons and House of Lords?
12. Before David Cameron who were the last 4 Prime Ministers (PM) and which party did they lead?
13. The PM chooses about 20 of his most senior/able MP's to form the
14. Where do this group usually meet once a week?
15. Name two departments of state.
16. Why are civil servants so important?
17. Why is it important that politicians/ministers make the final decisions on policy?
18. Which part of Parliament is the monarch not allowed to enter?
19. What does the "Queens Speech" tell us when she opens parliament?
20. How many PM's has the present Queen served?

Definitions

Match these Key words/phrases to the definitions

<u>Key Words</u>	<u>Definitions</u>
A. Electorate	1. The judges and law courts that ensure that the laws of the land are properly and fairly implemented.
B. Constituency	2. An area represented by a member of parliament.
C. Member of Parliament (MP)	3. The elected part of parliament made up of 659 MP's.
D. House of Commons	4. The leader of the political party with most seats in the house of commons.
E. House of Lords	5. The branch of government that formulates and implements the policies and laws that "run" the country.
F. Prime Minister	6. Non-political officials from junior clerks to senior policy mandarins who support the work of government.
G. Cabinet	7. The people who have the right to vote.
H. Executive	8. The institutions that debate, amend and pass new laws.
I. Civil Service	9. Separate sub-national parliaments established in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
J. Legislature	10. The key ministers selected by the prime-ministers to advise and support him.
K. Devolved Assemblies	11. The unelected chamber in parliament.
L. Judiciary	12. A political system in which the monarch is the formal head of state but the "powers" of a monarch are carried out by elected politicians.
M. Constitutional Monarch	13. The elected representatives sent by constituencies to represent them in parliament.