

Politics Introductory Work

Welcome to the summer work for Politics A Level.

SWAY LINK: This link will take you to all the work and allow you to scroll through information on your phone and click links taking you to articles, videos and readings. The same information on the Sway is presented to you here. The Sway is easier to use on your phone.

<https://sway.office.com/7k7kxYVx369uf1AM?ref=Link>

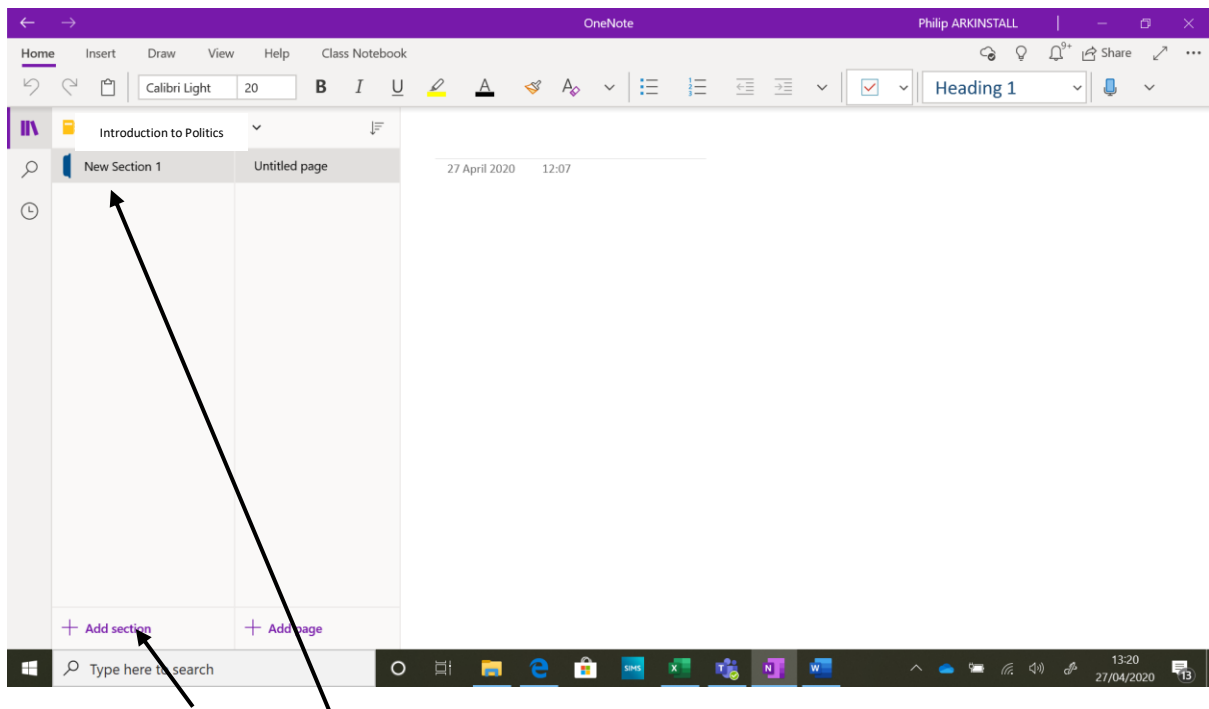
This sheet will guide you on how you can complete your summer work and where you can create your notes. If you find this a successful place to create your notes you can continue to work here during your A level and have it all in one place!

*This sheet will guide you on setting up a Notebook online and creating tabs. In each tab we would like you to complete some research to help develop your background understanding to the course. **If you cannot access/create a Onenote book then feel free to use Word or PPT and then transfer the notes across when you start.***

All resources will be available in the appendix at the end of this document

Organising your work on Onenote

Firstly, create a new Onenote notebook by opening the program and then give it the title *Politics*



Next, create FIVE New Sections and rename them SUMMER WORK, 01 UK POLITICS, 02 UK GOVERNMENT, KEY TERMS, CASE STUDIES

Secondly, under the SUMMER WORK tab for the first page change the title to the title of each task. You will create a new page for each task. Each task is related to one part of the Politics course (For

Year 12 there are two modules. The module is mentioned next to each task. You can link them later to the work you do throughout the year)

Next for the KEY TERMS tab add a page and then create a table, which you can use to show the terms and definitions. For the rest of this year and next you can add key words into these sections as you go.

You are now ready to put your summer work notes into one place and hopefully you are able to keep using this Onenote to add to your notes.

Before we start...

How can you be successful on this course?

Take an interest in current affairs and political issues - all issues that people talk about today are connected to politics and the decisions made by others.



1. Read a newspaper (such as *The Times*, *Guardian*, *Telegraph* or their Sunday equivalent); magazines
2. Read specific politics journals such as *Politics Review* as well as the set textbooks.
3. Watch current affairs programmes such as *Panorama*, *Despatches*, *The Andrew Marr Show*, *Question Time*.
4. Watch the news or listen to the 'Today' programme on Radio 4.
5. Discuss and debate political issues with your fellow students and perhaps set up a group chat to share ideas and thoughts
6. Keep a scrapbook/Onenote of press cuttings on politics and issues

Politics summer work tasks:

Phase 1

Task 1: Investigate the role of an MP (Topic 2)

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: Create a table or set of notes like this.

My local MP

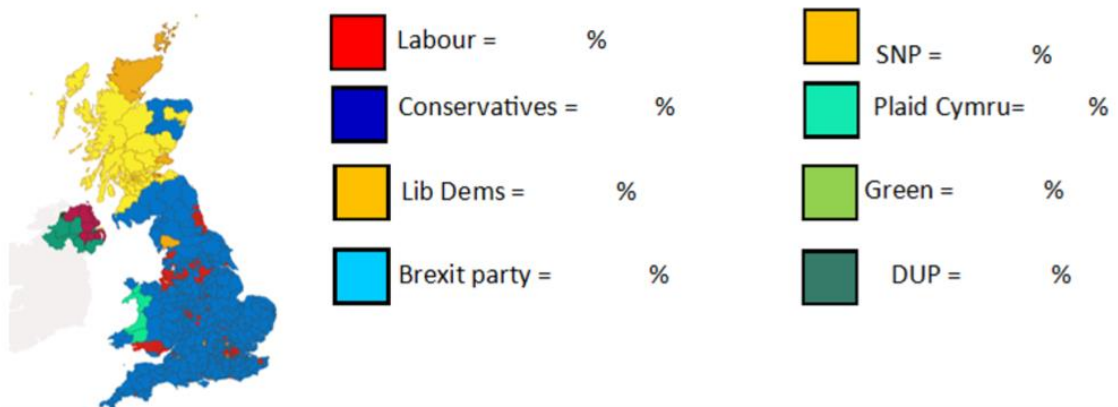
The Role of an MP

Task 2: General elections (Topic 1)

a) Find out about the results of the last General Election, held in December 2019. The BBC website is a good place to start: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election/2019/results>

b) Find out the percentage votes these parties received: Labour Conservatives Liberal Democrats Brexit Party SNP Plaid Cymru Green DUP

Find out the percentage of the vote these parties received.



c) How are the 650 seats divided between the parties. Create a table Party, Number of Seats, % share of the vote

Current number of seats in the House of Commons

How are the 650 seats in the House of Commons are divided up amongst the parties?



Party	No. Seats	% Seats

d) Answer the following questions using the above election results to help:

What surprises you about the different between % share of each party and the number of seats they've won?

The fact that the SNP are the third largest party in 2019 and they are a Scottish party, what issues might this create in Parliament?

Task 3: Definitions (Both topics)

Take the following words and define them as clearly as possible and avoid copying and pasting from online.

Use the *Discover Parliament* booklet to help you [Discover Parliament Booklet](#) (alternatively a copy of the booklet should be available under A Level and induction/summer work on the Hardenhuish website)

- Electorate
- Constituency
- Member of Parliament (MP)
- House of Commons
- House of Lords
- Prime Minister
- Cabinet
- Executive
- Civil Service
- Legislature
- Devolved Assemblies
- Judiciary
- Constitutional Monarch
- Direct democracy
- Representative democracy
- Pluralist democracy

- Legitimacy
- Franchise/suffrage
- Pressure Groups
- Left wing
- Right wing
- Manifesto
- Mandate
- Minority government
- Coalition government

Task 4: Who is who in the Cabinet? (Topic 2)

The Cabinet represent the core executive (central part of the government) who make decisions on policy as a group, directed by the Prime Minister. They each report to their departments and are responsible for the actions of these areas.

a) Create a diagram/table to find out who fills each of the following positions in the cabinet (It could look similar to the one below). Include a photo of them, their name and title Defence Secretary, Justice Secretary, Home Secretary, Foreign Secretary, Health Secretary, Education Secretary, Business Secretary, International Trade and Chancellor of the Exchequer

The cabinet are the senior politicians who collectively make decisions with the Prime Minister. Find out who currently fills these key positions?



Defence Secretary:		Foreign Secretary:
Justice Secretary:		Health Secretary:
Home Secretary:		Education Secretary:
Chancellor of the Exchequer:	International Trade:	Business Secretary:

b) Answer the following questions underneath your table/diagram

1. Which are the four most important jobs?

2. In the UK, we do not have an official "Deputy Prime Minister", unlike in the USA where they have a Vice President. Considering the 2020 Covid-19 situation as an example, do you think it would be a good idea to have a deputy. Consider both sides of this argument

[MICROSOFT FORM REVIEW OF PHASE 1 WORK.](#)

Complete the form to show what you can recall and to evaluate this first phase of work. Click the link or enter the url

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ALV0CGtJAKCS-T05uDMt-qa-7jXvnQJOuxDFBURqXptURU43NFpHRDBLNEhGNzVISFc4WjEwWDBCRi4u>