

## GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS AT BEECHEN CLIFF SCHOOL

Week commencing	Suggested Tasks
27 April	<p>Course Introduction Politics is not a subject that anyone will have studied before they reach A Level, so it can all feel very new and daunting. The first thing you can do is have a read of the specification so that you can see the kind of content we will be learning about over the next two years. We study Paper 1 - UK Politics, Paper 2 - UK Government, and Paper 3 - USA.</p> <p><a href="https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Politics/2017/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/A-level-PoliticsSpecification.pdf">https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Politics/2017/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/A-level-PoliticsSpecification.pdf</a></p> <p>Here is a link to the specification.</p> <p>Task: There are lots of key terms in the course that may be totally new to you. Make a glossary of definitions for the following terms relating to UK Government and Politics so that you have these to keep at the front of your folders: Democracy, general election, referendum, franchise, left-wing politics, right-wing politics, coalition government, constituency, manifesto, constitution, devolution, Parliament, House of Commons, House of Lords, cabinet minister, civil liberties</p>
4 May	<p>Referendum Research Project One of the ways that we enhance democracy in the UK is by giving the public a direct say in important decisions for our country. These are often done through referendums. It is important to have good knowledge of recent examples, so we would like you to research three examples of UK referendums and create a fact file explaining the following things:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. What was the question being asked to the public?</li><li>2. What was the outcome of the vote?</li><li>3. What was the turnout (how many people voted)?</li><li>4. Why was this question being asked?</li><li>5. Did the referendum help or hinder democracy in the UK?</li><li>6. What has been the impact of this vote on the UK political system?</li></ol>
11 May	<p>Political Parties: What do they stand for?</p> <p>Task 1: What do you believe in. Have a go at this Political Party quiz to find out which UK party you agree with the most. <a href="https://uk.isidewith.com/">https://uk.isidewith.com/</a></p> <p>Task 2: Political parties provide a crucial aspect of UK politics by representing the views of different people in elections and subsequently in Parliament. Create a table illustrating the key beliefs and promises of some of the main parties across different policy areas. You should include Conservative and Labour parties but pick at least two 'smaller' parties of your choice. It should look something like this:</p>

	Policy Area	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat	Green
	Economy				
	Immigration				
	Brexit				
	Health				
	Schools				
	Environment				
	<p>Which party do you think you would have voted for if you had been given the chance to vote? Is this the same party that was suggested in the quiz in Task 1?</p>				
	<p>Brexit: What is it?! This is the topic that has taken up the majority of news coverage over the last few years. Here are a couple of videos to help you get your head around things:</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O37yJBFRrfg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O37yJBFRrfg</a> -What is the EU?</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XxutY7ss1v4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XxutY7ss1v4</a> -Should we leave the EU?</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7eoDwvl0QGk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7eoDwvl0QGk</a> - Brexit explained</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1cfI5on5n84">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1cfI5on5n84</a> - What is the ‘back stop’?</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=waFPqe45rLE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=waFPqe45rLE</a> - The UK has officially left the EU (Feb 2020) - what next?</p> <p>Here are a couple of questions for you to answer: 1. Do you think the UK should have left the EU? Argue your belief either way, explaining why you think this. 2. What impact did the EU have on our parliamentary sovereignty? (You may have to look this up!) 3. What do you think were the main reasons behind Britain’s decision to leave?</p>				
1 June	<p>The UK’s Constitution Use this webpage from the British Library to read about the UK’s constitution.  <a href="https://www.bl.uk/magna-carta/articles/britains-unwritten-constitution">https://www.bl.uk/magna-carta/articles/britains-unwritten-constitution</a>          Answer the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the nature of the UK’s constitution?</li> <li>2. How does the UK constitution compare with other countries?</li> <li>3. Which sources make up the UK constitution?</li> <li>4. Should the UK codify their constitution? What are the benefits and issues of a codified constitution?</li> </ol>				
8 June	<p>Trump vs Obama          In this research project, we would like you to compare the successes</p>				

and failures of the two most recent US presidents.

Task 1: For each president, create a table of their successes and their failures (think about what they promised when they were elected, the state of the economy, foreign affairs, handling of disasters etc)

Here are a few links to help you:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QaKeUergonI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDdT6JOqI94>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j\\_i\\_NOepqAc&t=1s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j_i_NOepqAc&t=1s)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sc5BeMySCWQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sTVsscXEB9M>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-AsUc\\_PgtOk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-AsUc_PgtOk)

Task 2: Write a paragraph explaining which president you think was the most successful and why

Suggested further reading/ watching:

There are some documentaries currently available online on BBC iPlayer on both the UK and US political systems. Some of them are quite hard-hitting so please be advised when watching them, and read the overview to see if you would like to watch it.

- Taking Control: The Dominic Cummings Story - to some he is an evil genius, to others a master strategist. This film examines Cummings's place in our politics over the last two decades, from Blair to Brexit and beyond.
- Alt-Right: Age of Rage - a hard hitting expose of the major players of the extreme right in America.
- America's Abortion War - Panorama reports from Alabama where the state moves to criminalise abortion.
- Is Labour Anti-Semitic? - BBC reporters go inside the anti-Semitism crisis that is gripping Corbyn's Labour Party.
- Britain's Brexit Crisis - The inside story of how Brexit brought about the fall of Theresa May. You should also aim to be watching or reading the news every day - particularly UK and US. In America at the moment they are leading up to their Presidential and congressional elections in November, so this is quite an exciting time!

**Head of subject: Miss Kim Mather, email address: [kmather@beechencliff.org.uk](mailto:kmather@beechencliff.org.uk)**

**RAS Head of Sixth Form: Ms J Haggett – [j.haggett@ralphallenschool.com](mailto:j.haggett@ralphallenschool.com)**