**Preparing for Transition from Key Stage 4 to Key Stage 5**

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| **Subject** | **Qualification** |
| **Politics** | **A Level** |
| **Recommended Reading Materials** | **Recommended Websites**  |
| * Essentials of UK Politics, A level (4th edition) - Andrew Heywood
* The Oxford Very Short Introduction Guides e.g. to Politics, Conservatism, Liberalism
* US Government & Politics (4th Edition) - Bennett
* British Politics: A very short introduction General introduction to British Politics - former MP Anthony Wright
* The State We’re in - Will Hutton
* A daily broadsheet newspaper - e.g. The Guardian, The Times, The Independent, The Financial Times
* BBC Politics website [www.bbc.co.uk/news/politics](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/politics)
* Weekly political magazines – e.g. New Statesman, The Spectator, The Economist
 | * A Level Politics Lots of resources and a useful blog <http://alevelpolitics.com/>
* Edexcel Exam board site [http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications /edexcel-a-levels/government-and-politics2008.html](http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications%20/edexcel-a-levels/government-and-politics2008.html)
* The Economist Articles on news and current affairs. Limited number of articles for free [www.economist.com](http://www.economist.com)
* tutor2u Website aimed at Politics A Level. Amazing blog and exam prep. [www.tutor2u.net](http://www.tutor2u.net)

Film suggestions:* The Ides of March Film about the American election campaign starring George Clooney.
* In the Loop British film from the team who created The Thick of It
* House of Cards Kevin Spacey stars as a politician willing to do anything to win power

Why is the US Constitution so hard to amend? Available at: [Ted talk on US constitution](http://ed.ted.com/lessons/why-is-the-usconstitution-so-hard-to-amend-peter-paccone) |
| **Preparation Tasks** | **Recommended Research**  |
| * Create an A3 information sheet, with facts and images, of the following British Prime Ministers: Margaret Thatcher, John Major, Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and David Cameron
* Find at least 5 newspaper articles about British Politics – create 5 bullet points which summarise each article and annotate to identify the bias in each article
* What is the role of the British Prime Minister? Briefly explain
* What is the role of the Queen in British politics? Briefly explain
 | * Research Labour and Conservative policy in the following areas (create a comparison table) European Union, Voting age, Scotland, Constitutional reform, Education, The Economy
* Create a table showing the election results from 2017. Ensure you include o Number of seats for each party, Percentage of the vote & seats each party received, Statistics for the number of female / ethnic minority / non university / non- Oxbridge / went to state school
* Research and define the following key terms: Get examples to support (make sure they are UK based and related to the constitution) Constitution, Codified, Uncodified, Entrench, Judicial review, Unitary constitution, Federal constitution
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| **Recommended trips or visits this Summer** |
| All Covid-19 pending but please check the [UCAS website](https://www.ucas.com/events/exploring-university/learn-about-uni-taster-course) for information on available summer schools and webinars.[Karl Marx walking tour](https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attraction_Review-g186338-d3138780-Reviews-Karl_Marx_The_Walking_Tour-London_England.html) - TripAdvisor  |
| **Tasks to Complete** |
| * Draw a timeline showing the main events in British Politics since 1997 – you need to include the British Prime Ministers, key events such as 7/7 terror attack, referendums, date & result (including turnout) of elections
* Create a summary of the 2019 manifestos of the 3 main parties (Conservative, Labour, Lib Dem). Include their policy on welfare, economy, foreign policy and law and order
* Create a diagram showing how laws are passed. Include an example of a recent law
* Create a diagram showing how Parliament works
* Research your local MP and create a fact file on them – include when they became an MP, their majority, their party and what they have done to improve their constituency
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