

UK Government and Politics

Exam board: AQA

You will need to buy this book ahead of the course.

Read the guide and create a bank of keywords.

My Revision Notes: AQA AS/A-level Politics: UK Politics



Government in the UK

Task 1:

Create a diagram on the role and powers of UK government. Include the following:

- Supreme court
- House of Commons
- House of Lords
- Prime Minister
- Cabinet
- Executive
- Legislature
- Judiciary

Ensure that your diagram accurately represents the level of power/authority of each branch.

Task 2:

Create a profile on the current prime minister and cabinet in power of the UK.

Rate each from 1-10

1- Very effective 10 – Ineffective

Provide reasons why using specific examples.

Reference all the websites and resources you have used.

Political participation in the UK

Task 3: Article Task

- Find 6 to 10 articles about the Government and Politics- you can find these in newspapers (many of which, such as the Guardian are free online) you can also use the BBC news website- Politics section.
- For each article keep a record of- the date, author, headline and title it came from.
- Summarise the article in 5 to 10 bullet points.

Task 4: General Elections task

- Research the 2017 General Election.
- Make a poster showing:
 - The results of the election
 - Profiles of the leaders of the Labour and Conservative parties at the time.
 - Key manifesto promises from the Labour and Conservative Parties.
 - Any other interesting information about the election.

Useful links:

- Parliament: www.parliament.uk
- 10 Downing street: www.number10.gov.uk
- Cabinet office: www.tinyurl.com/qf597gz
- BBC news
- Politics live – BBC2

Task 5: *“Politics is the study of how a people, a nation or a state is governed.”*

Your task is to help you garner an understanding of what Politics is really all about. Use the internet (e.g. Wikipedia, YouTube and other sources) to research and understand what the following key terms mean and create a short definition for each *in your own words*.

Term	Explanation
Power	
Authority	
Legitimacy	
Government	
Politics	

Civil society	
Executive branch	
Prime minister	
Cabinet	
Legislative branch	
Parliament	
House of Commons	
House of Lords	
Judicial branch	
Supreme Court (UK – not US!)	
Rule of Law	
Direct democracy	
Representative democracy	
Sovereignty	
Parliamentary sovereignty	
Referendum (UK – not US!)	
Constitutional monarchy	
Fusion of powers	
Separation of powers	
Devolution	
Labour Party	
Conservative Party	
Liberal Democrats	

Brexit Party	
Presidency (USA)	
Congress (USA)	
Constitution (USA)	
Checks & Balances (USA)	
Supreme Court (USA)	
Republican Party (USA)	
Democratic Party (USA)	
Liberalism (Ideology)	
Conservatism (Ideology)	
Socialism (Ideology)	
Nationalism (Ideology)	

Task 6: British Politics

Go to these links here for the UK's three major parties:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2019-50524262>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2019-50501411>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2019-50459123>

These links summarise their key manifesto policies in the 2019 general election, which you may remember voting in at school. I would like you to choose a few policies of your choose and explain below why you support OR do not support that policy. You must choose at least 1 policy from each manifesto to discuss your agreement to or opposition to (therefore compulsory is to do 3) – if you want to extend yourself and go further, you can do more than 3 by copying and pasting the spaces I have provided.

Party: _____

Manifesto policy:

Agree/disagree & why:

Party: _____

Manifesto policy:

Agree/disagree & why:

Party: _____

Manifesto policy:

Agree/disagree & why:

Next I want you to conduct some research into the role of your local MP.

I would like you to find out who your local MP is and the following details about them:

MP's name:

Political party:

Constituency (the area they represent):

Areas they have a particular interest in:

And finally, look at their voting record (found here <https://www.theyworkforyou.com/> by clicking 'voting record') and jot down some ways in which they've voted in parliament. For example, my MP when I was at university, Julian Sturdy (Conservative) voted against laws to promote same-sex marriage, and voted for increasing VAT rates.

Task 7: Making a Case

Now I would like you to make a case for and against a particular issue. Politics at A level will require you to make judgements about issues. You need to create a for/against case for the issue of: *should we lower the voting age from 18 to 16?*

This will require you to write at least three paragraphs (approximately ¾ to 1 full typed A4 page – but if you like you can write more). You can use websites like this:

<https://yougov.co.uk/topics/politics/articles-reports/2012/02/15/and-against-lowering-voting-age> or Google search “for and against [issue]” to get more information about the issue at hand. I’ve written a sample paragraph below – I’m interested in you ARGUING your case with evidence!

Some who think we should extend the vote to 16- and 17-year-olds say that it may lead them to understand political issues more if they have to research them. If under 18s have to make choices on issues like taxes, the NHS and the size of the army, they would have to research them, so this will improve their understanding and they will make good choices. However, this argument doesn't hold water because over-18s as it is rarely research political issues – if we don't have adults researching taxes, the NHS or the size of the army before elections why would we expect children to? Therefore, this is not a good argument for extending the vote to 16- and 17-year-olds.

Write your paragraphs below. Once you have completed this, you have finished the first Bridging the Gap task for A level politics – well done!