

## Politics A-level

### Transition exercise

Thank you for applying to do politics at The Henley College from September 2018. The subject has a new specification (from 2017) and the exam board is Edexcel. Politics is now a two year A-level with all exams at the end of the second year. There is more emphasis on writing longer essays in the new specification, which also give students more scope for developing themes and using research. The key piece of advice for new students is to keep up to date with current affairs, such as progress within the Brexit negotiations, political ramifications of the Grenfell Tower fire, recent UK Supreme Court rulings and current debates in Parliament.

In preparation for the first lessons of 2018/19, please complete the follow research activities:

1. For the **UK general election** on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017, complete a table with four columns, showing the following:
  - a) Political parties that had elected MPs following the election
  - b) The number of MPs elected for each of the parties
  - c) The percentage of the votes gained by each of the parties with elected members
  - d) The percentage of MPs with the House of Commons for each of the parties
2. For the **referendum** on UK membership of the European Union that took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016:
  - a) Complete an analysis of the result of the referendum
  - b) Identify the main supporters of the Remain and Leave campaigns
3. Study the websites for the **UK political parties** that have representatives in the House of Commons. Identify their leaders and for each write short summaries detailing the main ideas and beliefs of their parties.
4. **Pressure groups** are important organisations that may influence policies and laws within the UK. Study the websites of a pressure group in each of the following areas:
  - a) Education
  - b) Health care
  - c) Civil liberties
  - d) International aid

And, try to identify the specific ways in which they have attempted to influence policies and laws in the UK