

AS Level Government and Politics – summer work



This work will provide background knowledge and skills to prepare you for your study of both units at AS Government and Politics: People, Politics and Participation and Governing Modern Britain.

This should be handed in to your teacher in your first lesson in September.

People, Politics and Participation

You Must

- Use the information on Pages 8-10 of the booklet to answer the following questions:-
 - Write a definition of democracy.
 - What do we mean by pluralist democracy?
 - Briefly distinguish between power and authority.
 - Explain what is meant by the term 'political culture'.

You Should

- Complete a mind map entitled 'Different forms of participation' using the information on pages 10-13 of the booklet. Your 3 'branches' should be:
 - Electoral participation
 - Turnout and abstention
 - Non-electoral participation

You Could

- Read the section entitled 'Who participates and how?' on pages 14-18 of the booklet and write a one page debate, using as much supportive evidence as possible, to argue which of the following you think has the most influence on voting behaviour:
 - Gender, Class, Ethnicity, Age or Region

Governing Modern Britain

You Must

Use pages 8-10 of the booklet to complete the following questions:-

- Write a definition of a constitution.
- Write a one page summary of the main sources of the British constitution.
- Identify 3 ways in which the UK constitution can change.

You Should

Research and create a detailed A3 summary diagram of the elements that influence British governance today. You should include a definition of the following: Parliament, the House of Lords, the House of Commons, the Cabinet, the Prime Minister, the Welsh Assembly, the Scottish Parliament and the European Parliament.

You Could

- Complete a weekly diary of the key events in British Politics over the summer. Therefore, for the six weeks of the summer holidays keep up-to-date with current affairs by watching TV news bulletins and reading daily newspapers (use online free versions such as The Guardian, The Telegraph) and write a weekly blog of the most notable political events.