

Welcome to A-Level Politics

We hope you have had a good summer and enjoyed the 'pre-course' work we set. The purpose of these activities is to build on from these and prepare for lessons in a couple of weeks after the summer break. We know that starting college, especially after such a long break, will be a lot different to being at school so the 'Flying Start' activity is aimed at helping you to start well.

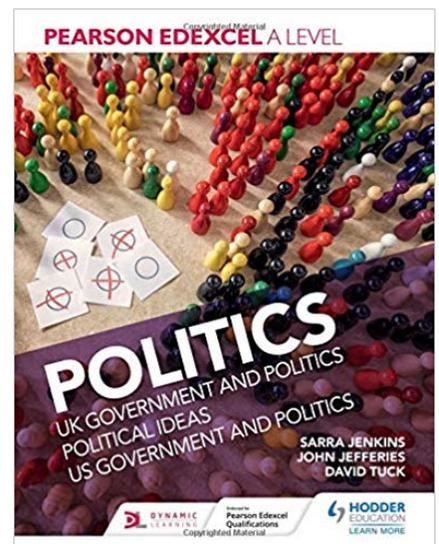
We will talk about what it looks like to be a successful politics student as we start the course but one really important thing is to be organised. You'll find a host of paper and electronic resources as you study this subject so it's important that you organise your work. We suggest you get an A4 ring binder and some subject dividers to keep the paper organised and we'll show you where to find all the electronic resources once we start the lessons.



You will also need a supply of A4 paper. This should be hole-punched ready to be filed. We know some of you like to use notebooks but these must be A4 sized and perforated so that work can be taken out of the notebook, handed in for marking or filed in the correct place.

We use this textbook for both years of the course. It is available as an eBook for free via our library site (you will be able to access this once you have started at college). However we do recommend that you get a copy to help you with your work, especially at home and that if you use either the free copy or buy an electronic copy that you have a suitable device available in lessons to refer to this in. The physical copy is £36.99 rrp but it is also available on iBooks, Kindle or as an e-textbook from Hodder Education on licence

If you have any questions before lessons start please email Emily (esb@varndean.ac.uk)



Introduction to A Level Politics

In the pre-course work, we asked you to read the 'How it works' booklet from Parliament that introduced you to the workings of the UK democracy and government. One of the questions was about the different ways that people participate in politics. This 'flying start' activity builds on this with two tasks. One is about the most 'traditional' ways of participating – voting and joining a political party; the second is about protest and in particular the recent protests in both the US and the UK under the banner of the Black Lives Matter social movement.

Task 1

Using the Internet and any other resources that might be available to you answer the following questions:

Voting

- What do we mean by the term 'turnout' and what was it in the following elections / referendums?
 - Scottish Referendum – September 2014
 - UK General Election – May 2015
 - London Mayor – May 2016
 - EU Referendum – June 2016
 - UK General Election – Dec 2019
- **Why do you think these figures were so different? – own thoughts**

Joining political parties

- What is the membership of the following UK political parties?
 - Labour
 - Conservative
 - Liberal Democrats
 - SNP
 - Green
 - Plaid Cymru
- In what ways have these changed since 2014?
- **Why do you think this is the case? – own thoughts**

Task 2

Protests and social movements

The death of George Floyd in Minneapolis in June 2020 sparked a series of protests across the US and the world including in the UK. The Black Lives Matters movement was started in 2013 through the use of the hashtag #blacklivesmatter.

But in the last few months, the movement has seen a huge number of people protesting across the world. We will be studying this as a social movement both in the UK and when looking at race and rights in the US. So, for this second task we would like you to do some research on the movement and the recent protests both in the US and the UK.

Produce a resource (piece of writing / poster / or any other way you find good to explain what you've found out) to show the growth of the movement in the US and how it has spread through the world and in particular to the UK. What are some of the reasons behind it? Try to be specific here e.g. police actions in the US and statues in the UK etc.

Please bring this Flying Start work, together with your pre-course work, to your first Politics lesson.