

Longley Park Sixth Form Transition Pack

A Level Politics



Longley Park
SIXTH FORM

longleypark.ac.uk



What will I study?

In A Level Politics you will learn about the political systems and political behaviour in the UK and the USA. You will study how decisions are made in those two countries and the rules and laws that apply to decision making e.g. what are the respective powers of the President and Congress in the US and the Prime Minister and Parliament in the UK? You will also learn how people behave politically in those countries e.g. do people vote and belong to political parties or are they more likely to join pressure groups, sign petitions or protest?

There is an emphasis on being able to compare all these issues in the UK and the US. We will look at political ideologies and key political thinkers in particular relating to Socialism, Liberalism, Conservatism and Nationalism.

What can I go on to do?

The critical thinking and communication skills involved in studying Politics and the knowledge students gain of the world they live in and why it works as it does lend themselves to careers in Journalism, Law, Social Work, and Local Government among others.

What can I do to prepare?

The best way to prepare is to:

- Watch politics programmes on TV such as The Andrew Marr Show
- Follow political podcasts such as Political Thinking with Nick Robinson
- Read extracts regularly from broadsheet newspapers such as The Guardian or the Times either online or by buying the newspaper

Get Ready for Politics

We know choosing courses can be daunting and we're here to help you make the right decisions for the next few years that lie ahead. To help you get a better feel for the course that you've chosen, we've put together some tasks for you to have a go at over the summer. These tasks are not compulsory but doing them might give you a clearer picture about what you will be studying and hopefully give you a bit of a head start in September. Give it a go. Project You has started!

1. Summarise in your own words the events of the 2019 UK General Election. Think about the result, the reasons for the result, and the consequences of the result.
2. Summarise in your own words the events of the 2020 US Presidential Election. Think about the result, the reasons for the result, and the consequences of the result.
3. Explain in your own words how the electoral system used for general elections in the UK works.
4. Explain in your own words how the electoral system used for Presidential elections in the US works.
5. Summarise the impact on British politics of the UK's exit from the EU on 1 January 2021. Think about Northern Ireland border, Scottish independence and availability of vaccines
6. Outline one issue from the political news in the UK or the US in the last 7 days and express an opinion on that issue.
7. Briefly summarise what the following political ideologies believe in:
 - Socialism
 - Liberalism
 - Conservatism
 - Nationalism
8. Watch any episode of the Andrew Marr show and make notes summarising the issues discussed.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000w0fz/the-andrew-marr-show-09052021>

9. Watch the following documentary. How did President Kennedy create modern politics according to the programme. What legacies of this style of politics can you see in the UK and the US today?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QbbGHvar7s8>

10. Listen to the following clip and summarise Orwell's arguments in his famous essay Politics and the English Language (1946).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fBu0yPaGpsU>