

Session 1: What is the UK parliament?

Dear Y11 student,

The following tasks outlined below are designed to help prepare you for your studies in September. Politics is always an engaging and interesting topic, now more than ever.

There are two topics you will study in the first year of the A-Level:

- Unit 1: Government and Politics of the UK
- Unit 2: Government and Politics of the US and comparative politics

Further information about the course can be found on the AQA Politics website:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/politics/a-level/politics-7152/specification>

One of the best ways to prepare for your studies in September is to stay up to date with what is going on in the world of politics. The easiest ways to do this are:

- Watch the news. There is an episode every night.
- Use the Internet to stay up to date. The BBC news app and the Guardian website are good places to start. Be careful using social media, a good account to follow would be Simple Politics. Its aim is to help people to engage in politics and is founded by a former teacher.
- Watch television programmes like Have I Got News For You, Question Time and the Andrew Marr show.

Go retro and read a newspaper or journal. Try to avoid tabloids and go for The i or The Times.

One of the first topics that we will visit in the UK government and politics course is the UK parliament.

Visit the website <https://www.parliament.uk/> to find out what the UK Parliament is and what it does.

Complete the following activities below to better understand what it is and what it does.

Task 1

Click on the 'Quick Links' to read about and explore the following:

House of Commons

House of Lords

MPs and Lords

Votes in parliament

Hansard

Bills

Committees

Brexit

Task 2

Scroll down to the section 'Follow the latest business' to find out more about what is going on in parliament at the moment. Under the 'News' tab read about the latest news from the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

Task 3

Scroll down to the section 'Find members of the House of Commons' and enter your postcode to find the name and contact details of your local MP. Click search to bring up their members of parliament information page. Use the tabs on the left-hand side to find out more about their parliamentary career including the following:

Parliamentary career

Voting record

Spoken contributions

Written records