



## Politics

Engage

Endeavour

Excel



### Introduction to Politics

Have a look at each section over the next few weeks, especially before we return to school in September.

Politics is a fascinating subject. To help give you an insight into some of what we study and to start familiarising yourself with the range of resources we use, please have a look at the following:

1. Check out these two short videos to give an overview of the subject, both are done by Sixth Formers!

- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=zTbub66O3E0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zTbub66O3E0)
- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1OQPPsGjzl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1OQPPsGjzl)

2. We obviously spend a lot of time learning about how the British Government (Prime Minister and Cabinet) work, so have a watch of the AQA presentation on "Introduction to the Executive" via the Learning Academy, January 2020 and follow this up with the Powerpoint presentation by Ben Williams from the Politics Review magazine, April 2020.

- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=tKCF3oXL1Go](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tKCF3oXL1Go)
- [Politics Review Volume 29, Number 4, April 2020](#)

You should have at least some idea of what Boris is expected to be doing.

3. We have to keep up to date with current affairs, especially with the Coronavirus and a regular way to check how good you are is to have a go at the latest weekly quiz on TUTOR2U, in their Politics section: [www.tutor2u.net/politics](https://www.tutor2u.net/politics). There are a number of bumper quizzes on this website too if you wish to challenge older members of your household.
4. We need to get to know about general elections and you have just lived through quite a number already, such as in 2010, 2015, 2017 and 2019. You need to know about what the latest one says about voting behaviour today in the UK. Have a look at the following educational resources and make a list of the 5 main reasons you think the Conservatives won in December 2019.



- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=acVh4XH3ZxE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=acVh4XH3ZxE)
- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=i-koyNygZHA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i-koyNygZHA)
- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=LoWQ8CWcn8o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LoWQ8CWcn8o)
- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=YpGSb75AMal](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YpGSb75AMal)

5. Unfortunately, Year 11 students could not vote in the General Election and you may not get the chance to do so until you are about to finish university! One of the reforms we look at is reducing the voting age to 16/17. Look at the following and see who you think has the strongest arguments for changing the law. Don't forget you are future voters!

- [debatewise.org/debates/27594-should-the-voting-age-be-lowered-to-16/](https://debatewise.org/debates/27594-should-the-voting-age-be-lowered-to-16/)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcgvOjJSzWE>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5AC0BITBk-4>

6. We also look at the challenges to Human Rights in the course, so consider what impact the Coronavirus has had on civil liberties, such the right to life, the right to family and the right of association/assembly. Do you consider the UK to be a democracy? Have a look at the arguments for and against and decide for yourself before we do the course and see if your opinion changes during the years!

- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=HtkWTUrBDdw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HtkWTUrBDdw)
- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dc8kOeNNZMY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dc8kOeNNZMY)
- [www.bing.com/videos/search?q=Examples+of+Democracy&Form=VDRSCL](https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=Examples+of+Democracy&Form=VDRSCL)

7. Finally, let's be thinking ahead as to what will also impact on our course in the autumn. Track down the excellent BBC/NEWS guide on Brexit, as this will come back towards the end of the year. And of course, let's not forget America, as Trump is expecting to win a second term in November in 2020.

- [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-32810887](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-32810887)
- [www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-51070020](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-51070020)

Would you like to predict how these events will play out?

If you are into binge watching, have a look at one of the following TV series, which are supposed to be based on what the White House is really like:

- The West Wing (1999-2006)
- House of Cards (2013-2018)
- Designated Survivor (2016-2019)

Hopefully through our studies of American politics, we may challenge these perceptions.

