



ST CHRISTOPHER'S SIXTH FORM

POLITICS

BRIDGING UNIT

Introduction

Of all the subjects on offer at St Christopher's Government and Politics is arguably the most relevant and certainly the most contemporary. The political life of the country never stands still, reflecting and reacting to events as they happen and for this reason textbooks to support the subject can easily become out-dated and redundant. Examiners are always on the look-out for candidates who can use up-to-date examples.

During the first year of the course we will investigate the theory and concepts behind political institutions such as the power of the Prime Minister, the influence of pressure groups and the changing role of Parliament. The best preparation for this work is for you to familiarise yourself with the cast list of politicians and key personalities. We also analyse various political ideologies such as Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism and Feminism. It would therefore be helpful to familiarise yourself with some of the key thinkers such as John Locke, Edmund Burke, Karl Marx and Simone de Beauvoir. You could research their key writings and pick out important quotes which could be said to illustrate their key beliefs.

July and August tend to be the 'silly season' for news, a time when politicians are sunning themselves at the tax-payers expense! There is relatively little in the way of hard political news, although it will be interesting to see how Labour and the LibDems build on their local election victories and if Rishi Sunak can continue to 'steady the ship' and address the cost of living crisis. Keep an eye on America too as Donald Trump seeks to relaunch himself as a candidate for high office and parties position themselves for the build-up to the 2024 primary and caucus season.

You may wish to:

Watch

BBC1 Thursday	10.35 pm	Question Time
BBC 1 Sunday	11.00 am	The Politics Show
BBC 1 Sunday	9.00 am	The Andrew Marr Show
BBC 2 Mon - Fri	10.30 pm	Newsnight
BBC2 Thursday	10.00 pm	Mock the Week
Dip into the BBC Parliament Channel		



Listen

Re-tune your radio to Radio 4 and enjoy:

Friday	8.00 pm	Any Questions?
Sunday	10.00 pm	The Week in Westminster
Saturday	11.00 am	The Week in Politics
Friday	6.30 pm	The Now Show or The News Quiz

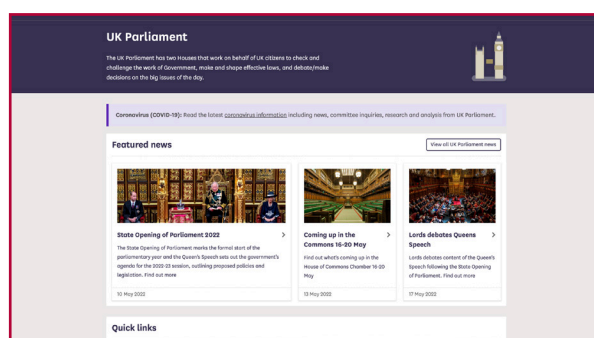


Read

A quality newspaper (Times, Guardian, Independent, Telegraph), paying particular attention to the features and comment articles. You may also wish to have a look at a weekly magazine such as The Spectator, The New Statesman, or The Economist.

Access

www.parliament.uk
www.conservativehome.blogs.com
www.politics.co.uk
www.huffingtonpost.com
www.politico.com
www.realclearpolitics.com



Some key questions you might like to think about:

- Who has power in Britain and how can you influence the people in power?
- What is currently wrong with British Politics and how can it be changed?
- Is Politics really “the art of the possible”?
- Is our current House of Lords working or does it require the reforms being proposed?
- How could the Conservative Party and the Liberal Democrats enter into coalition? What ideological themes do these two parties have in common?
- Do we really live in a post-feminist world?
- Is the American President the most powerful person in the world? How does his power compare to the UK Prime Minister?
- Are American elections too expensive and too long?
- Do pressure groups in the UK and USA corrupt democracy?

Equipped with all this knowledge it would be helpful to begin a scrap book of cartoons, articles, or features which take your fancy or begin to produce factfiles on some of the big beasts in the political jungle. The most important message however, is to rest, recover and recuperate, ready to arrive in September interested, curious and with an appetite for hard work.

Miss Smith

Homework Booklet:

Democracy and Participation – Tracing Voting Rights in the UK

In the UK we often talk about having a 1,000 year old democracy, this is based around the document The Magna Carta, The Great Charter. However free and fair elections did not exist until well into the 20th Century. I would like you to complete the following tasks in this booklet to help you to develop an awareness of how suffrage has developed in the UK:

What is meant by the term suffrage?



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Access the following article and answer the questions below (If you type Telegraph, Election 2017 and Magna Carta – it is the first link available):

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/0/general-election-2017-magna-carta-universal-suffrage-1000-year/>

You may also have to do some further personal research to answer some of the following questions.

Politics

1. What is the 61st Clause of the Magna Carta and why do you think it is important?

2. When was the first Speaker of the House of Commons appointed?

3. What is the role of the Speaker in Parliament today?



4. What does the Bill of Rights in the UK achieve constitutionally?

5. Outline the main elements of the Great Reform Act 1832



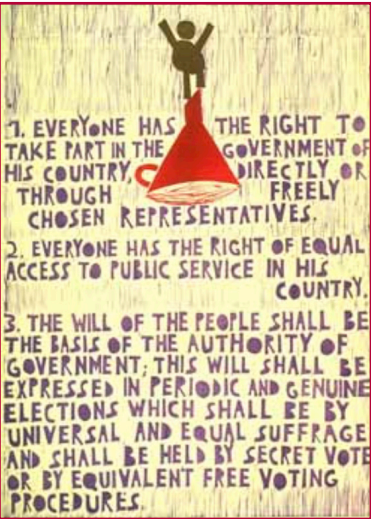
6. What was the first country to allow women to vote?

7. What is the difference between a Suffragists and a Suffragette?

8. What happened in 1918 to extend the right to vote?

9. What happened in 1969 to extend the right to vote?

Who were the Chartists?	Who were the Suffragists?	Who were the Suffragettes?
		
Define and explain...	Define and explain...	Define and explain...
How do they link to the development of suffrage in the UK?	How do they link to the development of suffrage in the UK?	How do they link to the development of suffrage in the UK?



This is an image of Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

This declaration was written in the aftermath of World War Two and was ratified in 1948.

Although key to the declaration, universal and equal suffrage was not even available in the United States of America in 1948 – can you think why this was the case? Who was not able to vote?

Research the arguments for and against these current debates surrounding extending the franchise below:

Prisoners and the Right to Vote	Voting at 16
Arguments that prisoners should be given the right to vote:	Arguments that 16 year olds should be given the right to vote:
Arguments that prisoners should not be given the right to vote:	Arguments that 16 year olds should not be given the right to vote:

Section A Style Question:

Explain and analyse three developments in the history of suffrage in the UK.

[Remember to Parallel, Context, Similarities, Difference]





**“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord,
“plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.”**

Jeremiah 29:11

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