



History and Politics Department



Student Name

Y1 Politics Summer Work

Welcome to Politics at Wyke College

We are delighted that you have chosen Politics as one of your A-Levels here at Wyke College, and warmly welcome you to our dynamic History & Politics Department. This is what your two-year Politics programme offers:

Staff for 2026/27: Each of you will be allotted one of the three Teachers within the Politics Department – Andy Bentley, Pete Carpenter, and Dan Parsons.

Resources: The Politics SharePoint site is packed full of superb material to assist with your studies over the next two years, including all lessons and plenty of extra reading. There are plenty of books that can be borrowed from the Department.

Support Sessions: We run weekly Master Classes for students with high expectations. These sessions are designed to allow students to explore in depth many of the primary issues covered in the module. These sessions are therefore pitched at a higher level than standard lessons. Additional reading is expected in preparation for these sessions, and some extra periodical homework is set, but is not compulsory. There are also skill and content revision lessons offered before each assessment and exam.

Politics Trips: The annual trip to Washington is highly recommended for Politics students as it has great relevance to the USA module. We also undertake an annual visit to London to participate in a Politics conference, tour the Houses of Parliament and Supreme Court, as well as evening at the West End watching Hamilton. Students will also be invited to participate in the annual Hull University Politics conference which features guest lectures, keynote speakers and the opportunity to learn more about undergraduate studies in Politics. In addition, Politics students are also eligible to participate in any of the History trips if they wish, the Battlefields tour to Belgium, and trip to Auschwitz in Poland.

A-Level Politics Programme Schedule: Students will study two modules on UK Politics in their 1st year programme here at Wyke College, and then study Comparative Politics in the 2nd year programme. The UK modules – the first on politics, the second on government – include close analysis of elections and electoral processes, pressure groups, political parties, media impact, structures of government, core and non-core ideologies (the selected non-core ideology is nationalism), civil rights, and much more besides. The comparative politics module will compare UK politics with that of the USA, in which you will study Presidents, structures of Federal and State governance, Congress, Supreme Court, elections and electoral processes, parties and pressure groups, and so on. The course is 100% exam-based, and we will work closely with you to develop your skills and preparedness. This is a fascinating subject, and we are confident that you will find it hugely rewarding, as well as exciting!

Task One: Politics and You



Assessments in politics require you to consider balance followed by an evaluative overall judgment.

With this in mind please **select five** of the political talking points below and evaluate them, your task is to provide at least one argument for, as well as one argument against for each, followed by a summary of your own opinion on the matter.

1. **The King should be replaced by an elected president**
2. **There should be a quota of 50% of MPs in parliament to be women**
3. **Young people should be required to enrol in national service for a minimum of 18 months.**
4. **The government should be able to read/review messages private messages on WhatsApp/Instagram etc.**
5. **All children should be taught Maths until age 18**
6. **The national curriculum should teach patriotic values**
7. **It is sometimes acceptable to use violence for political purposes**
8. **The UK should prioritise balancing debt and prioritise spending reductions in the budget.**
9. **Nuclear energy should be prioritised over renewable energy sources**
10. **The government should nationalise failing industries like coal, steel, rail networks**

Task Two: Create your own Manifesto

Having a clear plan and a manifesto for success is a sure-fire way to secure votes. However, putting together a manifesto that appeals to as many people as possible is tricky, as well as considering what to prioritise because no government can do everything in one go!

Your task is to produce a six-point manifesto that highlights your priorities for improving Britain. We would like you to create a snappy priorities graphic or poster that headlines your objectives, followed by a more detailed explanation as to why you have chosen your manifesto objectives and their importance. You can have some fun with this or make it as serious as you wish. Please ensure you provide a separate justification for your manifesto alongside your poster/graphic.

The main objective is to give you the opportunity to think like a politician and consider what would encourage people to vote for your party.

Please see the below graphics as inspiration for your own.



We Look Forward to Teaching You!

Please learn through fun with these assignments, and submit your work when you begin the course in September.

If you wish to learn more on the Politics modules you will study at Wyke College, then the textbooks can be found in the following links:

UK Politics Textbook: [Pearson Edexcel A Level UK Government and Politics Sixth Edition : McNaughton, Neil, Cooper, Toby, Magee, Eric: Amazon.co.uk: Books](#)

US Politics Textbook: [Pearson Edexcel A Level US Government and Politics : Bennett, Anthony J, Tuck, David, Lemieux, Simon, Magee, Eric: Amazon.co.uk: Books](#)

Note: Please be mindful that the above texts have become partially outdated following the 2024 US and UK Elections.

We would also recommend you aim to keep as up to date as possible with recent political events.

If you wish for more information or help from us, then please do not hesitate to contact us by email at:

Andrew.bentley@wyke.ac.uk (Head of History & Politics)

Peter.carpenter@wyke.ac.uk

We very much look forward to meeting you, and to working with you over your two years of study to ensure that you succeed in A-Level Politics.