

# Year 12 Summer Homework

## Politics



HAZELEY 6TH FORM

CHARACTER, CONFIDENCE & CREATIVITY

Deadline: Friday 11th  
September 2020

# A-Level Politics Summer Transition Work – Due Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Politics is a subject that requires you to be up to date on the latest changes in both the local and international issues. For the course you will need to know what is happening, who is involved and the impact that this has!

You will be following the specification from **Edexcel** and are still sitting this as a full A-Level to be examined at the end of Year 13.

With this in mind, your homework comprises of 2 essays – each designed to show knowledge, understanding and skill.

This transition work contains two parts:

**Part 1:** 2 research and 2 essay questions

**Part 2:** Online training from the Open University

**YOU MUST COMPLETE BOTH PARTS BEFORE THE DEADLINE OF 11<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**

## **Part 1: 2 research and 2 essay questions**

### **What do I need to do?**

In this pack are two essay questions – your job is to research and answer **both!** The purpose of this information is twofold – first, to prepare you for the demands of the course, and second, to show dedication and commitment to what will be a very challenging year! Each essay should be roughly 1,500 words.

### **How will I be assessed?**

You will be assessed against the Edexcel markschemes for the longer 30 mark 'evaluate' essays. These are the highest marked essays in the curriculum and will be looking for 3 chief skills, these are shown below:

**AO1 = 10/30 marks.** This is your knowledge and understanding where you use statistics, names, key events and dates. This needs to be accurate and informative.

**AO2 = 10/30 marks.** This is your analysis. Here you need to show careful thought and consideration of the similarities, differences, parallels and connections (how does everything link together)

**AO3 = 10/30 marks.** This is your evaluation. Here we examine how well you construct an argument, make substantiated judgements and draw conclusions from the material.

The grade boundaries are: A/24 B/21 C/18 D/15 E/11 U/Less

## **Where should I get my information from?**

Books are not the foundation of Politics – information is. For this reason there is no required ‘reading’ to start your essays. Instead, you should be using the BBC news websites, the government websites and relevant party literature (Conservative leaflets etc.). This is all freely available online and hard copies regularly come through the front door.

## **What are my two essay questions?**

Each of these questions focuses on a different aspect of the course which you will need to be experts on. For each question there is an element of research – the research should take 2-3 hours per essay and the essay should take 1-2 hours to write.

### ***Essay 1: “Evaluate the outcome of the 2010, 2015, 2017 and 2019 General Elections”***

This question is asking you to research the results of the 2010, 2015, 2017 and 2019 General Elections and present a case about these results – specifically, what the outcome was. Here your task is to consider what happened as a result of the election and the impact that this has had.

## **How does this link to my PLC?**

Unit 1: Political Participation, Electoral Systems, Political Parties, Voting and the Media

Unit 2: Prime Minister and the Executive

## **What will I need to do?**

1. AO1 - Find out what the results of these elections were – you might want to compare the percentage of voters to the number of seats (and find out what this means)
2. AO2 - What each election resulted in – Coalition of Majority? How much of a margin (did they win well or was it close? Expected or unexpected results? Comparisons between the 3 years – what is similar and different about each election?
3. AO3 – The outcome – which produced the most favourable results? Which was the ‘best’ outcome for the politicians as well as the people?

## **How should I structure my writing?**

I’m interested in what you guys can do and how you show me your work! However, if you are really stuck, or just need a little extra focus, follow the structure below:

**Introduction** – rephrase the question. What is it asking you to do and what are you going to do to answer it

**Section 1** – what were the results of the elections and what do these mean

**Section 2** – What are the similarities and differences between the elections? Common trends etc?

**Section 3** – Evaluation of the elections and links to the outcome

**Conclusion** – what do you think? Were they fair?

## **What am I looking for in your essay?**

(A-B) A high level response will show criticality evaluation and understanding of the issues. They won't just state what the results are, but understand and examine them by showing what they mean and the impact that they have had and will continue to have. Their conclusions will be well thought through and will show evidence of wider reading and research

(C-D) A mid-level response will understand what the results of the election were and the impact that they had. Answers will reflect on research, but not always go into the deeper meaning or full evaluations. Research will be evident in most of the essay. Personal conclusions will be well developed.

(E) A basic response will use little extended research to support the points and lack high evaluation by not exploring the impacts or issues that the election has raised. Personal conclusions will be brief.

### ***Essay 2: "Evaluate the impact that leaving the EU will have on the UK"***

This question is asking you to research the arguments in favour and against staying in the EU and what this might do to the UK. This matters hugely because the new date for officially leaving is the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 (after our adjustment year) and this changes the way we see law, parties and human rights.

#### **How does this link to my PLC?**

Unit 2: The Constitution, Relationship between the Parliament and the Executive

#### **What will I need to do?**

1. Find out what the EU is, how we got in it and when / why we are leaving it
2. Research why some people want to stay as a member of the EU – what reasons did they give, is there any evidence to support this?
3. Research why some people want to leave the EU – what reasons did they give, is there any evidence to support this?

#### **How should I structure my writing?**

I'm interested in what you guys can do and how you show me your work! However, if you are really stuck, or just need a little extra focus, follow the structure below:

**Introduction** – rephrase the question. What is it asking you to do and what are you going to do to answer it

**Section 1** – what is the EU and possible referendum results?

**Section 2** – Explore why many supported staying in the EU – give reasons and evidence to support this

**Section 3** – Explore why many supported leaving the EU – focus on the impacts and the examples that they gave

**Conclusion** – what do you think?

#### **What am I looking for in your essay?**

(A-B) A high level response will show criticality evaluation and understanding of the issues. They won't just state what the reasons are, but understand and examine them by showing what impact they have and whether there are any problems with these different approaches. The conclusion will be clear and specific.

(C-D) A mid-level response will understand what the results of the election were and why different people were on different sides of the EU debate. Answers will reflect some research, but not always go into the deeper meaning or full evaluations. Research will be evident in most of the essay. Personal conclusions will be well developed.

(E) A basic response will use little extended research to support the points and lack high evaluation by not exploring the impacts or issues that the election has raised. Personal conclusions will be brief.

## **Part 2: Online Training from the Open University**

### **What do I need to do?**

You have also been given a link to an online education and training course provided by the Open University. This course introduces you to the key concepts in the study of Politics – setting you up well for this A-Level. You need to access this course and complete it – helping you understanding the main principles of this challenging subject!

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/society-politics-law/what-politics/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab>

If you have any problems with either of these pieces of work, contact [mbonnett@thehazeleyacademy.com](mailto:mbonnett@thehazeleyacademy.com)

## Sources of Wider Reading

The following reading will give you a good grounding for the course and could help you with the above essays. Remember – Politics is an ever evolving course so the news is the best bet!

Some of these texts are more 'classical' in nature – but the original source is always the best!

### **Wider Reading for the 'ideologies' – original texts are widely available as PDFs**

**John Stuart Mill** – *On Liberty* (Liberalism)

**Karl Marx** – *Communist Manifesto* (Socialism)

**Thomas Hobbes** – *Leviathan* (Conservatism)

**David Miller** – *Political Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction*

### **Useful Websites**

Oxford Politics microsite: <http://politicsinspires.org/>

The Economist magazine: [www.economist.com/](http://www.economist.com/)

Political Studies Association: [www.psa.ac.uk/](http://www.psa.ac.uk/)

UK parliament: [www.parliament.uk/](http://www.parliament.uk/)

United Nations: [www.un.org/en/](http://www.un.org/en/)

Chatham House on International Affairs: [www.chathamhouse.org/](http://www.chathamhouse.org/)

Government Statistics <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements>

Electoral Reform <http://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/>