



St Dominic's is a Roman Catholic Sixth Form College committed to the personal and spiritual growth of all its members based on Christian values, academic excellence and high-quality pastoral care

St Dominic's Sixth Form College

[Politics] Transition work 2025-2026

A Level Politics Year 1

Bridging the Gap

Welcome, year 1! This is your 'Bridging the Gap' task for A level Politics, which you've chosen to take at A level this September. The pack is designed to give you a flavour of what A level Politics is all about. The pack will introduce you to some core political concepts and events, to aid your understanding of politics ready for sixth form. The work in this pack will take a long time, so you can break it up. Don't feel you need to complete it all in one go! You can complete the tasks in this booklet in the spaces provided.



*This job is a lot harder
than I expected...*

NAME	
CODE (Teacher use only)	



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A Level course outline		A Level course outline	
Year 12: UK Politics	Y12: UK Government	Year 12-13: Ideologies	Year 13: US Politics *
Democracy & Participation	UK Constitutions	Liberalism	US Constitution
Political Parties	Parliament	Conservatism	US Elections
Elections	PM and Cabinet	Socialism	US Political Parties
Pressure Groups	Relations with other Institutions	Feminism or Anarchism (September 2026)	US Pressure Groups
Voting Behaviour			US Presidency
The Media			US Congress
			US Supreme Court & Civil rights.

Task One: What is Politics?

“Politics is the study of how a people, a nation or a state is governed.”

When most people think of politics, they think of old, wealthy men (only sometimes women, and only sometimes ethnic minorities) in offices, making deals and agreements that will affect millions of people, just for personal gain. And it's true that some decisions are made that way, but politics is much more than that.

Politics is about power, about people, equality, war, conflict, debate, cooperation, freedom, money, etc. – it's about the relationship between the state (the government) and its citizens, or the state and other states. It governs everything we can and will do in our lives.

One of the reasons politics is so exciting is that it changes every single day based on the actions of individuals. Less than 500 people (in a country of 330 million) decided the result of the 2000 presidential election that made George Bush president. In 2001 he invaded Afghanistan and in 2003 he invaded Iraq. Donald Trump's great comeback from defeat in 2020 to a very comfortable victory in 2024. These three things have changed European, North American (Canada), Australasia (Australia) Middle East and global politics, perhaps forever. Closer to home, if just one out of every 50 people who voted to leave the EU had voted differently, we wouldn't have left. Each individual vote is vital, and yet 28% of all the people who could vote and registered to vote in that referendum didn't turn out on June 23rd 2016. It would take just a small number of them to change the result.

Your first task is to help you garner an understanding of what Politics is really all about. Use the internet (e.g. Wikipedia, YouTube and other sources) to research and understand what the following key terms mean and create a short definition for each ***in your own words***.

You are welcome to try to get your families involved in this – they may have some understanding of these concepts already! The most important thing in an A level is your understanding – so it's not about having the “right” or “word-perfect” definition, it's about you understanding what a concept means 😊



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Term	Explanation
Power	
Authority	
Legitimacy	
Government	
Politics	
Civil society	
Executive branch	
Prime minister	
Cabinet	
Legislative branch	
Parliament	
House of Commons	
House of Lords	
Judicial branch	
Supreme Court (UK – not US!)	
Rule of Law	
Westminster Model	
Elective dictatorship	
Direct democracy	
Representative democracy	
Sovereignty	



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Parliamentary sovereignty	
Referendum (UK – not US!)	
Constitutional monarchy	
Fusion of powers	
Separation of powers	
Devolution	
Labour Party	
Conservative Party	
Liberal Democrats	
Scottish National Party	
Presidency (USA)	
Congress (USA)	
Constitution (USA)	
Checks & Balances (USA)	
Supreme Court (USA)	
Republican Party (USA)	
Democratic Party (USA)	
Liberalism (Ideology)	
Conservatism (Ideology)	
Socialism (Ideology)	
Feminism (Ideology)	



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Task Two: British Politics

Go to these links here for the UK's three major parties:

<https://labour.org.uk/change/>

<https://www.conservatives.com/manifesto>

<https://www.libdems.org.uk/manifesto>

These links summarise their key manifesto policies in the **2024** general election, which you may remember voting in at school. I would like you to choose a few policies of your choose and explain below why you support OR do not support that policy. You must choose at least 1 policy from each manifesto to discuss your agreement to or opposition to (therefore compulsory is to do 3) – if you want to extend yourself and go further, you can do more than 3 by copying and pasting the spaces I have provided.

Party: _____

Manifesto policy:

Agree/disagree & why:



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Party: _____

Manifesto policy:

Agree/disagree & why:

Party: _____

Manifesto policy:

Agree/disagree & why:



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Party: _____

Manifesto policy:

Agree/disagree & why:

Next I want you to conduct some research into the role of your local MP.

I would like you to find out who your local MP is and the following details about them:

MP's name:

Political party:

Constituency (the area they represent):

Areas they have a particular interest in:

And finally, look at their voting record (found here <https://www.theyworkforyou.com/> by clicking 'voting record') and jot down some ways in which they've voted in parliament.



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Task Three: Political Issues

Choose a political issue of your choice. A political issue is anything where there is a disagreement. Politics issues can be about whether something is right or wrong or whether scarce money should be spent on one thing or another.

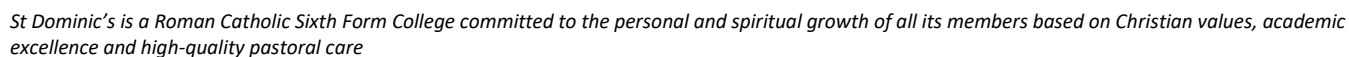
Examples of political issues could include:

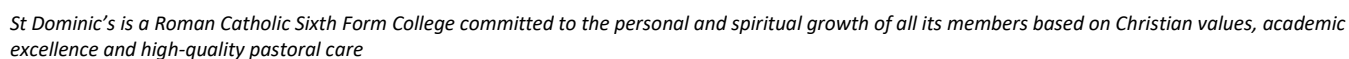
- Should drugs be legalized?
- Should the government recognise that young minds matter, and improve the access to and quality of their mental health services?
- Should immigration into the UK be easier or more difficult?
- Should the two-child benefit cap be removed?
- Should you have to pay to visit your GP?
- Should defence spending be raised to 3% by 2034 as proposed by the Starmer government?
- Should the voting age be reduced to 16- and 17-year olds to enable them to influence key decisions that affect their lives?
- Should students have to pay to go to university?
- Should Britain have a monarchy?
- Should the UK rejoin the EU?
- Should the UK leave the European Court of Human Rights?
- Should the government do more to achieve zero net emissions and tackle climate change?
- Should the government restore the Winter Fuel Allowance for ALL pensioners?

These are just some ideas. Choose a **contentious issue** that **you** are passionate about or interested in. Anything with two sides to the argument could be used.

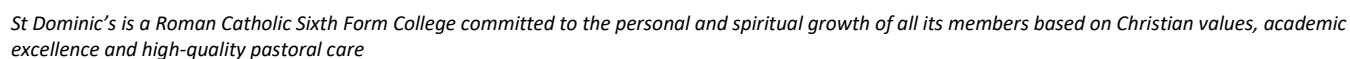
Task: Write **1000** words on the topic of your choice. Set out what the issue is and consider briefly the arguments for and against. Make sure you consider both sides of the argument. Finish with a brief conclusion summing up what you think on the topic.

This can be typed or hand written and you can use books, magazines, newspapers or the internet. Please indicate which sources that you have used at the end of your piece of writing.

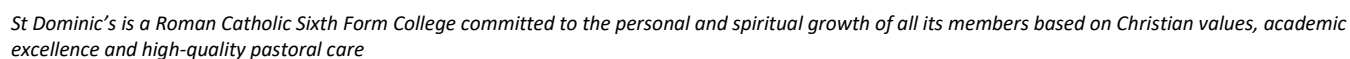
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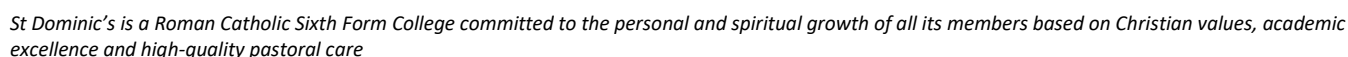
Transition work 2025-26
[Politics]



Transition work 2025-26
[Politics]



Transition work 2025-26
[Politics]



Chose **two** politics resources of your choice and write down in the boxes below the answers to the following questions. The resources chosen **MUST** be from a book, a newspaper article or from a journal such as New Statesman, Spectator, Economist, Prospect or The Critic. The articles must be from the summer of 2025.

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2. Publication/Type	
Title	
Key Points 	1) 2) 3)
Further Question? 	
Link to course 	