



'A' LEVEL POLITICS

BRIDGING WORK
2021



There are four tasks in your bridging work – **only task 2 is compulsory** but the more of the optional tasks you do the better you will be prepared for the A-level course.

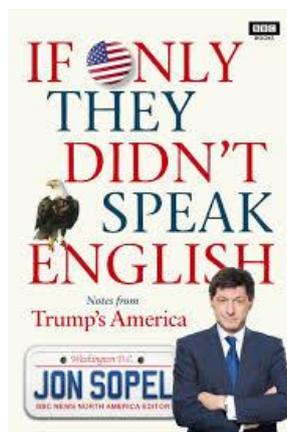
1. READ - optional
2. RESEARCH - COMPULSORY
3. STUDY – optional
4. CURRENT AFFAIRS – optional

Task 2 **must be completed** by the first week in September 2021.

The other tasks can be completed over the summer or after you have started the course in September when you have, relatively, a lot of free time.

1. Read: Choose one of the following books to read.

These two books (about our two countries of interest) are 'light reading' ie not like a textbook full of facts, but easier to read often telling 'stories' or anecdotes. Don't try and make notes from them. Just read them like a novel on holiday and you will get a sense of the political context of either the USA or the UK.



Trump's America as experienced
by the BBC's political editor



UK Politics 1997-2017 seen
from a Labour point of view

2. Research: MPs. Who are they and what do they do ?

Choose an MP. It doesn't matter which, so long as it is not Julie Marson (*), Boris Johnson or Keir Starmer (P.S. Nigel Farage is not an MP – neither is Nicola Sturgeon – but lots of government ministers are e.g. Matt Hancock)

(*) the newly elected MP for Hertford/Stortford

Use the bridging period up to create a factfile about that MP. You will need to include:

- Their background – upbringing, education, previous careers, outside activities etc
- Where they are MP for
- Which party they represent
- Details of their key activities recently
- Any other interesting information (you can include gossip if you like...)
- A summary of policies they have voted for & opposed e.g Remain or Leave?; climate change policies; gay rights; where they might have rebelled against their party etc.

You could contact them and see how/if they reply – it's really easy to do.

We are going to put these up in the Mansion room P5 (you can see last year's examples still there) so make them look good, please. (i.e A4, portrait layout, word processed with good visuals - picture of the MP, preferably in colour)

Useful websites:

- www.theyworkforyou.com (includes a list of all the MPs for you to choose from, and has a contact button for each MP)
- www.ukpolitical.info
- www.parliament.uk
- "Your" MP's own website, twitter feed etc.
- Google. Type in your MP's name and see where it takes you.

3. Study: Parliament, the branches of government and the Cabinet

The work for this study section includes work on:

- Parliament
- The branches of government

➤ The Government: the Cabinet

There is no special sequence to the work – you can do it in whichever order suits you. If you are having difficulty with one section, move on to the next and come back later to where you broke off.

(a) Parliament (worksheet in the folder)

- Video:
Watch the youtube video “How Parliament works in nearly 60 seconds”
Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GbLTwQwXqWc>
- Worksheet – ‘The BBC Guide to Parliament’
Read, highlight and fill in the gaps on the word document. You can print this off to complete and then file..

(b) The Branches of Government (worksheet in the folder)

Complete the worksheet by printing it off and answering the questions or do it on the computer if that works.

(c) The Government: the Cabinet (worksheet in the folder)

Find and complete the worksheet (Print off or complete on the computer as above)

4. Current Affairs: Follow a news story

This section is here to encourage you to read/watch/follow the news. Politics is a fascinating subject but it is constantly changing.

Use the following websites:

the UK/ US Politics section of the BBC News website, Washington Post, Huffington Post, Real Clear Politics

And/or the UK broadsheets: the Guardian, the Times, the Telegraph, the Independent etc.

To follow a news story.

In 500 words briefly explain what the (UK or USA) news story was about and **why it was important politically.** (For example, currently there is a debate about whether the UK should have cut its international aid budget because of the cost of the coronavirus pandemic – you could follow this & see what consequences there are for the government in the long term)