A Level Government & Politics

Over the summer you should widen your political knowledge by following important and interesting stories from the world of politics in the UK. You should look at stories on a variety of issues, but they should concentrate on British politics or how Britain has been involved in major news stories.

Obviously **the progress (or not) of BREXIT and quite possibly a Conservative leadership election and a new Prime Minister** may be the dominant story over the summer together with the associated fallout **ie their plans for Brexit and the reaction of Labour and the Liberal Democrats, together with the SNP.** However some other issues that you may want to focus on might include stories on the following themes:

- The economy – the end of 'austerity' and the prospects after Brexit?
- Education
- Health
- Environmental issues – the impact of the Extinction Rebellion protests
- Local news
- Pressure Groups campaigns

- Party Policies
- The role of the Labour as Opposition and Jeremy Corbyn, especially the split between 'Leavers' and 'Remainers'
- Devolution and the SNP's growing demands for another independence referendum

By the end of the summer you will be need to choose one story that you believe to have a particular significance to UK politics and be prepared to present and share this story in the first week of year 12. In your presentation you should be able to address the following:

1. What is the story all about? (Are there key individuals? Is it part of a long running issue or is this a standalone issue?)
2. Why did you choose this story or issue?
3. Why is this story significant?
4. What can it tell us about Government and Politics in the UK?

The most important thing is that you understand your story and you can explain it to other students. The way that you present to other students is your choice but you should aim to give a 1 – 2 minute summary of the questions above. This will help you to have relevant and up to date examples that you can use during the Government and Politics course. . The following websites may be useful in your research:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/   http://www.telegraph.co.uk/

http://www.politics.co.uk/   http://www.independent.co.uk/

There are many other websites, blogs, newspapers and forums that you can use but always check the accuracy of what you are using. Current political examples will form an integral part of your Government and Politics lessons so using them early on in the course will help to improve your understanding and skills. You should also expect to build on your stories as the course develops through the year.

Task 2

As part of the Government and Politics course you will be required to understand a range of political terms and ideas. Many of these will be new to you and will be introduced across the year. To give yourself a head start you should create a glossary of some of the most common terms used across the year. Those key words are:

Democracy

Legitimacy

Representation

Liberal Democracy

Accountability

Mandate

Constituency

Pressure Group

First Past the Post voting system

Democratic deficit

Constitution

Parliamentary Sovereignty

Devolution

Parliamentary Government

Presidential Government

Fusion / Separation of Powers

Cabinet Government

Judicial Independence

Judicial Neutrality

Civil Liberties

For each of the key terms above you should provide a definition of the term and show how it applies to UK politics. You can present your glossary in a way that best suits you but remember you will need this as you go across the year, up to and including your exam.

It will be useful to do some research to help you find a definition that is accurate and applicable to politics. However you will need to ensure that you understand the definition so try and make sure that it is in your own words as much as possible.

Each definition should be around about 50 words. This is a guideline and some words will produce slightly shorter definitions, however some will be slightly longer. Use your best judgement to decide if your definition is long enough. The most important thing is that it gives you a good understanding of the key word.