

## Pate's Year 12 Politics Summer Holiday 2020 Independent Learning

Deadline \_\_\_\_\_

To succeed in Politics you need to be able to analyse political information, research issues and to keep up to date with current affairs.

Complete the *THREE* tasks below and bring on paper to class:

### 1) Current affairs

As a Politics student, you need to keep up to date with news and current affairs. Each week record **at least one news** article or report that has influenced UK Politics.

<b>Date</b>	<b>News source</b>	<b>Summary of news</b>	<b>Impact on UK Politics</b>
06.09.19	BBC news website	What happened? Why?	This has meant that...

### 2) Analysing political information

Complete the questions below on 'Votes at 16.'

### 3) Research skills

Your task is to investigate the **three key questions** below. There are a number of sub-questions to help focus your research. Produce **notes** in a format you prefer. For example, you could create a **table** or a **mind map**.

Your research will be checked in September. There will be a **quiz** based on the research questions.



Research questions:

1. Who runs the country?
2. How does Parliament work?
3. How is power shared between Westminster and the devolved administrations?

Who runs the country?

#### **1. Parties and candidates**

- What are the key differences between the major political parties in the UK?
- How are candidates selected to stand for a constituency?

#### **2. Elections and voting systems**

- What is democracy? What is the difference between representative democracy and direct democracy? What are the strengths and weaknesses of each type?

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- How does the Westminster-first-past-the-post system operate? Who can and cannot vote in general elections and why? Should the vote be changed? What is the frequency of general elections?

### **3. Forming and organising the work of government**

- How is a government formed? What is the role of the monarch? What happens when no single party can form a government and a coalition government is formed?
- How is government organised into departments and ministries? What are civil servants?

How does Parliament work?

### **4. The Westminster Parliament**

- What is the difference between the executive, legislature, judiciary and monarchy?
- What are the roles of the Houses of Commons and Lords? What is the relationship between the House of Commons and the Lords? How does debate contribute to shaping policy and laws?
- What are the roles of: the prime minister, cabinet and ministers, the opposition, speaker, whips, front bench and backbench MPs and the ceremonial role of Black Rod? What is the role of an MP in representing constituents' interests?

### **5. Making and shaping law**

- How does a bill become law? What is debate in the House of Commons and the House of Lords? How do committees scrutinise? What is royal assent?

### **6. The Constitution**

- What is an uncodified constitution? How has the constitution changed recently including as a result of devolution and membership of the EU?
- What is parliamentary sovereignty? Explain checks and balances, including the role of judicial review. How does Parliament hold government to account through oversight and scrutiny?

How is power shared between Westminster and the devolved administrations?

### **7. Government in constituent parts of the UK**

- What are the powers of devolved bodies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland?
- How are relations changing between England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, including views on devolution and independence.