

A level Politics

Why do I need to complete a bridging activity?

The purpose of this activity is to aid your preparation for advanced level study and make the transition from GCSE study as smooth as possible. Some activities are written pieces of work, some are research-based and some are practical. They should be completed to the best of your ability and they will give you the opportunity to start to showcase your talent for your chosen subjects. As these are compulsory activities, it is vital that you put in the time and effort to ensure they are completed to the highest standard.

When should I hand this in?

You should complete this activity for the start of your first lesson in September.

How will I be given feedback?

Feedback appropriate to the task will be given to you by your teacher.

Summary of the activity

The task:

- **Must be handwritten, in full sentences and paragraphs**
- **Should take around two hours to complete**
- **Be around 2-3 sides of lined A4 paper in length (with a margin)**

Bridging Task, Summer 2017

For the start of your A Level Politics course in September, it is essential for you to have gained a basic understanding of one of the most important institutions of the UK's political system – Parliament.

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The following activities and tasks will enable you to examine Parliament's structure, roles and functions, as well as some of its problems.

First of all, look carefully at the information in the following internet links. You can watch and use them as many times as you like, and some of them have interactive sections in which you can take mini-quizzes, explore Parliament, form your own government, etc.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RAMblz3Y2JA>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/politics/who-won-2017-general-election-10588118>

<http://www.parliament.uk/documents/education/online-resources/whiteboard-resources/iwb1-intro/assets/resources/introduction-to-parliament-level-3-walkthrough.pdf>

http://assets.parliament.uk/education/Interactive-Whiteboard-Resources/IWB_1_2/deploy/iwb_1.html?level=3

Then, using these links, answer all of the following tasks:

In your own words, define and explain the following terms:

- Parliament (include in your explanation both the House of Commons and the House of Lords)
- Government
- MP (as an example here, try to find out and identify your own MP)
- Legislation

a) Again in your own words, explain how the House of Commons is formed following an election in the UK, and how the government is created from this.

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What has happened in Parliament following the most recent General election, this year?

Parliament has faced a number of criticisms in recent years. Using the links above (and your own research, where necessary) choose ONE of the following examples of where Parliament has faced criticism, and explain what the criticism or scandal was about, and what problems or weaknesses it might suggest about Parliament:

Example 1 - The quality of debate in Parliament (eg, Prime Minister's Question Time)

Example 2 - The MPs' expenses scandal

Example 3 - Poor levels of representation by MPs.

Student Name (to be completed by the student)