

POLITICS: 'STARTER FOR 12'

Politics is about *how* the UK is governed (processes), as well as *why* the laws and policies are being introduced as they are. To succeed in Politics you need an interest in **current affairs** - it doesn't matter how much/how little you know at the start of the course but you must have a desire to know more!



Make sure you are regularly watching the news or reading quality newspapers or internet sites over the summer. If you are on twitter follow a variety of news feeds to get a fuller picture. There is such a lot going on in politics at the moment – it will keep you busy.

Task 1

Explain the significance of the General Election on Thursday 12th December 2019

Write a page explaining the significance of the election, including the content below (A-H).

This is so we can see how well you can research a topic and then write about it. If you are struggling to set this into an essay, research each of the questions (A-G) under separate question headings, then under the last heading (H) summarise everything you have learnt. Please do not just copy and paste from the internet, we would like to see your writing style and ability.

A) Why did Johnson call the general election? B) What was each party promising in their manifesto? C) What were the opinion polls like beforehand? D) What were the actual results of the election (statistics)? E) Why did Johnson win and Corbyn lose? F) How did different groups (ages, areas and sections of society) tend to vote? G) How did the vote change from 2017? H) Why do you think it was such a significant election?

Task 2

Read the “How it works” guide to Parliament – this is a really helpful and detailed overview to the subject.

You can find a copy of it here by following the link (How it works, booklet)

<https://assets-learning.parliament.uk/uploads/2019/12/How-it-Works-booklet.pdf>

1. Read through the History p4-5. Explain two dates and why they are significant in the road to democracy.
2. Write a definition for the following word from the booklet:

- Representative democracy
- The Constitution
- Parliament – select committees
- The role of the House of Lords
- Briefly explain how laws are made
- First past the post voting system
- Political parties
- Pressure Groups

