

## Introduction to A level Politics

Lively, relevant, controversial... there are many ways to describe A-level Politics. There is no denying that it's one of the most interesting and engaging qualifications you can choose. Covering news and current affairs from the UK and US, it helps you understand how the UK country is run and develops research, written communication and debate skills. It also helps grow your confidence. These questions and activities should give you an insight into the different aspects of the government and politics of the UK that you will study in your first year.

The Cabinet	The team of 20 or so most senior ministers in the Government who are chosen by the Prime Minister to lead on specific policy areas such as Health, Transport, Foreign Affairs or Defence.
Boundary Commission	Non-departmental public bodies responsible for determining the boundaries of constituencies for elections to the House of Commons, the Scottish parliament and the National Assembly for Wales.
Hung Parliament	A parliament in which no political party has enough seats to secure an overall majority
Devolution	The transfer of power from UK Parliament to assemblies in Cardiff, Belfast and the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh
First-past-the-post	A political system in which a candidate or party is selected by achievement of a simple majority
Additional member system	A type of proportional representation in which each elector votes separately for a party and for a representative
Single Transferable Vote	A type of proportional representation in which a person's vote can be transferred to a further competing candidate if the candidate of their first selection is eliminated.
Conservative Party	The main centre-right political party in the UK
Labour Party	The main centre-left political party in the UK

**Task One: Watch all the videos below. They will help you with the rest of the tasks!**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5s4WPyWlQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RAMblz3Y2JA&list=PL-jHfSfpTgNdYeqhNqRtKhaPMxtU0Y9pu>

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9BVp2EgwXEA>

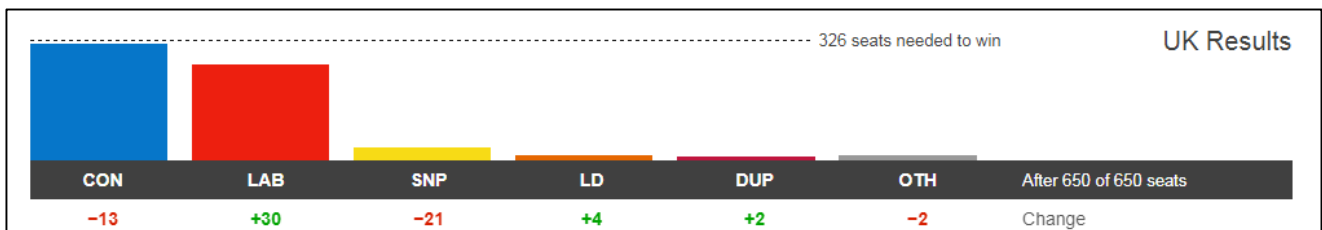
**Task Two: Answer the questions below about the UK Parliament:**

1. Find out all the current members of Cabinet and their role e.g. Who is the Prime Minister and what are their responsibilities?
2. How many seats are there in the House of Commons currently? How might this change if the proposals from the Boundary Commission are accepted?

**Task Three: Research the different electoral systems used in the UK and answer the questions below (the key terms at the top of the page may help you!)**

- How does the first-past-the-post electoral system work?
- Where is the additional member system used in the UK?
- What is proportional representation and which electoral systems used in the UK are an example of this?
- What electoral system is used in the UK to elect the Mayor of London?

**Task Four: Find out the results of the General Election in 2017, why was this an unexpected result? Use the image below to help you:**



**Task Five: Find out the results of all the General Elections between 1945-2017- which Party has spent the most time in power? Why do you think this party has been successful? Make a prediction about what will happen in elections over the next 10 years.**

**Task Six: Define the key terms below**

Democracy

Partisan Dealignment

Psephology

Proletarianisation

Embourgeoisement

Dictatorship

**Task Seven: Find out what is meant by "left wing" and "right wing" and categorise the statements below**

The government should play an active role in regulating the economy

Public spending should be cut

It is the government's responsibility to provide a welfare state for its citizens

The Conservative Party

The existence of the NHS and a welfare state is important

The Labour Party

Inequality and social stratification is normal

Very supportive of Capitalism

It is important to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor

Taxes should be raised

The Green Party in the UK tends to be seen as Socialist

The Daily Mail tends to be seen as the UK's most right wing newspaper

The BNP is an example of a political party in the UK that could be far right

The government should play a major role in society