

Starter

Create a mind-map with the word 'Politics' in the middle. Write down any words, names, stories or institutions that you link to politics around the outside.



Learning objectives:

- Politics A-level

Learning objectives

- ❑ What will Politics A-level be like?

Key words



Learning objectives:

- ❑ Politics A-level

Explanation

What do we study?

Exam board: AQA

A-level Paper 1	+	A-level Paper 2	+	A-level Paper 3
What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Government and politics of the UK		What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Government and politics of the USA• Comparative politics		What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Political ideas
How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written exam: 2 hours• 77 marks• 33.3% of A-level		How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written exam: 2 hours• 77 marks• 33.3% of A-level		How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written exam: 2 hours• 77 marks• 33.3% of A-level
Questions <p>A mixture of medium length 'explain' -style questions, extract-based essays and evaluative essays.</p>		Questions <p>A mixture of medium length 'explain' -style questions, extract-based essays and evaluative essays.</p>		Questions <p>A mixture of medium length 'explain' and essay-style questions. You can see full details of the new specifications at aqa.org.uk/politics</p>



Learning objectives:

- Politics A-level

Explanation

Democracy: a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives.

‘The UK is a democracy.’ How far do you agree with this statement?

Strongly
agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly
disagree

Move to the corner of the room which has the judgement that most matches how you feel about this statement.



Learning objectives:

Politics A-level

Checking Progress

In 2022 we had 3 Prime Ministers but there was no election.

How does this affect your decision – do you want to move anywhere?



Learning objectives:

- Politics A-level

Checking Progress

All laws passed by parliament have to go through the House of Lords, as well as the House of Commons. The House of Lords is not elected.

How does this affect your decision – do you want to move anywhere?



Learning objectives:

- Politics A-level

Checking Progress

Sometimes the government will hold referendums on specific issues which allow people to vote directly on that issue. Recent examples include the Brexit referendum in 2016 and the Scottish independence referendum in 2014.

How does this affect your decision – do you want to move anywhere?



Learning objectives:

Politics A-level

Checking Progress

In the 1951 election the Conservatives got 13,717,538 votes and Labour got 13,948,605 votes. However the Conservatives won the election and were asked to form government.

How does this affect your decision – do you want to move anywhere?



Learning objectives:

Politics A-level

Checking Progress

We cannot go longer than 5 years without holding an election.

How does this affect your decision – do you want to move anywhere?



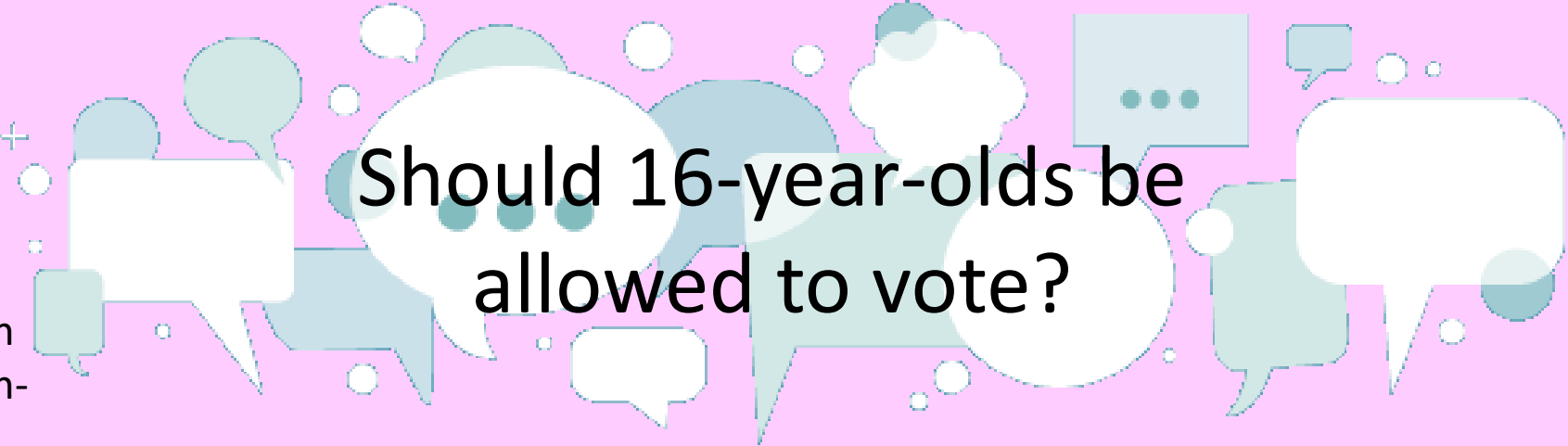
Learning objectives:

- Politics A-level

Explanation

In Scotland the voting age was lowered in 2013 which meant that anyone aged 16 or 17, with a Scottish address, is allowed to vote in Scottish-only elections and in Wales over-16s can vote in Welsh-only elections too. Labour also promised to lower the voting age if they won the election in 2024, which they did.

But what do you think? Is 16 too young, too old or just right? And is it fair that some parts of the UK let you vote from 16 while others don't?



Should 16-year-olds be allowed to vote?



Learning objectives:

□ Politics A-level

Explanation

There have only ever been 3 referendums held across the whole of the UK:

- 1975 - Do you think that the United Kingdom should stay in the European Community (the Common Market)?
- 2011 – Should we replace the current FPTP electoral system with the Alternative Vote system?
- 2016 - Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?



Should we have more referendums?

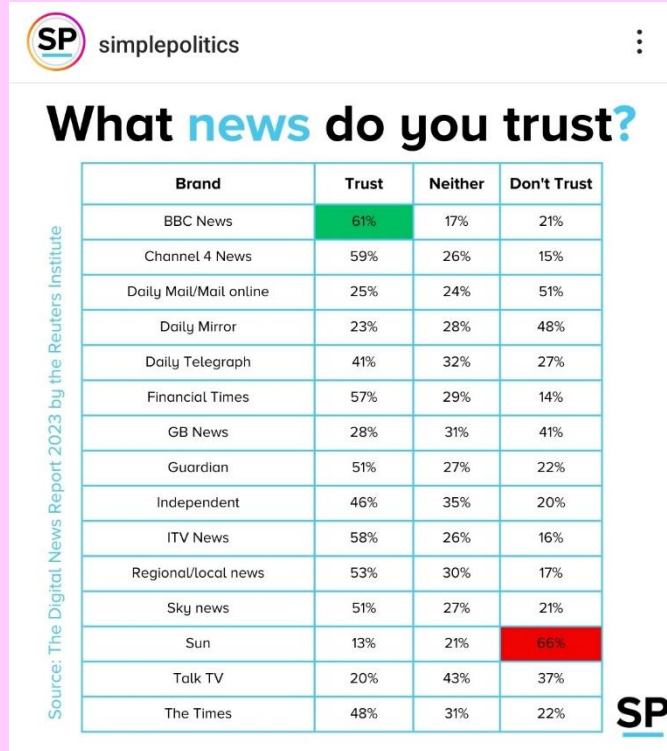


Learning objectives:

Politics A-level

Explanation

Does the media determine general election results?



Box 1 *The Sun's* 'golden era'

The Sun, with a peak daily readership of 4 million in the second half of the twentieth century, claimed to win elections. Since 1979, *The Sun* has consistently endorsed the winner of every UK election and in 1992 claimed 'It Was *The Sun* Wot Won It', insisting it put voters off Labour's Neil Kinnock. One aspect of New Labour's landslide victory in 1997 was Tony Blair's befriending of *The Sun's* owner, Rupert Murdoch, to obtain that newspaper's backing. Its return to endorsing the Conservatives in 2010 arguably enabled David Cameron's victory.



Learning objectives:

□ Politics A-level

Explanation

Outrage at seriously posh lunch MPs can scoff in Houses of Parliament for just £4.52
'Compare this to the free school meal allowance and it honestly makes me ashamed of them all'

Should we be paying for MPs lunches?

According to [Open Democracy](#), between 2018 and 2021 food prices in the House of Commons have been reduced by £1 on average, with the taxpayer footing a £17m bill in subsidies over the same period



Learning objectives:

Politics A-level

Explanation

Summer holiday task!

A great basic activity to start developing your political literacy is to keep a **Current Affairs Diary** over the summer holidays. Each morning you should listen to, watch or read what is going on in the country.

In your diary note down one of the top news stories, including a brief outline of what has happened.

At the end of each fortnight you must select one of these stories and write a short editorial on it. This should include:

- An objective explanation of the issue, including how it has progressed across the week.
- Opinions from different viewpoints.
- Your opinion – including where applicable alternative solutions to the problem or issue being criticised.

Try to include a mixture of stories about both UK and US politics.

We will be developing our own current affairs diaries on the course next year so this is a good chance to get a taste for it!



Learning objectives:

Politics A-level

End & send

Expectations

- ✓ All equipment away
- ✓ All rubbish in the bin
- ✓ Everybody Leaves in a calm manner.



Learning objectives:

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