**A-Level Politics Year 11 Bridging the Gap 2**

*Welcome, year 11! This is your second ‘Bridging the Gap’ task for A-Level Politics, which you’ve chosen to take at A-Level this September. The pack is designed to give you a flavour of what A-Level Politics is all about. The pack will be an independent research project. The work in these packs will take a long time, so you can break it up. Don’t feel you need to complete it all in one go!*

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| **A-Level course outline** |
| **Year 12: UK Politics** | **Year 12-13: Ideologies** | **Year 13: US Politics** |
| UK Constitution, Parliament & Prime Minister | Liberalism | US Constitution, Congress & Presidency |
| UK Democracy | Conservatism | US Democracy |
| UK Parties | Socialism | US Parties |
| UK Elections & Voting | Nationalism | US Elections & Voting |

UK Research Task

Your task is to choose one of the following parties: Conservative & Unionist Party or Labour Party.

You need to research the history of the party, their ideology and policy beliefs (including their most recent election manifesto), their electoral performance (Are they currently in government? How well did they do at the last election (December 2019) and finally Key Figures in that party (include photos and descriptions of who they are). This should be about one A4 page of typed work. You need to turn this into some sort of leaflet/flyer about the parties including pictures, not just a set of notes.

Wikipedia is an excellent resource for this task (as a general rule, you shouldn’t rely on Wikipedia – it is, however, a good source for getting an overview) but you should use more than one source to complete this work. Note your sources at the end as an informal Bibliography.

USA Research Task

Your task is to research one of the following parties: Republican Party or Democratic Party.

You need to research the history of the party, their ideology and policy beliefs (including their most recent election platform), their popular electoral performance versus their electoral college performance. Do they have a majority in the House of Representatives and the Senate, in one, or both? How well did they do at the last elections: House of Representatives, Senate, President, and finally Key Figures in that party (include photos and descriptions of who they are). This should be about one A4 page of typed work. You need to turn this into some sort of leaflet/flyer about that party including pictures, not just a set of notes.

Wikipedia is an excellent resource for this task (as a general rule, you shouldn’t rely on Wikipedia – but it IS a really good source of useful information!) but you should use more than one source to complete this work. Note your sources at the end as an informal Bibliography.

Country Research Task

Now that in Bridging the Gap 1 and 2 you have researched and begun to understand some core concepts and issues in government & politics, you have an opportunity to pick a country of your choice and research it. Your country of choice cannot be the UK or the USA. Some suggestions are:

France // Germany // Spain // Poland // Greece // Turkey // Canada // Mexico // China // South Korea // Russia.

You need to research using sources of your choice (as with the above, Wikipedia is useful but you should use other sources too. Try the CIA World Factbook):

* What is the political history of the country?
* What kind of political system do they use?
* What are the major political institutions – do they have a parliament/president/prime minister/etc.?
* Do they have a democratic system, or something that says it is but in fact is not democratic?
* What are the major political parties and issues in that country?
* How often are elections held?
* How rich/poor are people in this country compared to the UK?
* What’s going on (politically) in that country right now?

**This should be a minimum of one A4 typed page, maximum 2 pages, and should have pictures/diagrams as necessary, not just a set of notes. Remember to use a 12 pt. font and 1 ½ line spacing.**

**IMPORTANT TO NOTE**: ALL research work MUST be your own writing submission, and not copied and pasted from the Internet, with a few words changed here and there to make it “yours”. It is your writing ‘voice’ that needs to be heard not some unnamed expert in the field of Politics. The proper academic process in any research task is to READ, LEARN and then WRITE. It is all too easy with the electronic sources that are available today, to copy and paste. This implies the claim that the work is yours. This is unacceptable because it is PLAGIARISM. Sources MUST be appropriately referenced in your work, even if this is done informally and without a formal Bibliography. (For the moment a Footnote is quite acceptable.) Paraphrasing (using your own words) an author’s work is perfectly acceptable, as long as you reference the author. Anything less is STEALING, so don’t PLAGIARISE. It is not a good look!

**REMINDER**: There is a great deal of work involved in these transition packs. Pace yourself and don’t rush it. If you rush, you will not do a thorough job and worse still, not be prepared for the level and speed (the stamina) you will need for this course. Politics, is fun, challenging and above all, it will turn you into a thinking citizen. Enjoy your first foray into the subject and don’t let it become a chore to engage in the learning.