

# Welcome to A Level Politics

**"Just because you do not take an interest in politics, doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you."**

- **What you can read:**

[BBC Politics](#), a broadsheet newspaper (eg. [Times](#), [Guardian](#)), [politics.co.uk](#), [politicshome.com](#)

['Parliament - Find Your Way'](#) by the Houses of Parliament

['How it works'](#) by the Houses of Parliament

- **What you can watch:**

You will find that watching the news - or news programmes such as [Newsnight](#), [Panorama](#), or [Dispatches](#) - will prepare you well for studying Politics. Here are some further suggestions:

- [Inside the Commons](#)
- [The Secret World of Whitehall](#)
- [Margaret Thatcher - A very British revolution](#)
- [The Rise and Fall of Tony Blair](#)

- **What are some of the topics and skills that you will cover:**

Below are some of the topics and skills that we will cover in September and October:

Topics	Relevant skills to the topic
Democracy and Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reading and understanding new and complex material</li> <li>- Analysing political processes</li> <li>- Evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of political concepts</li> </ul>
Political Parties	
Electoral systems	- All of the above
Voting behaviour and the Media	- Analysing numerical data to identify trends

- **Tasks that you can do to prepare you:**

Task	Link to the course/specification
<p><b>Task 1</b></p> <p>Find out as much as you can about your local MP. For example:</p> <p>What party do they represent?            When were they first elected?            What issues are they most interested in?            How have they voted in Parliament?            What did they do before being an MP?            Anything else you think is interesting</p>	<p>The role of local MPs is relevant when studying Parliament, Democracy and Participation, Voting Behaviour and Electoral Systems,</p>

### Task 2.

Read the [‘Parliament - Find Your Way’](#) booklet by the Houses of Parliament.

Use it to write your own definitions of the following terms:

Democracy  
Constitution  
Parliament  
MP  
Government  
Cabinet  
House of Commons  
House of Lords  
Speaker  
Opposition  
Scrutiny  
Select Committee  
Legislation  
General Election  
First Past the Post  
Referendum  
Proportional Representation  
Political Party  
Pressure Group  
Party Whip  
Lobbying  
Petition

These terms are relevant throughout the course, and an understanding of them early on will help to put much of what we study in context.

### Task 3.

Use Google to research and write a short answer to this question:

“What is the difference between Parliament and Government?”

The difference between Parliament and Government is crucial - the relationship between the two is one of the most important things to understand on this course.

Thinking about this question early on will prepare you for studying it in more detail later on - and it is also relevant when studying US Politics.

### - Contact information

If you have questions regarding this or any other A Level course at Burnley College, please contact [alevels@burnley.ac.uk](mailto:alevels@burnley.ac.uk) or call 01282733373

We look forward to seeing you in September.