

A level Politics

Summer Assignment

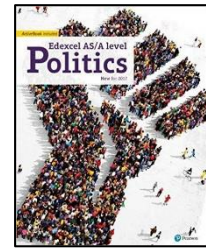
<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/politics-2017.html>

Task One

You'll need to buy the Politics textbook. This covers all the year 12 and 13 content.

Edexcel GCE Politics AS and A-level Student Book and eBook (Edexcel GCE Politics 2017)

Available on amazon: https://www.amazon.co.uk/Edexcel-Politics-level-Student-eBook/dp/1292187026/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1532520479&sr=8-1



Task Two

Research and create definitions for the following key words:

1. General Election
2. Regional Election
3. Representative
4. Democracy
5. Political Participation
6. Parliament
7. Manifesto
8. Devolution
9. Constitution
10. Sovereignty

Task Three

To aid your knowledge Political Parties, you must answer the following for TWO UK political parties of your choice.

1. Name of Political Party
2. Logo of political party
3. Leader of Party
4. Very brief history of the party
5. Number of MPs in the House of Commons
6. Four key policies from the 2017 General Election.

Task Four

Read through the following information on the use of referendums and answer the questions below:

Many countries have held referendums, mostly for constitutional issues or to agree a change to their constitution. A few have been held on moral issues such as the legalisation of abortion or the prohibition of alcohol. However, Switzerland and Italy allow the public to force a referendum on the collection of enough signatures and Switzerland has held 300 of these. Similarly, many states of the United States allow propositions on issues to be put directly to voters at election time. These have ranged from preventing the implementation of Obama's healthcare, to state budgets, to gay marriage, to banning the hunting of mountain lions.

Referendums can settle an issue that has been controversial. Alex Salmond argued, after the Scottish referendum, that the issue of independence been settled 'for a generation' and the 1975 referendum on the EU established British membership as agreed, at least until the last few years. They can also be used to decide issues in a way that general election cannot. Voters in general elections decide on broad views of what the parties and their leaders are like and what they will do and have done in the past, rather than on issues, the consideration of which can tend to get lost. When parties are divided internally over an issue, as on Europe, they will not want to raise it in a general election campaign.

However, referendums may undermine Parliamentary democracy and make it seem less relevant. It is also contrary to the idea of Parliamentary sovereignty, by which Parliament alone decides the law and no Parliament can bind a succeeding Parliament to a course of action. It could be argued that politicians should be making decisions and that a referendum often leads to delay. Also, there may be unequal resources between the opposing campaigns in a referendum so that the arguments of one side become submerged. During the EU referendum, many party leaders and businesses were in favour of remaining in the EU. In some cases, businesses told their workers that their jobs would be under threat if Britain left the EU. The media also has an influence and if most of the press take a side in the referendum campaign then the opposing view may not be heard.

- 1) Identify two strengths and two weakness of using referendums from the extract above.
- 2) Research two referendums, other than the 2016 EU referendum, detail why it was held, the turnout and the decision.

Good luck and see you in September! – Mr Leaman