

SWGS Politics Summer Work

Task 1: Complete these sections of this Open University online course about Politics. Follow the links to the sections of the course (you do not need to complete the whole course, but if you wanted to, it is free).

[1] Watch the video clip in this section of the course and answer the questions below <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/society-politics-law/what-politics/content-section-1.3>

[1.1] What are the most common associations the people in 'Politics: a view from the street' make with politics? Why do you think this is the case?

[1.2] Do most of those interviewed think politics is important? How do they feel it impacts on their day-to-day lives?

[1.3] To what extent were most of those interviewed involved in politics? What were the reasons given for those not involved in politics?

[2] Read the relevant sections of this section of the course and make notes to summarise the different possible definitions of politics <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/society-politics-law/what-politics/content-section-2>

[2.1] Politics as that which concerns the state.

[2.2] Politics as conflict resolution.

[2.3] Politics as conflict.

[2.4] Politics as the exercise of power.

[2.5] Politics as a social and public activity.

Task 2: News and current affairs diary.

Over a period of at least two weeks, maintain a Politics Diary using the template below. Use one or more of the news outlets below. These can be national or international political news stories. You should aim for approximately 8 news items.

Staying up to date with current affairs is essential to success in Politics A-Level. There are many ways to do this, from reading newspapers, websites and social media, to watching news coverage and listening to politics podcasts. During the course, you will be expected to engage with the news and analysis – that means following the headlines, but also reading or listening to commentary about the news, by experts.

Newspapers:

The Week (£): <https://theweek.com/uk>

Economist (£): <https://www.economist.com/>

The Guardian: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/>

The Telegraph (£): <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/>

The Times (£): <http://www.thetimes.co.uk/>

BBC News: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/>

BBC TV and Radio Programmes:

BBC Parliament: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/tv/bbcparliament>

Newsnight: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006mk25>

Question Time: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006t1q9>

The Westminster Hour: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006s624>

The Week in Westminster: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qjfq>

Podcasts:

Politics.co.uk: <http://www.politics.co.uk/podcast/>

Guardian Politics Weekly: <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/series/politicsweekly>

Economist: <https://www.economist.com/podcasts>

Politico – Westminster Insider: <https://www.politico.eu/westminster-insider-podcast/>

A-Level Politics Show (£): <https://open.spotify.com/show/0pdAY6egNBq0tFOLFjMk7O>
<https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/the-a-level-politics-show/id1473697674>

Political Thinking: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04z203l>

The News Agents: <https://www.globalplayer.com/podcasts/42KuVj/>

Date	Source	Description of the story	Implications
Example 23/06/2022	BBC News	The Conservative Party lost two by-elections today. Lib Dems took the south-western rural stronghold of Tiverton and Honiton and Labour won the northern seat of Wakefield.	Oliver Dowden, the Conservative Party Chairman, resigned following these defeats. Oliver Dowden's resignation has transformed these by-election results from a story dominated by Conservative defeat, to one dominated by the Prime Minister's future. The British Prime Minister narrowly survived a no-confidence vote recently by members of his Conservative Party, but the outcome betrayed deep divisions less than three years after Johnson led the Tories to their <u>biggest election victory</u> since the zenith of Margaret Thatcher in the mid-1980s. The 211-148 result means Johnson cannot be challenged from within the Conservative ranks for one full year. However, the outcome also means that more than half the House of Commons either opposes Johnson or has expressed no confidence in him.