

## **Politics Summer Work 2022**

The Woodhouse Politics department would like you to be prepared for the steep learning curve ahead. Next year you will be studying three areas: UK Politics, Ideologies and Global Politics. This summer work will help you to start developing the critical skills and detail required to really excel in this subject, which requires you to master a lot of detailed content, to regularly follow the news and to learn how to squeeze all the knowledge you gain into a longer and shorter essay and a short analytical piece of writing.

Submitted work will be uploaded in September for your Politics teachers to look at, and your ideas and research may be explored in detail during class activities in the second week, so please produce a typed version and bring it with you when you start lessons.

### **UK Politics Task 1 –**

British politics is going through a remarkable period, with Brexit and Covid-19 starting to fade into the background; and we have a Conservative government with some bold claims about its ambitions. But how far do their achievements so far reflect all the hype? With this question in mind, we would like you to research and write a paragraph on each of these questions:

1. Can you explain why the current government was formed and who are the key people in it? (You certainly want to familiarise yourself with members of the Cabinet and their roles)
2. What are the current challenges the government faces?
3. What are the criticisms made of the government's handling of the Partygate scandal?
4. Is Johnson a misunderstood political genius or the worst Prime Minister for generations?

Explain and justify your answer. Can you think of what some counter arguments to your own views might be?

### **UK Politics Task 2 –**

We would like you to find a number of UK Politics podcasts, subscribe to them and write your reflections (two to three paragraphs) on the contents of one of the podcasts that caught your attention and intrigued you. The BBC is a good place to start but there are lots out there (see list below if you're stuck).

### **UK Politics Task 3 –**

Research the Labour Opposition under Sir Keir Starmer, what sorts of policies is he arguing for? We would like you to list 3 and give your personal views on them, justifying why you think these policies would be good, bad or indifferent for the future of UK Politics.

### **Global Politics Task 1 –**

The world in 2022 is looking ever more fragile and worrying. Commentators have even gone so far as to describe a world of growing chaos and disarray. To untangle the current situation we would like you to research and write a paragraph on the following questions:

1. What does Russia's invasion of the Ukraine mean for the world? Explain with examples.
2. How is the world progressing on reducing CO2 emissions?
3. What has been happening in China since the pandemic hit? What does this mean for China's neighbours and the rest of the world?
4. With the Supreme Court of the USA overturning long-standing abortion rights, do you believe we are living in a time when Human Rights are going backwards? Why or why not?

If you feel excited about exploring these kinds of topics, and would probably educate yourself naturally on these anyway, you are the kind of student we want to join us! If you don't know much about Politics, but are keen to learn about how the world works and are willing to do a lot of extra reading in your spare time (5 hours a week, plus podcasts, plus following the news), we also welcome you to the Politics department! If, however, you're not sure about your interest and commitment, then honestly Politics may not be for you. It is a complex, difficult and demanding subject that requires hard work to master – it is not a “soft” or “easy” choice (if you want that, choose something else). However, if you do feel it's for you, there is no more enriching, debate-loving and awe-inspiring subject on offer at Woodhouse! 40% of our upper sixth this year loved Politics so much they chose to do it at degree level next year.

### **Global Politics Task 2 –**

We want you to get into good, regular, habits of independent study – so your ability to start (and continue) with the kinds of things you'll be doing on a weekly basis (without even the teacher telling you to) is an important sign of how much you really want to take this challenging subject on. You must subscribe to/follow one Global-themed politics podcast and write a one paragraph reflection of an episode. Here are a couple that are relevant to our lessons in Year 12:

[Talking Politics \(talkingpoliticspodcast.com\)](https://talkingpoliticspodcast.com)

[BBC Radio 4 - The Week in Westminster](#)

[UnHerd | think again](#)

[The Rest Is Politics on Apple Podcasts](#) (need Apple or Spotify for this)