

Politics

Transition Activity

Introduction

One of the key factors determining success in A Level Politics is the ability to use relevant current evidence to support arguments in written answers. Therefore, it would be very useful if potential A level students did some research and produced material on the following topics because they form the basis of much of the work covered on the A level course.

1. UK General Election – 8th June, 2017
Produce a table with four columns, showing the following:
 - (a) Political parties which had elected MPs following this election
 - (b) The number of MPs elected of each of the parties
 - (c) The percentage of votes gained by each of the parties with elected members
 - (d) The percentage of MPs within the House of Commons for each of the parties
2. Referendum on UK membership of the European Union – 23rd June 2016
Analysis of the results of the Referendum
Identify the main supporters of the REMAIN and LEAVE campaigns
3. Political Parties
Study the websites of the UK political parties which have representatives in the House of Commons.
Identify the leaders of each of these parties and write short summaries (no more than half a page on each party) on the main ideas and beliefs of these parties.
4. Pressure Groups
They are important organisations which may influence the policies and laws in the UK.
Study the web sites of a pressure group in each of the following areas: education, health care, civil liberties, environment, international aid and try to identify the specific ways in which they have tried to influence policies and laws in UK.

Some examples of websites which will be helpful in this exercise

Political Parties

<http://www.conservatives.com/> - Conservative Party

<http://www.labour.org.uk/home> - Labour Party

<http://www.libdems.org.uk/home.aspx> - Liberal Democrat Party

Pressure Groups

<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/> - Greenpeace

<http://www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk/index.php> - Liberty

General political research

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/politics/> - BBC Politics

The Henley College website – information on the EU referendum on Learnzone