



# St Mary Redcliffe and Temple 6<sup>th</sup> Form

## Year 11 into 12 transition task

### Subject: Government and Politics

SMRT 6<sup>th</sup> Form gives students the chance to study new subjects that they have not experienced at GCSE. We want to ensure that everybody who has chosen such a subject has a good understanding of it involves so that they don't find themselves having to swap within the first few weeks or stuck with something that turns out not to be what they expected.

The daily routine of studying this subject can be very exciting and there are lots of quality resources available, from newspapers (The Guardian, The Times, The Telegraph, The Washington Post and The New York Times), television (BBC News, Channel 4 News, and CNN), radio programmes/podcasts and quality weeklies such as The Economist and New Statesman magazines. In the first few weeks of the course you will study a range of topics, from democracy and political parties, to the UK parliament and how it works. In order to have some interesting discussions in class straight away and enable you to do some independent reading and research we have set you a few simple tasks to complete, which you should bring with you to your first lessons. They shouldn't take you too long, but there are more resources suggested that you could look at if you want to get deeper into the subject before you start.

### A. Name that Face

Identify these British politicians. What role did they have? What did they do that was significant? Get your parents and grandparents involved in this one, they will remember some of these well!



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e) What is an uncodified constitution?

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f) What is parliamentary sovereignty? Explain checks and balances, including the role of judicial review. Can you give any current examples?

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g) What makes a good Prime Minister?

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h) To whom is the Prime Minister accountable?

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i) Should 'the people' decide big issues like EU membership, or should elected representatives decide on our behalf? Explain your thinking.

## Extension:

You may find the following books/podcasts/films interesting. Read/listen/watch and provide a summary. What are the key ideas? What are the key arguments that support them? Can you make any interesting connections with current events?

Books:

Any political biography or:

- a) *The People* by Selina Todd
- b) *National Populism* by Eatwell and Goodwin
- c) *The Impossible Office? The History of the British Prime Minister* by Anthony Seldon
- d) *1984* by George Orwell
- e) *Hearts and Minds: The Battle for the Conservative Party from Thatcher to the present* by Oliver Letwin
- f) *The British Labour Party in Opposition and Power 1979-2019* by Patrick Diamond

Podcasts and Radio Programmes:

You should also be listening to the BBC politics output (Today Programme, Any Questions etc.)

- a) The Private Eye podcast
- b) The Economist Radio
- c) Politico's Westminster Insider
- d) Any relevant In Our Time with Melvin Bragg e.g. 'Politics in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century'; 'Democracy'; 'Marx'; 'Capitalism'; 'Suffragism'
- e) The Other Black Door by Jack Fenwick
- f) British Socialism: The Grand Tour with Anne McElvoy

Film:

- a) The Great Hack – tells the story of Cambridge Analytica and Facebook involvement in elections
- b) The Spirit of '45 by Ken Loach – contextualises the hopes and intentions of the 1945 Atlee administration and explores the demise of UK socialism
- c) The Iron Lady (2011) – A nostalgic Maggie Thatcher looks back on her political journey
- d) The Deal (2003) – Explores the relationship between Brown and Blair
- e) The Loop (2009) – Satirical film about the invasion of Iraq

You should also be watching the political debate and analysis on the BBC and Chanel 4 as well as keeping up with current events.