



St Benedict's
Sixth Form

Politics



TRANSITION PACK

As an A-Level Politics student you will be expected to develop an interest in contemporary politics. You will need to have the ability to critically analyse, interpret and evaluate political information to form arguments and make judgements.

This pack is a taster of things to come. Your opinion matters, we are expecting you to develop your own ideas and back them up with facts from investigating key issues that are within the news.



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We have selected two contemporary issues for you to investigate. You will first analyse whether Trade Unions should have the right to take industrial action (Strike). Second, you will evaluate several laws which have been passed recently.

Baseline Assessment

During the week beginning 25/9/23, an assessment will be undertaken to consider suitability for the course. The assessment will comprise of:

- A review of summer work
- Assessment in the form of a mini written essay that you will produce in the first 2 weeks.

Task 1: Trade Union Research Task - Analysing power, influence and democracy

Should Trade Unions be able to take strike action?





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Task: You are to decide if trade unions should be able to take strike action. You need to do research and then make an accurate judgement based on solid evidence. See the research links section for guidance. Here are some key questions that will guide you through your research

- What are the main factors that cause trade unions to take strike action?
- What are the consequences to the economy/business when strike action is taken?
- What other groups suffer when workers take strike action?
- Should doctors, the fire service, the army and the police be able to strike?
- What rights have been won by trade unions taking industrial action?

Once you have done your research you must write out your response to the task in 250+ words. As this is your own opinion, you can be undecided, but you must explain why.

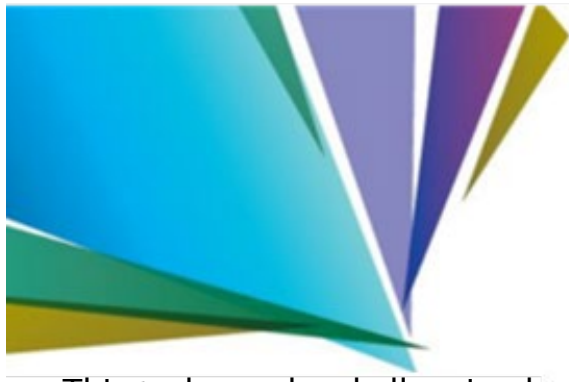
EXTENSION TASK (optional): State your opinion (250-500 words) on whether Trade Unions have a positive impact on British democracy

Task 2: Blocking or amending a new piece of legislation (law)

You are going to research 3 key laws that the government has passed recently. You are going to be given the power to undo/amend one of these laws which was introduced. See below for the 3 laws that you will have to choose from:

Parental bereavement leave	UK citizens will be considered potential donors unless they choose to opt out or are excluded.	Minimum wage increased to £10.42 for those aged 25 and over, up from £9.18
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This task may be challenging because you might support the introduction of all the above laws, so if you support them you might want to amend them. The simplest way to evaluate your task is for you to decide which law is the least important or which law does not go far enough. See the research links section for guidance and the teacher support video link. Here are some questions that should guide your decision:

- How many people will be impacted if the law doesn't get introduced?
- What category of people will be hit hardest if the law fails to be in acted? (Gender, race, age, class, disability etc)
- How will the law impact you personally?
- What is the motivation behind the law?
- Will the law make the government richer or poorer?
- Will the new law make society fairer?

You must make your decision in the form of an essay which clearly states which law you think should not be introduced or should be amended. The essay should be 250+ words

EXTENSION: Create your own new law that you would like to see introduced in 2023. You must give a detailed explanation



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RESEARCH LINKS

BOOKS/MAGAZINES	<p>Pearson Edexcel A level Politics Textbook (Optional at this stage)</p>
WEBSITES	<p>Task 1 https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-61861040 https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/politics/rail-strikes-explained-rmt-workers-27287789 https://www.nationalworld.com/news/uk/why-are-rail-workers-striking-what-rmt-staff-are-calling-for-and-how-much-are-they-paid-3738055 Junior doctors strike - doctors guide to industrial action 2023 (bma.org.uk) Junior doctors in England to strike for three days in June - BBC News</p> <p>Task 2 Parental bereavement leave https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-first-parents-who-lose-a-child-entitled-to-bereavement-leave https://employeebenefits.co.uk/parental-bereavement-leave-april-2020/</p> <p>Opt in Out Organ Donation https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-45197374 https://www.organdonation.nhs.uk/helping-you-to-decide/about-organ-donation/faq/what-is-the-opt-out-system/ https://www.theweek.co.uk/35635/automatic-organ-donation-the-pros-and-cons</p> <p>Minimum wage increase https://www.brightpay.co.uk/blog/2020/01/minimum-wage-rates-increase-from-1st-april-2020/ https://www.mirror.co.uk/money/general-election-puts-minimum-wages-20913858 https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-pay-rise-for-28-million-people</p>
TV/YOUTUBE	Task 1

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[NHS strikes: Junior doctors stage 72-hour walkout as patients await critical surgery - YouTube](#)
[Striking junior doctors march through Manchester in row with government over pay - YouTube](#)

Task 2

Parental bereavement leave

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FbcEaeA23as>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ftXYCSzTic>

Opt in Out Organ Donation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jis2qMc9RC8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vhqp54dLxMs>

Minimum wage increase to £8.67

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2eXfhQUdRsY>

<https://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/minimum-wage-increase-2020-how-much-new-rate-will-be-and-when-it-comes-effect-2523991>

<https://www.scotsman.com/business/minimum-wage-pay-rise-2020-new-national-living-wage-who-will-get-increase-and-when-it-changes-1398583>

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/2085051/what-is-national-minimum-living-wage-uk/>