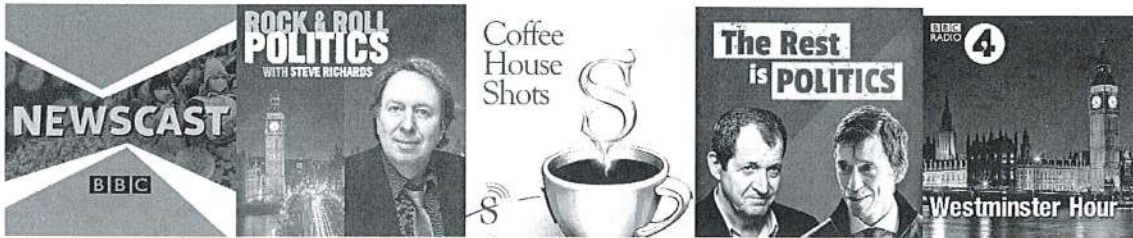


Politics A Level

Dear Student,

Welcome to Shrewsbury College and A Level Politics. You have chosen to study an A Level which you will not have studied before in school. Hopefully, this means you are already engaged with what is happening in politics. Keeping up to date with current affairs is an essential part of the course and is a habit we would like you to start now. You need to make sure the information you access is thought provoking but reliable. We are recommending the following podcasts to help you with the course:



Once the course starts in September you will have 4 hours 20 minutes of lesson time which should be matched by 4 hours 20 of study outside of the classroom. This will include homework but also wider reading.



You will be taught either by Matt Koenig, Sarah Roberts or Jess Endacott Barone. If you have any concerns over the summer, you can email Sarah Roberts (ser@ssfc.ac.uk)



Over the summer you will have some homework to complete which is explained at the end of this booklet. In addition, during the first week back there will be a quick knowledge test on the nine features of a liberal democracy so revise what these key words mean.



1. What do you notice about this picture?

2. What do you think it is?

3. What does it suggest about democracy?

4. What does a country need to be considered a democracy?

Features of a liberal democracy

	What does this mean?	Is it under threat?
1. The peaceful transition of power		
2. Free elections		
3. Fair elections		
4. Widespread participation		
5. Freedom of expression		
6. Freedom of association		
7. Protection of rights and liberties		
8. The rule of law and an independent judiciary		
9. Limited government and constitutionalism		

Legislation passed by the government in 2022

Elections Act 2022

The Act introduces voter photo identification for in-person voting to the United Kingdom for the first time. It will give government new powers over the independent elections regulator. Notable provisions of the act include:

- Requiring photo identification to vote in-person.
- Changes to the Electoral Commission, including placing it under the supervision of a government minister. It was previously independent of government and accountable directly to parliament.
- Changing mayors, police and crime commissioners elections from a supplementary vote system to a first-past-the-post one.

There is little evidence of serious voter fraud in UK elections. Between 2015 to 2019, during which three general elections were held and 153 million in-person votes cast, only 88 allegations were made of voter fraud. Between 2010 and 2018, there were just two convictions for voter fraud

Judicial Review and Courts Act 2022

Judicial review is a vital part of the justice system in England and Wales. It's a way for people to:

- assert their fundamental rights
- test the lawfulness of decisions made by public bodies including the government
- seek a remedy when things go wrong

The Act restricts what can be challenged in a judicial review case

Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022

Police chiefs will be able to put more conditions on static protests, such as those organised by Extinction Rebellion where roads and bridges are occupied. They will be able to:

- Impose a start and finish time
- Set noise limits
- Apply these rules to a demonstration by just one person

The new law also includes an offence of "intentionally or recklessly causing public nuisance".

Nationality and Borders Act 2022

it proposes to introduce "designated places" or "offshore" asylum hubs for application of refugee and migrant asylum claims, potentially in another European country or an African country. The proposed bill effectively criminalizes asylum seekers, who come on "unsanctioned" or "irregular" routes to disqualify them from consideration as refugees. It can also remove British citizenship from dual nationals without notice.

Summer Homework

Keeping up to date with current affairs is a vital part of the A Level Politics course. Over the summer find three articles relating to events in the news that are relevant to one of the nine features of a liberal democracy. The articles should be from a broadsheet newspaper (Times, Telegraph, Guardian, Independent, Financial Times) or one of the following websites:

www.politico.com/news/united-kingdom

www.politics.co.uk

Huffingtonpost.co.uk

Use the following template for your three articles

1. Newspaper and Date	
2. Headline	
3. What are the key points made in the article? (around 150 words)	
4. Which of the nine features of a liberal democracy does it relate to and how?	