

# Politics Summer Work for Mr Bryson/Mr Galloway

## Task 1

In our first lesson, we will have a debate about whether democracy is the best system for running our country. You need to research arguments in favour of democracy and arguments in favour of one other specific system for running a country (e.g. dictatorship, monarchy, theocracy, one-party state).

You will need to carry out research for both of these and write a substantial paragraph (minimum 250 words) making your argument for democracy, as well as a paragraph making your argument for your alternative system. In your first lesson you will be told which side you are going to be arguing for and you will all be expected to participate in the debate.

Feel free to research widely. You may find Michael Portillo's series on democracy useful as a starting point: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00s936s>

## Task 2

One of the best ways to help achieve a top grade in Politics is to read, watch and listen widely, especially keeping up to date with current events. During the summer, have a watch or listen to at least 3 of the following and complete the Read/Watch/Listen Summer log.

### Watch

Knock Down the House (Netflix or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YCSo2hZRcXk>)

The Trump Show (BBC IPlayer, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/p08svdkn/the-trump-show>)

The Cameron Years (BBC IPlayer, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m0008kk7/the-cameron-years>)

Marcus Rashford: Feeding Britain's Children (BBC IPlayer, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000qq41/marcus-rashford-feeding-britains-children>)

### Listen

Newscast (Various days, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p05299nl>)

Spectator Coffee House Shots (Monday to Friday and Sunday, <https://www.spectator.co.uk/podcasts/coffee-house-shots>)

Westminster Hour (Sunday, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006s624>)

<b>What have you watched or listened to?</b>	<b>What were the main points made in the show?</b>	<b>Your reflections on the points made in the show.</b>
1)		
2)		
3)		

## Politics Summer work for Dr Hanson

During the first lesson you will be discussing the following:

**“In dark times, the electorate sticks with the devil it knows.”**

How far do you agree with this comment, made by Conservative Whip Jack Weatherill in the prologue of the play *This House?* The play is set in 1970s Britain when the country was in the grip of an economic crisis.

You need to prepare for the discussion by bringing with you some notes – not to exceed more than one side of A4 if typed or 2 sides if handwritten.

Your notes should not be made up of unsubstantiated opinion. You will need evidence to support your arguments – look at general election results for the UK and presidential election results for the USA since 1970.

At the end of the lesson I'll be asking you to hand in your notes so that I can have a look at your individual research and discussion points.

**Make sure you bring your notes with you on the first day of lessons!**

Places you could start your research (but feel free to find your own sources):

<https://www.newstatesman.com/politics/2015/04/what-happened-1974-election>

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures-and-events/the-general-election-1979>

[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskHistorians/comments/1kwp3n/why\\_did\\_michael\\_foot\\_and\\_the\\_labour\\_party\\_lose/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskHistorians/comments/1kwp3n/why_did_michael_foot_and_the_labour_party_lose/)

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/exclusive-how-did-labour-lose-in-92-the-most-authoritative-study-of-the-last-general-election-is-1439286.html>

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/gallery/2010/mar/30/general-election-2010-labour>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2019-50774061>

<https://www.historyonthenet.com/authentichistory/1974-1992/1-ford/4-1976election/>

<https://www.britannica.com/event/United-States-presidential-election-of-1980/General-election-campaign>

<https://www.britannica.com/event/United-States-presidential-election-of-1992>

[https://familypedia.wikia.org/wiki/United\\_States\\_presidential\\_election,\\_2008](https://familypedia.wikia.org/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_2008)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012\\_United\\_States\\_presidential\\_election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012_United_States_presidential_election)