Welcome to Chapter Two of Flying Start, your suite of pre-enrolment learning content designed to help you make the best possible start to learning with Exeter College from September.

With Chapter Two's learning content, our subject leaders have set more brainteasers and activities designed to get you thinking about your subjects at the next level.

If you get stuck at any point, please see the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section at the bottom for help.

### Task 1 – Referendums

In the UK if a decision is needed on a big issue, the government may call for a referendum. This is a type of direct democracy where the people decide the outcome. Referendums are NOT legally binding; however, it is very unlikely any UK government would go against an instruction given by the British people.

1. **Write down a definition to explain what a referendum means**

   A referendum is...

2. **Complete the table to show the referendums that have happened in the UK from 1997-2017 and the results. The following websites may help:**

   https://www.parliament.uk/get-involved/elections/referendums-held-in-the-uk/
   https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/eu-referendum/1/steps/95164
   https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/politics/eu_referendum/results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Referendum question</th>
<th>Turnout %</th>
<th>Result %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 September 1997</td>
<td>Scottish devolution referendums on whether there should be a Scottish Parliament and whether the Scottish Parliament should have tax varying powers</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>18 September 1997</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
3. Using the table you have just completed and your own ideas, write down some advantages and disadvantages of referendums.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advantages of referendums</th>
<th>Disadvantages of referendums</th>
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**Task 2 – Pressure groups**

Pressure groups are a group of like-minded people who put pressure on the government to change something. This may be to change the law or perhaps even make a new law to protect the vulnerable in society. These groups do not seek election, just want to influence decision making.

**Can you think of six pressure groups and the causes they believe in?**

*Here are two examples of pressure groups.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of pressure group</th>
<th>What they believe</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Greenpeace</strong></td>
<td>a movement of people who are passionate about defending the natural world from destruction.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/">https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>British Medical Association (BMA)</strong></td>
<td>represents, supports and negotiates on behalf of all UK doctors and medical students. They are member-run and led, fighting for the best terms and conditions as well as lobbying and campaigning on the issues impacting the medical profession.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.bma.org.uk/">https://www.bma.org.uk/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pressure groups can be split into different categories. A sectional group promotes the interests of an occupation or specific group in society. A promotional group focuses on achieving a goal or drawing attention to a specific issue. Pressure groups can also be categorised into two other sub-groups: an insider group relies on contact with ministers to achieve their aims. An insider group may be consulted on policy. An outsider group are not consulted by government. Some look to preserve their independence from government, whereas others seek insider status.

Using your examples from the table above, decide if the pressure group is a sectional or promotional group and then if it is an insider or outsider group.

Pressure groups try to gain support from the public and government in a variety of ways; an action, event or social media campaign. However, all actions are designed to gain the public’s attention and support.
Look back at the news over the past year, write down two examples of pressure group action and what they were trying to achieve. Were they successful? If yes or no, why did this happen?

Task 3 –Political Parties

There are many different political parties in UK politics. Some parties put up candidates for election in most of the UK like; Conservative Party or Labour Party. Some parties only stand within a certain country in the UK like; Scottish National Party (SNP) in Scotland or Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) in Northern Ireland. However, all political parties have the same goal of trying to win as many seats as possible in the House of Commons.  

*Here is a list of the some of the political parties in UK. Write down three policies you think belong to each Political Party.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Party</th>
<th>What they stand for</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conservative Party</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour Party</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scottish National Party (SNP)</td>
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</table>
Task 5 – Voting behaviour and the media

Voting behaviour is the study of why and how people vote, mainly in general elections. It is important for political parties and political analysts to see trends in voting behaviour, as this makes predicting the outcome of an election more reliable. Political parties need to know if their policies are liked by voters, meaning they are more likely to get into government. Political analysts like to predict and share their findings with the media and wider public.

Read the article below and answer the questions about the 2019 general election.


1. What gender is most likely to vote Conservative?

2. What percentage of Leave voters backed the Conservative Party?

3. Look at the ‘Vote by age’ chart. Which age group voted mainly for:
   - Labour__________________________
   - Conservative______________________
4. Looking at the ‘Vote by age and gender’ chart. Which gender and age had the highest number of votes for each party?
   - SNP ____________________________
   - Liberal Democrats __________________
   - Labour Party ____________________
   - Conservative Party _______________

5. In the ‘Vote by education level’ chart, which party received the most votes from people who had a university degree?
   ___________________________________

6. In the ‘Vote by education level’ chart, which party received the most votes from people who only had GCSE qualifications or lower?
   ___________________________________

7. Can you list four possible reasons for the answers you put for questions 5 & 6
   ___________________________________

8. How many people were consulted in this survey by YouGov? Do you think this a good sample size? What could be some potential issues with the amount of people who took part in this survey?
   ___________________________________
Watch these videos about the 2015 and 2019 General Elections:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbYq8saYfHQ
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yNJfDoRZbpc
https://news.sky.com/topic/under-the-radar-8365 (Only watch videos which you think are relevant to the question)

**Extension:** What effect do you think social media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, WhatsApp, etc) had on the General Election in 2019 campaign? You answer can be in sentences, bullet points or a mind map

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At Exeter College we follow the Pearson/Edexcel A-Level Politics course. In the First Year we study the AS Level content, then learners take the AS exam. The second year builds on the knowledge gained in the first year and adds political thought and global politics. The full A-Level exam comprises of first- and second-year content.

**Qualification website:**

**Recommended course textbook, which covers both AS and A-Level content:**
*Edexcel GCE Politics AS and A-level Student Book and eBook*

**Publisher:** Pearson

**Author:** Graham Goodlad, Andrew Mitchell, Andrew Colclough, Ian Levinson, Samantha Laycock, Kathy Schindler, Adam Tomes

**ISBN:** 9781292187020
FAQs

Q: Do I have to do it?
A: Flying Start isn’t compulsory, but many students find it useful for getting them used to thinking about subjects at the next level. Early classroom sessions will also reflect on some of the Flying Start activities.

Q: Will this work be marked and when is it due?
A: This work won’t be formally marked but your findings will be discussed during your first classes with us in September. You should aim to bring your research from this Flying Start with you to your first timetabled sessions with us in September.

Q: I am not sure if I have got the answers right, what should I do?
A: Don’t worry, just have a go at getting something down and bring it along to the lesson where we can talk through it. There is no need to get anxious about the tasks, we are not expecting you to know everything before you arrive but are interested in your ideas and what you have found easy or difficult as it helps us support you properly from the beginning.

Q: I’m new to politics and don’t understand all the words and phrases written on this sheet and the websites.
A: No need to worry. You’re about to start studying a lot of new subjects and it is perfectly normal to be unsure of new terms and how to use them. Get into the habit of pasting unfamiliar words into Google and looking up their definition. Remember: it’s OK to be ‘out of your comfort zone’ because that’s when leaning happens. If in doubt, just ask.

Q: I’ve never studied politics before and know very little about it.
A: Most people will be in the same boat as you, so there’s no need to worry. The course is designed for people who are new to politics. The key thing to remember is to ask for clarification and help throughout your course. The key thing at the start is to be open-minded and throw yourself into your studies, then you’ll enjoy it and succeed.

Q: Is there anything else I could be doing once I have finished the Flying Start?
We would like to actively encourage you to watch or read the news, both British and international. This is so you have some idea of contemporary issues which you may come across during your political studies. You may also like to keep magazine or news paper cutting of issues you find interesting. There are also many political podcasts you could listen to, which will also help inform your study of politics