

A Level Politics

Essential Bridging Work

If you intend to enrol on this course you must complete the following bridging work. It should take you about 3-4 hours. **You will need this work for your first lesson. Make sure you bring it with you.**

Topic	The Prime Minister and the Cabinet
Task	<p>Please watch the short video and then answer the questions below.</p> <p>You can find it here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5fE6FMOEw0&list=PLekqLVskbXK_vChamSSRMC0tvEQ6QX-SK&index=5</p> <p>You will also need to conduct further research to answer these questions. We recommend the internet and the local library.</p> <p>Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Divide your page into 4 sections – from the video, in the first 2 boxes record the various strengths and weaknesses of the office of prime minister. What powers do they have and what powers don't they possess? 2. In the next box, record what opportunities are available to Prime Ministers to expand their influence and to gain more authority. 3. In the final box, explain the threats that Prime Ministers are faced with as they attempt to lead the country – what undermines their ability to do their job effectively? 4. Research the term electorate mandate – what does this mean and how could a Prime Minister use this to their advantage? 5. What was the size of Thatcher's majority in the 1979 general election? 6. What was the size of Blair's majority in the 1997 general election? 7. What was the size of John Major's majority in 1992? 8. Why are Blair and Thatcher considered to be strong Prime Ministers, but Major and Brown are not? (500 words minimum) 9. To what extent is the Prime Minister all powerful within the British government? (please turn the page to record your answer).
Resources	<p>YouTube video. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5fE6FMOEw0&list=PLekqLVskbXK_vChamSSRMC0tvEQ6QX-SK&index=5</p> <p>Internet search engines. Books.</p>
Presentation	Handwritten on A4 paper. Please bring it to your first lesson to be handed in.

An argument that the PM is strong

An argument that the PM is weak

Another argument that the PM is strong

Another argument that the PM is weak

Is the Prime Minister (PM) all powerful within the government?

Another argument that the PM is strong

Another argument that the PM is weak