



HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Learning together Achieving together

Y11 – Y12

Summer Bridging Tasks

2025

Politics

Name: _____

- You should spend some time during the summer holidays working on the activities in this booklet.
- You will be required to hand this work in during your first lesson at the start of Year 12 and the content may be used to form the basis of your first assessments.

- You should try your best and show commitment to your studies.
- We are really looking forward to you coming to Hampstead School Sixth Form and studying Politics

Y11-12 Politics Bridging Tasks

British Democracy and Participation.

In preparation for your unit on British democracy and participation, we want you to do some reading on the origins of democracy and arguments about why British democracy is limited in many ways. Take note for each of the two sections thinking about the key question for each

What are the origins of democracy?

Tasks :

1. Read this article on the origins of democracy

<https://www.historyextra.com/period/ancient-greece/what-is-democracy-definition-history-facts-solon-peisistratos-ekklesia/>

Make a quarter to a half a page of notes on this.

2. Read this article by historian and political philosopher Paul Cartledge on the history of the concept of democracy.

https://www.independent.co.uk/news/long_reads/democracy-history-athens-greece-politics-people-society-a8345136.html

Make a minimum of half a page of notes on this.

3. Listen to this great podcast interview with Paul Cartledge. (If you want to download it onto your phone to listen to it go on the podcast app and type in "power to the people Novara" and it will be the first link)

Challenge: Take a half a page to a page of notes while listening to it.

<https://novaramedia.com/2020/10/02/power-to-the-people-lessons-from-ancient-democracy/>

What are the limitations and criticisms of Britain's democracy?

Tasks :

4. Read this article by George Monbiot criticising the limitations and failures of Britain's democracy

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/jun/03/britain-democracy-tories-coronavirus-public-power>

Make a quarter to a half a page of notes on this.

5. Read this article by historian and political philosopher Robert Saunders on the history of democracy in Britain

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/jun/03/britain-democracy-tories-coronavirus-public-power>

Make a minimum of half a page to a page of notes on this.

6. Read this shorter article on the history of the idea of democracy in Britain.

<https://novaramedia.com/2016/11/23/dissecting-democracy-history-of-an-idea/>

Make a quarter to a half a page of notes on this.