








'Politics is too serious a matter to be left to the politicians'

Charles de Gaulle
French President 1944-1946 + 1959-1969

These tasks will give you a good understanding of the current political climate. Remember that ALL commentary is opinion based and you will need to try and find balanced debates to be fully informed.

On the back is a key term glossary for you to complete to get you started, and a source on lowering the voting age to 16 for one of your written tasks.

Come to your first lesson with your completed glossary, and notes on the written tasks, ready to discuss!

<p>Read</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A newspaper (Guardian / Telegraph / Times / Independent) - News Apps - get several (BBC / Sky / ITV / CNN / LBC...) - We're Living Through the Breakdown - Tatton Spiller - 50 Political Ideas You Really Need to Know - Ben Dupre - Politics Home (www.politicshome.com)
<p>Follow</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laura Kuenssberg @bbclaurak - Andrew Neil @afneil - Robert Peston @peston - Andrew Marr @andrewMarr9 and @marrshow - US President @potus - UK PM @10DowningStreet
<p>Watch</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The News (BBC / C4) - Question Time (@bbcquestiontime) - Prime Minister's Questions (@ukparliament) - Have I Got News For You - BBC (comedy panel show) - The Thick of It / In the Loop - BBC (comedy) - Yes, Minister - BBC (comedy)
<p>Listen</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Rest is Politics - The News Agents - Newscast - Chopper's Politics - Politics Weekly UK - BBC Radio 4
<p>Write</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Factfile on one of the UK political parties (history / policies / success / failure / important members) - Report about a significant political event this summer (what happened / why was it significant / reaction) - Analyse the source on voting age. Pick out 2 arguments for and 2 against. Explain whether you agree with the idea.



Source 2 is adapted from two sets of opinions published by Yougov, the polling organisation, after it asked members of the public whether 18 is the correct minimum voting age or whether the age should be lowered to 16 or perhaps raised to 21.

Top Tip:

To enhance your response to this, try to find some real world examples that support the arguments made in the source and add them to your work.

Source 2

YES – THE VOTING AGE SHOULD BE LOWERED TO 16

At 16, you are mature enough to marry, pay taxes, and leave home. You can legally have sex and become a parent. If you are old enough to become a parent, get married and contribute to the treasury, then you are surely old enough to decide who makes the policies that so greatly affect your life.

Voting at 16, as in Scotland, gives young adults more of a stake in what's happening and the decisions that will affect their future, like Brexit. That is probably why the idea is supported by most UK political parties. They realise the importance of participation in a democracy. Given the educational focus on citizenship and politics courses, many 16 and 17-year-olds are just as equipped to vote as their parents, if not more so.

NO – THE VOTING AGE SHOULD BE RAISED OR KEPT AT 18

At 18, young adults can be too easily swayed by manipulative politicians. By 21, everyone can use their own experience to decide. Actually extending the period where the person is unable to vote may increase their desire to eventually vote when they hit 21. Education is important but age delivers maturity. Though 18-year-olds are getting more informed, that extra three years at work, training or university would be beneficial in making a well-informed decision.

The best reason to keep the voting age at 18 is 'If it's not broken, don't fix it'. Only legal adults should have the vote. Should people who are still at school be able to vote? Participation is important but it has to be informed and enlightened involvement.

(Source: <https://yougov.co.uk/news/2012/02/15/and-against-lowering-voting-age/>)

Key Word	Definition
Direct democracy	
Representative democracy	
Pluralist democracy	
Constitution	
Judiciary	
Legislature	
Executive	
Mandate	
Suffrage	
Left-wing	
Right-wing	