

# Politics Summer Tasks

## Welcome to Politics

The following tasks will help prepare you for the first unit that we study, UK Politics, and the first topic in the unit, Democracy and Participation.

### Task 1:

For each event on the timeline below, describe for each milestone, what change was achieved.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION TASK – explain the context - why was the change happening at that point in history - what led to it? Who was involved?

*Key milestones in the widening of rights and the franchise (the right to vote) in relation to class, gender, ethnicity and age.*

- 1215 Magna Carta
- 1688 Bill of Rights
- 1832 Great Reform Act
- 1918 Representation of the People Act
- 1928 Representation of the People Act
- 1969 Representation of the People Act
- 1998 Human Rights Act
- 2010 Equality Act

### Task 2

“Dying for the vote” – For one of the following groups that wanted the vote:

*Levellers; Diggers; Peterloo Protesters; Chartists; Suffragists; Suffragettes;*

Write a short response outlining:

- What did they want?
- What were they against?
- Who took part?
- What tactics did they adopt?
- How did the authorities react?
- What did they achieve?
- Provide captioned images that sum up each group.

### Task 3

UK General Election 2024

*By the time that you complete this task, the election will be over. Research the following:*

- What constituency do you live in?

- Who was your MP before the election? Which Party did they represent?
- Who is your MP after the election? Which Party do they represent?
- What is the size of your MP's majority? (% and number)?
- What was the turnout in your constituency? How does this compare to the national turnout (higher/lower)?

## Task 4

*Examine the Policies of the party which your MP represents, and briefly describe at least one policy promise in each of the following areas. Is it a policy that you support or do you disagree? Why?*

- Law and Order (*eg promises related to the rights of citizens, the court system, policing, and prisons*)
- Economy (*eg promises related to taxes, investment, spending, and interest rates.*)
- Welfare (*eg promises to meet citizens needs related to housing, unemployment, sickness, families etc*)
- Foreign Policy (*eg promises in relation to our relationship with other countries and international organisations?*)

## Task 5

Talk to 3 friends or family members that were able to vote in the election. Ask them, and make a note of their responses:

- Did they vote in the election? If they did, had they considered not voting? What motivated them to participate and vote? Have they always voted when they had the opportunity?
- If they did not vote in the election, why not? Have they voted in previous elections?
- Take a note of the ages of each respondent.