TRANSITION WORK
An introduction to Politics A Level

Your task here is to work through these slides and watch the films. Think carefully about the issues.
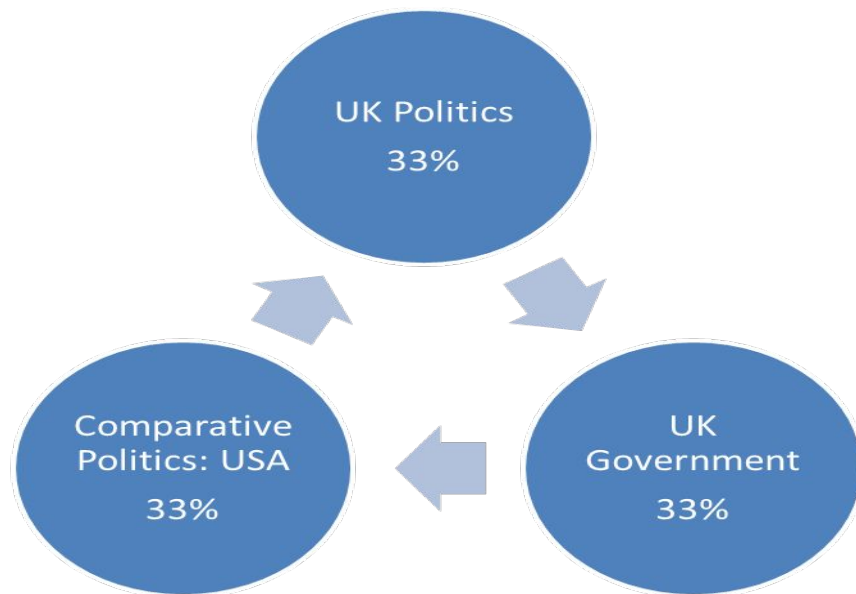FINALLY: there is a written research task which needs to be completed prior to your starting the course in September
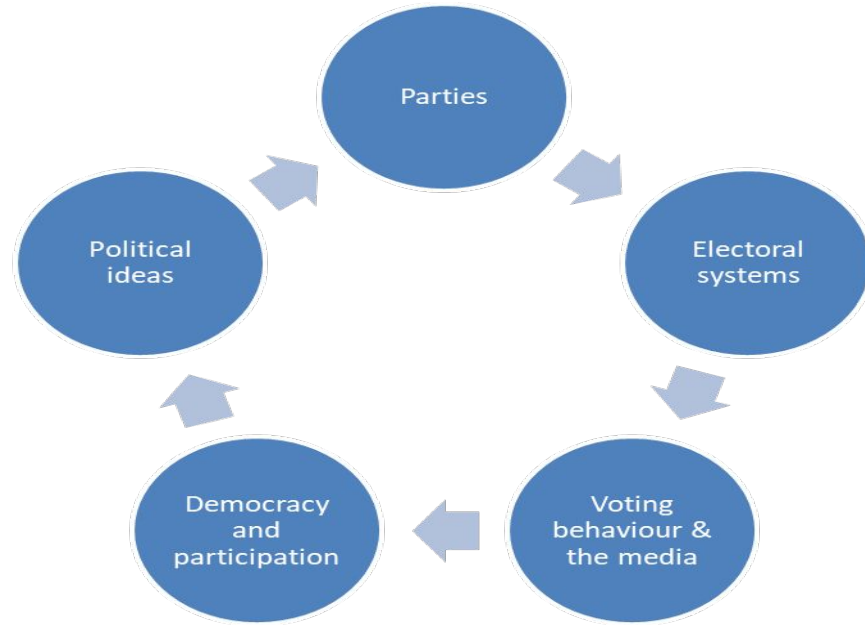
A Level Politics
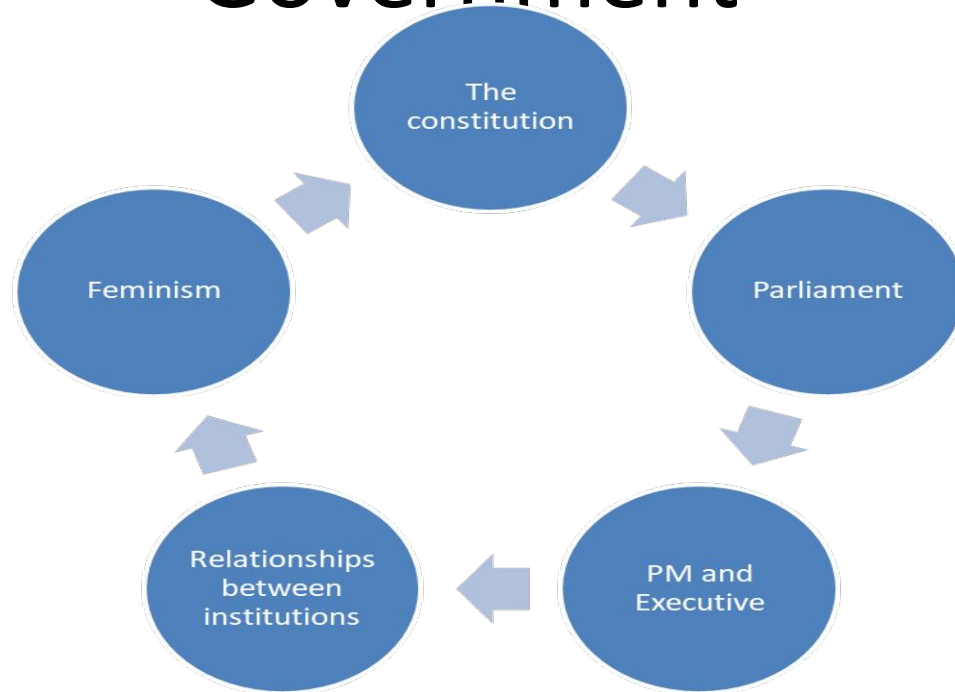
A guide to the course structure

A LEVEL POLITICS
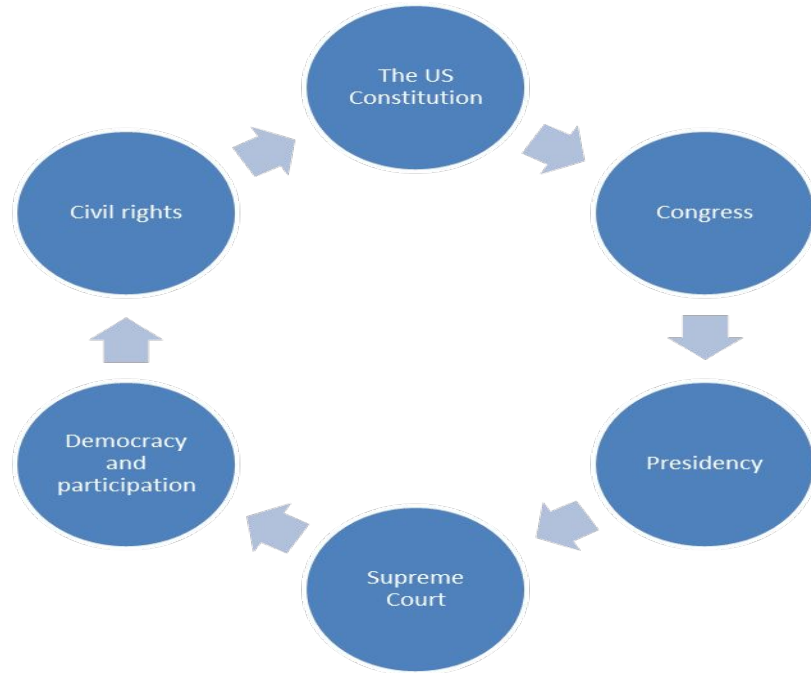## The structure of the course

Component 1: UK Politics…..

Component 2: UK Government

Component 3: Comparative Politics: USA

Course introduction

[If you really want to find out in detail what is going to be in this course, it is all here in the specification booklet](#)

Read, watch and make notes

The following slides will show you some of the important developments in UK politics over recent years. You don't have to have been a keen follower of politics in the past, though you do need to be in the future. These films and resources will help bring you up to date.

Note any questions you have and we can discuss them in the early lessons

Now for some course content….

- The UK is the only nation in the world that does not have a written **CONSTITUTION**

- So in the UK the rules are made in our **PARLIAMENT** (the oldest in the world)

- This is made up of 650 MPs, 800 Lords and the Queen

- Parliament 'watches over the government'

- All law is made in Parliament

- The USA has a written constitution and a president instead of a monarch. In the USA the judges are much more powerful than they are in the UK

- Lets see politics in action…..

- [AN INTRODUCTION TO PARLIAMENT](#)

'Context' events....the last 2 UK General Elections

- A snap election took us all by surprise
- The end of May
- May wins and loses at the same time
- Boris goes for a winter election
- The big winners and losers
- How was it on the night?
- Dave v Bozza: politics is personal!
- The end of Boris
- The next one to go

Recent UK election news…

(do we have a 2 party system or a multi-party system?)

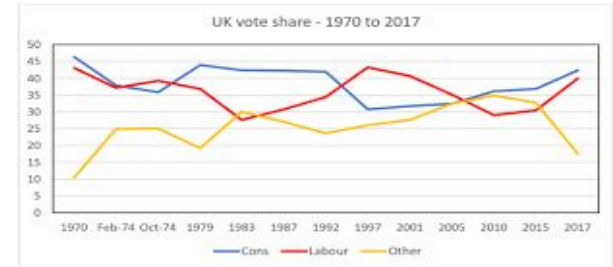Was the 2019 Euro election the end of two-party dominance?

The local elections were disastrous for the two main parties

But, 2017 produced the

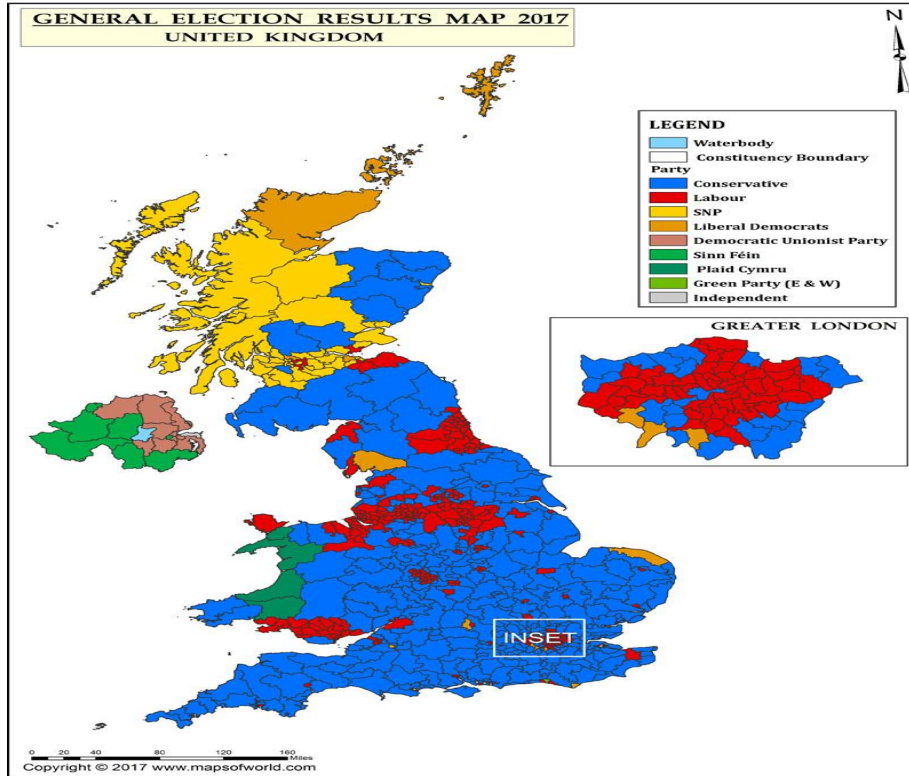biggest vote share for the two main parties for years

UK vote share – 1970 to 2017

2019 seems to reaffirm the two-party system

The 2022 local elections were a disaster for the government

ELECTORAL GEOGRAPHY: The Maps 2017 & 2019

The geography of Brexit…

PARLIAMENT HIGHLIGHTS....

- UK MPs vote for war
- MPs block May's Brexit
- MPs block Johnson's Brexit deal
- Johnson goes to the people, returns to parliament and 'Gets Brexit Done'

- So as we can see, PARLIAMENT does many things…

- Parliament makes the law, but the judiciary interprets and enforces it

RESEARCH/WRITTEN TASK

Aims of the Summer Learning Activity: to get started on researching real policies of real parties

- To assess your entry level of the following learning talents; **RESEARCH, CRITICAL EVALUATION and COMMUNICATION** – these are essential A level skills
- To allow you the opportunity to research the **THREE** major political parties and understand the similarities and differences between them on the core areas of political policy

What are/were the values and ideas of THREE of the main UK parties (Conservatives, Labour and Liberal Democrats) on the following six issues?
Economy, Education, Families, Health, Defence/Brexit/ Justice

Resources available / suggested
General guide to the last election
2019 comparison
You can also find out more by looking over the news coverage of the election online and also referring to each party's individual **MANIFESTOS.**

Suggestions for strategies for researching or using resources

- Research the three political parties
- Look at both these similarities and differences between the parties on the selected areas of policy
- Make notes and record the **key beliefs** of each party on these areas
- Ensure that your detail is clear, accurate and correctly cited (you can tell us where the research came from!)

Suggested outcomes for presenting what you have learned

The research can be presented in any format that you believe suits your learning style. This could be a short essay (up to 500 words), brief written notes, comparison chart, spider diagram, web page etc…