



Year 12-13 Building Work Cover Sheet

SUBJECT: Politics	DATE: Summer 2025
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The purpose of departmental building work is to provide students with a series of engaging tasks that aim to ease transition from Years 12-13 and ensure progress post- Year 12 examinations.

The aims of this Building work are: To consolidate your understanding of the Unit 1 and Unit 2 course and to provide building blocks of the knowledge you will need in Year 13.

HODs please amend the instructions below:

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. This task is for students who are resitting their Year 12 Exam:

For your Y12 Exam resit you will complete a Unit 2 paper. Over the summer you should consolidate your understanding of the unit 2 course by completing the tasks at the back of this pack.

2. This task is for all students to complete:

You should answer **one** of the following questions:

- a) To what extent is there more agreement than disagreement within feminism on the economy?
- b) To what extent do feminists agree over the best ways to achieve social change?

3. This task is for all students to complete:

Please read the attached articles from the Economist. They provide an overview of the outcome of the 2024 election. We will talk about this when we return to school in September.

[Y12 Bridging Work Article.pdf](#)

For Students resitting their Year 12 Exam

1. RAG rate your knowledge of the Parliament and Prime Minister Units.

Parliament			
How does the House of Commons work?			
How does a bill become a law in the UK?			
How effectively does the House of Commons perform its scrutiny function?			
How effectively do MPs and Parliament perform their representation function>?			
What is the House of Lords and what functions does it fulfil?			
What are the differences between the Houses of Common and Lords?			
Prime Minister and Cabinet			
The structure, role, and powers of the Executive. - Its structure, including Prime Minister, the Cabinet, junior ministers and government departments. - Its main roles, including proposing legislation, proposing a budget, and making policy decisions within laws and budget. - The main powers of the Executive, including Royal Prerogative powers, initiation of legislation and secondary legislative power.			
- The concept of individual ministerial responsibility. - The concept of collective ministerial responsibility.			

The Prime Minister and the Cabinet. • The power of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. • The factors governing the Prime Minister's selection of ministers. • The factors that affect the relationship between the Cabinet and the Prime Minister, and the ways they have changed, and the balance of power between the Prime Minister and the Cabinet.			
The powers of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet to dictate events and determine policy. • Students must study the influence of one Prime Minister from 1945 to 1997 and one post-1997 Prime Minister. • Students may choose any pre-1997 and any post-1997 Prime Minister, provided that they study them in an equivalent level of detail, covering both events and policy, with examples that illustrate both control and a lack of control.			

2. Create a series of flashcards for the key terminology for the Parliament and Prime Minister units. You should have the word on the front and the definition on the back. Test yourself using these cards.

Terms and Definitions	
Amendment	Changes to a bill proposed by MPs or members of the House of Lords.
Backbenchers	MPs or Lords who do not hold government office.
Confidence and Supply	Used to describe a type of informal coalition agreement where the minority partner agrees to provide these support in exchange for policy concessions.
Division	Used for counting those in favour or against a motion when there is a vote in the House of Commons or Lords.

Filibuster	The practice of speaking in a debate for a long time deliberately to waste time. In this way a bill may be stopped from making progress within the time allowed.
Free Vote	When MPs or members of the Lords are not put under any pressure to vote a certain way by their party leaders.
Green Paper	A consultation document produced by a government document. The aim of the document is to allow people both inside and outside of Parliament to give feedback on its policy or legislative proposals.
Motion	A proposal for action put forward for debate or decision in the House of Commons or Lords.
Parliamentary Privilege	The right of MPs or Lords to make certain statements within Parliament without being subject to outside influence, including law.
Ping Pong	The to and fro of amendments to bills between the House of Commons and Lords.
Salisbury Convention	The convention whereby the House of Lords does not delay or block legislation that was included in a government manifesto.
White Paper	A document produced by the government proposing details of future legislation. A white paper will often become the basis of a bill.
Key Term	Definition
Cabinet Committees	Small subcommittees of the cabinet, formed to establish the details of government policies. Their recommendations are usually adopted by full cabinet.
Chancellor of the Exchequer	The second most important person in government. They control government finances and make decisions on public spending and taxation.
Civil Servants	Employees of a government department. The most senior civil servants are involved with presenting political decision makers with information, viable options and neutral advice.
Collective Responsibility	The principle by which ministers must support cabinet decisions or leave the executive.

Individual Ministerial Responsibility	The principle by which ministers are responsible for their personal conduct and for their departments.
Minister	A part of the executive, usually with a specific responsibility over an area such as education, health or defence.
Ministerial Code	The rules of conduct as determined by the current Prime Minister. They set out how the PM expects all members of the government to behave.
Patronage	The power to hand out jobs and honours to others. In this case, the patronage powers of the Prime Minister allow them to award high level ministerial jobs to other MPs.
Prime Ministerial Coat tails	A term that refers to the idea of a PM being so personally popular that a lot of MPs win their seats on the back of the PM's popularity. Many 'Red Wall' Conservative MPs accredited their success in 2019 to Boris Johnson.
Royal Prerogative	A set of powers belonging to the monarch by normally exercised by the Prime Minister such as grant honours.
Sofa Politics	A style of governing attributed to Tony Blair. It refers to the practice of conducting informal meetings with colleagues outside of cabinet, often with private advisors in attendance, so as to control policy making.

3. Create a series of mind maps for the following questions:

- Are the concepts of individual ministerial responsibility and collective responsibility still relevant?
- Evaluate the view that there are no limitations on the power of the Prime Minister
- Can the Prime Minister completely dominate the cabinet under all circumstances?
- Evaluate the extent to which Parliament checks the government/holds the government to account.
- Evaluate the view that select committees effectively scrutinise the work of government.
- Evaluate the view that the House of Lords is more effective than the House of Commons at holding the government to account.