

Government and Politics Summer Assignment

- Research both sides to the debate on the use of FPTP (First Past the Post) voting system
- Write an essay answering the question
"The FPTP voting system is out-dated and undemocratic, it should be replaced with a form of Proportional Representation." Discuss.
You could consider:
 - Whether FPTP or Proportional Representation is likely to produce a strong majority government and if this is desirable.
 - The chance that smaller parties have under FPTP and Proportional Representation systems and whether this is a good thing or not.
 - Whether there is an issue of 'wasted votes' with FPTP and the impact on the legitimacy of the government.
- Remember to carefully plan your essay including:
 - What points you will be making and in what order
 - What your evidence will be for each paragraph
 - What your judgement will be
- Your essay should include:
 - An introduction outlining your judgement
 - 3 paragraphs analysing both sides of the argument (including evidence for each point)
 - A conclusion in which you explain clearly your judgement and summarise the most compelling point that supports your judgement
- This is due in your first Politics lesson in September. You will need to hand in your essay, plan and a list of websites you used for research.

Do not copy and paste from the internet. If you do, you will fail this assignment.

Some useful websites to get you started:

- http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/learning/bitesize/higher/modern/uk_gov_politics/elect_vote_rev1.shtml
(good for background understanding of the different voting systems)
- http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/proportional_representation.htm
- <http://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/first-past-the-post/>
- <http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/apr/07/av-referendum-alternative-vote>
(although this focuses on AV, it has some useful arguments for and against FPTP as well)

Any questions, email Mr Hobson at: rhobson@stanborough.herts.sch.uk or Mrs Jackson at mjackson@bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk

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Grade	Descriptors
High Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ There is a clear and logical structure to the essay.✓ Your essay clear explores both sides of the argument and your judgement is clear throughout your essay and is clearly substantiated (explained using evidence).✓ You have researched the points provided and most likely also included a point of your own. You have used this research to include evidence in your analysis of each point.✓ Your writing is in coherent paragraphs with a very good level of spelling, punctuation and grammar.✓ Your plan is clear and detailed.
Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ There is a clear structure to the essay which leads to a well explained judgement.✓ You have relevant and mostly detailed evidence to support your analysis of each point.✓ You have researched the points provided and explained both sides of the argument well.✓ Your writing is in clear paragraphs with a good level of spelling, punctuation and grammar.✓ Your plan is clear.
Satisfactory	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Your essay has a clear structure and judgement.✓ You have used the points provided and it is clear that you have undertaken some research to provide supportive evidence for each point, although this may vary in detail.✓ You have analysed each of the points provided and considered both sides of the argument.✓ Your writing is in paragraphs and is mostly coherent, with generally accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar.✓ Your plan is clear.
Unsatisfactory	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ The structure of your essay is somewhat confused and lacks clear planning.✓ Your judgement may be implied or based on assumptions (ie not clearly based on evidence).✓ Your essay may be unbalanced, with only one side of the argument addressed.✓ All points are stated, but are not all explained.✓ Evidence used is lacking in any detail or may be irrelevant.✓ Your writing may lack accuracy and coherency, with mistakes often made in spelling, punctuation and grammar.
Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Your essay is lacking a plan, structure and judgement.✓ Points made are not well evidenced or explained.✓ You have used irrelevant evidence.

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	✓ Your writing lacks accuracy and coherency, with mistakes many made in spelling, punctuation and grammar.
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