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COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

## SWCHS SIXTH FORM SUMMER WORK

### A Level Politics

#### TASK

#### UK politics induction homework

Focus on - the UK Constitution. This work should take you about 60-90 minutes.

<https://consoc.org.uk/the-constitution-explained/the-uk-constitution/>

- 1) Read the paragraph headed 'What are constitutions and why do they matter?' This is to be found at the top of the webpage linked above. Answer the following questions:
  - a. What do you think are the differences between principles, rules and laws?
  - b. What do you think a 'political institution' is? Can you suggest any possible examples of such institutions in the UK?
  - c. Why do you think it is important to define the powers of institutions and to have limits on them?
  - d. Why is it important to clarify the relationship between the state (nation and its government) and citizens (the people)?
- 2) Based on your work for task 1, write in the space below an explanation in your own words of what you think a constitution is and what their main purpose is.
- 3) Watch the video that follows on from that first paragraph. Answer the following questions. You may use the paragraph entitled 'Is the UK's constitution written down?', which follows on from the video, to help you with this.
  - a. How are constitutions protected and enforced in many countries?
  - b. How are constitutions changed, when necessary, in many countries?
  - c. What is different about the UK constitution to most constitutions across the world?
  - d. Which parts of the UK constitution are written - in what kinds of documents can they be found?

- e. What issues or problems might there be as a result of having this type of constitution?
  - f. Why do some people say the UK constitution should be codified (fully written and recorded in one document/set of documents)?
  - g. Why do some people argue that the UK constitution should NOT be codified?
- 4) Based on your learning so far - would you codify the UK constitution or leave it as it is? Explain the reason(s) for your opinion.
- 5) Read the next section headed, “why is the UK constitution different from other liberal democracies?” From the first paragraph, what HISTORICAL explanation is given for the differences between the UK constitution and that of most other countries in the world?
- 6) From the second paragraph in that section pick out and write down the main differences between the UK constitution and the US constitution. You may need to look up the meaning of some words to make sense of this bit. Be ready to ask questions about this in September - we will be covering this topic in the first week of the course.