**History and Politics - Support Sheet**

**What can students do to help themselves?**

Students are encouraged to seek out whatever help they need from the department but in most cases there is often a lot they can do to help themselves.

* Consolidate work on a weekly basis – in addition to formal homework set, students should go over notes and resources covered in that week making sure that all activities have been completed in detail and that any difficult content has been revised and simplified
* Keep up to date with recent developments in their subject – in Politics this is essential and students should spend a minimum of 15 minutes a day looking through a good quality newspaper. They are also encouraged to sign up for updates from sources such as the BBC and the Department’s Facebook forum. In History and Ancient History staying up to date with current affairs is also useful, whilst the BBC History magazine ‘History Extra’ provides newly published articles on a wide range of historical topics
* Make full use of online resources:
  + [www.dawsonera.com](http://www.dawsonera.com) – ebook catalogue containing a number of textbooks and extension materials that can be accessed at college or from home
  + <https://my.dynamic-learning.co.uk> – students can find past copies of Politics Review and Twentieth-Century History Review, all of which contain A-level articles on content and exam technique
  + [www.historytoday.com](http://www.historytoday.com) – a wide collection of A-level articles that are perfect for consolidating or extending your understanding of a topic
  + [www.ancient.eu](http://www.ancient.eu) – collection of articles on the ancient world
* Use of the extra support provided by the department – come along to the weekly support sessions to go over content, plan essay questions, go over feedback or revise.

**Lessons and Homework**

The college expectation is that for every hour of work students do in class they match this with an hour outside of class (the 50:50 mantra). This means that a student should be doing 4.5 hours of independent work in each of their subjects each week. This would also increase to approximately 6 hours for a second-year student. In History and Politics this work takes several forms:

**Completing lesson activities** – structured tasks set to finish or build on the work done in lessons. This might be set after each lesson or saved until the end of a week

**Research and Preparation** – work done in advance of lessons to prepare for discussions or new topics. Work will be checked by the class teacher and will form the basis of wider class activities

**Essay planning or writing** – regular assessments to test students’ understanding as they complete topics

**Revision sheets –** a set of revision tasks covering a specific topic. Each revision sheet takes between 3-4 hours to complete and will give students revision materials to use later in the year. Revision sheets will be submitted on paper or via Godalming Online

**Revision in general –** in the build-up to benchmark assessments and end of year exams, specific revision activities will be set to help students prepare for these assessments

**What support does the department offer students?**

Outside of normal lesson time the History and Politics Department offers a wide range of extra support. Students are encouraged to make full use of these opportunities whether looking for help on a specific content or when trying to improve their assessed performance.

**Weekly drop-in sessions**- Every week members of the department will be available to speak to students on a 1-1 basis to go over content or assessments. These sessions are also excellent opportunities for students to revise or complete weekly homework with help on-hand if needed. They can also be used by students applying to study History or Politics at university looking for advice on applications and help producing personal statements.

History: Wednesday Lunchtimes (1.00-2.00), room 211

Ancient History: Wednesday Lunchtimes (1.00-2.00), room 211

Politics: Monday Lunchtimes (1.00-2.00), room 212

**Coursework Surgeries** – Every Monday and Wednesday lunchtime in room 210 and 211 between September of the second year and the final hand-in in mid-November. Students can work on their essay, discuss questions and sources with other students or members of the department

**Revision Sessions –** Between March and May weekly revision sessions will be held in each of the examined topics taken by students to complement their own revision as they prepare for AS exams, end of first-year exams of final second-year exams (a separate programme will be produced and sent to students in March)

**A-A\* Sessions** – A programme of skills-based sessions designed to support History and Politics students aiming to achieve a top grade**.** Sessions will run fortnightly from February/March onwards and all students are welcome

**What happens if a student is underperforming?**

Student performance is assessed through benchmark assessments (see below) and a formal summary of performance is sent to parents through student reviews – two in the first year (January and June) and two in the second year (November and March). Students who are underperforming (i.e. not reaching the level of their target grade) will in the first instance be spoken to by their subject teacher to see if any immediate help and support can be provided. If appropriate they will then be asked to attend one of the weekly drop-in sessions. If it is felt that a student needs more structured support to help improve their performance then they will be placed on a departmental Action Plan. This a set of agreed targets which will be set for a period of 3-5 weeks, a copy of which will be sent home. At the end of 3-5 weeks the Action Plan will be closed if a student has met the targets, updated if they have made progress on some but still need to work on others, or referred to a Senior Tutor if a students has failed to meet the agreed targets. The Senior Tutor may decide to place a student onto a Formal Warning under the College’s disciplinary procedures. Where a student is struggling for health or other extenuating circumstances, the Senior Tutor may place you onto a ‘Supportive Warning’ to further support their studies.

**Assessments**

Throughout the year student performance and progress are tested through benchmark assessments. These are exam-style questions which are completed in timed conditions and then marked using exam board mark schemes. Students will be asked to prepare in advance for benchmark assessments and should conduct detailed revision and preparation. Benchmark assessments are also an excellent opportunity for students to see how they are getting on and to seek out any extra help that is needed.

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| **First Year Benchmark Assessments** | **Second Year Benchmark Assessments** |
| Benchmark 1: November  Benchmark 2: January  Benchmark 3: April/May  Benchmark 4: June | Benchmark 5: November  Benchmark 6: February/March  Benchmark 7: May |

For a more detailed summary of the benchmark assessments for each of the courses please see the History and Politics Assessment Policy which is available on Godalming Online.

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| **Final Assessments – A Level** | | |
| **History (OCR)** | **Ancient History (OCR)** | **Politics (Edexcel)** |
| **Unit 1**: British period study and enquiry (25%)  **Unit 2**: Non-British period study (15%)  **Unit 3**: Thematic study and historical interpretations (40%)  **Unit 4**: Independent Historical Enquiry (coursework) (20%) | **Component Group 1:**  Greek Period Study (25%)  Greek Depth Study (25%)  **Component Group 2:**  Roman Period Study (25%)  Roman Depth Study (25%) | **Component 1**: UK Politics (33.3%)  **Component 2**: UK Government (33.3%)  **Component 3**: Comparative Politics (Global) (33.3%) |
| **Final Assessments – AS Level** | | |
| **History (OCR)** | **Ancient History (OCR)** | **Politics (Edexcel)** |
| **Unit 1**: British period study and enquiry (50%)  **Unit 2**: Non-British period study (50%) | **Component 1**: Greek Period Study (50%)  **Component 2**: Roman Period Study (50%) | **Component 1**: UK Politics (50%)  **Component 2**: UK Government (50%) |