



## Highsted Knowledge Organiser

### High Performance Learning

#### Year 9 Term 1-2 Politics and Philosophy

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| What I need to know  | Key Vocabulary  |
| What is politics?  | <b>Politics</b> is the way that people living in groups make decisions. Politics is about making agreements between people so that they can live together in groups such as tribes, cities, or countries. We use the term politics to describe how a country is run and how a group go about getting and keeping power.   |
| What is philosophy?  | <b>Philosophy</b> is about using reason and logic to attempt to understand and answer questions about knowledge, life, morality and human nature.   |
| How is the UK governed today?  | <b>Utopia</b> is an imagined society in which everything is perfect<br><b>Democracy</b> is a system of government which includes the whole population<br><b>Dictatorship</b> is a system in which one person has absolute authority.<br><b>Capitalism</b> is an economic ideology in which individual citizens, rather than the government own and run businesses. These businesses compete with each other and set their own prices. According to the capitalist ideology people work hard to make profits for themselves and their family. Capitalism is sometimes criticised as it is likely to mean that some people are very rich and others are poor.<br><b>Socialism</b> is an economic ideology in which the state has control of some or most businesses. The government aims to spread profit and wealth more equally. Extreme socialism is called <b>Communism</b> |
| <b>How is the UK governed?</b>   |   |
| <p>The UK is a constitutional monarchy meaning that the King is head of state, however, decisions are made by the government which is chosen through democratic elections. Alongside the house of parliament (the member of which are chosen by vote) there is a House of Lords which consists of people who have hereditary membership or are granted membership in reward for service to the country. There must be an election at least every 5 years. Laws must be debated in the House of Commons and then win a majority vote.</p> |   |
| <b><u>Philosophical theories on government</u></b>   |   |
| <p><b>Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679)</b> Hobbes was born in a time of war and upheaval. These experiences of instability and civil unrest, (fighting among the population), led Hobbes to think deeply about the nature of government and human nature. Thomas Hobbes was a <i>social contract theorist</i>. He concluded that government was essentially a social contract between citizens and the ruling individual/group.</p>   |   |
| <p><b>John Locke (1632-1704)</b> Locke was an English philosopher who, in his later life, lived in a time of peace and prosperity. During his lifetime Britain was ruled by a monarchy that shared power with parliament, however, he stressed the importance of the individual. His writings are very significant as they influenced the creators of the Declaration of Independence and the United States constitution</p>   |   |
| Challenge question:<br>Is it possible to create a Utopia or perfect society? Why not?<br>What do political systems tell us about human nature?   |   |
| Suggested reading:<br>Lord of the Flies, William Golding.  |   |