

JOB DESCRIPTION



Job title	Senior On Air Editor (Political)		
Job family	Journalism	Band	Fp

Job purpose

This is the most senior On Air role within the BBC's Journalism. The Editor's coverage, interpretation and opinions will inform and influence key sections of the general public, and will be broadcast across the UK and Globally.

Items covered will influence the wider UK news agenda, and the focus of political debate. The job holder has wide discretion to interpret events and their analysis will inform and influence the general public and key opinion formers.

Interview and hold to account the most senior world leaders and policy makers. Be able to spot trends and place events in context against a historical, political and cultural backdrop.

May host live debates and sit on discussion panels during coverage of major events like elections.

The Job holder will be synonymous with the BBC.

Key responsibilities and accountabilities

- Provide high quality impartial reporting and analysis, placing the most significant UK and global political events, and the workings of government into context, whilst meeting the highest journalist standards and fully observing the BBC Editorial Guidelines.
- May host live debates and sit on discussion panels during coverage of major events like elections.
- Spot trends and place events in context against a historical, political and cultural backdrop
- Expected to interpret the major political stories, placing them into a wider perspective, telling the story in a succinct and easily understandable way.
- Develop and use all formats and platforms available to tell the story in the most appropriate way and in particular developments in social media to deliver our journalism to audiences
- Acts as a role model in encouraging team working; creating a climate of support and trust within the team
- Provide leadership and expertise on future developments and trends. Brief and advise editorial/production colleagues both in London and in the field on relevant topics and events.

- Seek ways to increase diversity within the team, and ensure that our output reflects the audiences we serve.
- Planning and advising programmes across the BBC in terms of suggested coverage and stories, portrayal of political events and appropriate programme interviewees, helping to ensure a full diversity of voices.
- Deliver live (give accurate updates and analysis whilst events unfold) and packaged content from the field and in the studio for all outputs including flagship TV and radio programmes and digital material.
- Attend and support PR and marketing as required.
- Be active on social media
- Delivering to tight deadlines while maintaining the highest editorial standards.
- At all times to carry out duties in accordance with the BBC Health and Safety policy

Knowledge, skills, training and experience

- Outstanding on-air presenter or reporter and recognised as such by colleagues with the ability to tell a story using a balance of pace and style exploiting the different techniques available.
- The highest level of editorial judgment under pressure
- Exceptionally thorough knowledge and understanding of all aspects of relevant country politics and other institutions which affect the government of the country.
- Professional skills in the job should be backed up with relevant academic qualifications / credentials.
- Able to build and maintain effective working relationships with a range of people. Works cooperatively with others to be part of a team, as opposed to working separately or competitively
- An excellent understanding of different programmes and their audiences
- Demonstrates a commitment to improving diversity in the BBC and understands how individual differences can benefit the BBC
- Able to prioritise and plan activities taking into account all the relevant issues and factors such as deadlines and resource requirements
- Ability to communicate clearly and get one's message across by adopting a range of styles, tools and techniques appropriate to the audience and the nature of the information.

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- The flexibility and adaptability to sustain performance, particularly under pressure to meet deadlines and changing priorities and circumstances
- Follow BBC safety requirements and instructions, especially in relation to emergencies; report any accidents, dangerous situations or defects in safety arrangements

Job impact

Decision making

High level of responsibility and decision making; able to operate alone. No formal management responsibility but may informally manage more junior staff.

Scope

An authoritative and very experienced journalist with a detailed knowledge of their specialist area. Demonstrates the highest level of analytical, interpretive and storytelling skills. Often considered as the BBC's voice.

Other information

For Reward team use only

Job Code

Definition:

Content

This job description is a written statement of the essential characteristics of the job, with its principal accountabilities, incorporating a note of the skills, knowledge and experience required for a satisfactory level of performance. This is not intended to be a complete, detailed account of all aspects of the duties involved.

Appendix

There may be sub-sets of the generic job described above which require additional technical skills. This appendix to the generic job description can be developed to cover such situations.

Division	BBC News
Reports to (title)	Executive Editor, BBC Politics
Location base	BBC Westminster

Organisation structure

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The Political Editor is one of the most high profile broadcasting roles in the UK. You will be responsible for being the voice of the Corporation reporting on what's happening at Westminster and around the devolved nations at Holyrood, Stormont and the Senedd. Reporting to the Executive Editor of Politics, you will lead all political coverage for the BBC, working at the most senior level of broadcasting. You will work on all platforms across BBC News.

The main focus of this role is to break the best political stories from Westminster and around the UK. You will also provide first class analysis and context. The Political Editor has a high profile online, with digital content being a vital part of this role including social media and podcasts. You'll regularly appear on the Today programme as well as lead our coverage on the main TV bulletins.

As well as the on-air role, you will have an important leadership role, working alongside the team at Westminster to help the department's coverage be the best in the business.

Additional job specific responsibilities and accountabilities

- *A full understanding of the context and history of British politics
- *Deep knowledge of the Brexit process
- *A track record of following and reporting on the UK government's relationship with the devolved Parliaments
- *Experience of the devolved institutions
- *An ability to work under extreme pressure in a breaking news environment
- *A full understanding of the BBC's commitment to impartiality
- *A commitment to diversity and inclusion in all aspects of work

Approval

Manager	Katy Searle, Executive Editor, BBC Politics
HR Business Partner	Tim Burden
Date	05.1.22

