

Yes, *Prime Minister* and *Spitting Image* are two of Britain's most well-known political satirical TV series. In different ways they both make fun of key political characters and the political system.

In *Yes, Prime Minister*, Jim Hacker (new elected Prime Minister) attempts to make various bold changes but these generally come to nothing, thanks to the manoeuvring of his manipulative Cabinet Secretary, Sir Humphrey, who opposes action or change of any sort.

In *Spitting Image*, famous characters in British and international life were re-created in the form of latex puppets, which – in the manner of newspaper political cartoons – grossly exaggerated that person's most obvious facial or personality characteristic.



- 1 Look at the pictures and read the information above. Then, discuss these questions with other students.

- 1 Do you have any political satirical TV programmes in your country? Do you find them funny? Why/Why not?
- 2 Do you think programmes like this are a good thing? Why/Why not?

- 2 Watch the extract from *Yes, Prime Minister*. What does the TV producer, Godfrey, say about the following:



glasses



face



suit



hair



eyes



nose

- 3 Discuss with other students.

- 1 What advice would you give to a politician who was making a political broadcast?
- 2 Have you seen any TV debates between politicians? Who did well? Who didn't? Why?