Good Day,

I'm applying for the Research Associate role at JLP

I have over eight years of QA and business expertise, and am currently looking to work in a data related role.

My current studies in the Data Analytics Career Accelerator at the London School of Economics (LSE) are helping me with improve skills in SQL, and learn Python, Tableau, and R, as well as data visualisation and best practices.

Although not my primary role, I'm experienced in project management, stakeholder management and assessing business requirements and risks

I have a deep interest in politics and analysis, and would truly value the opportunity to work in this space. I've added to examples of scenario research I did before both the 2024 UK and US elections

Through LSE's Data Analytics Career Accelerator, I'm currently gaining experience in data collection, cleaning, and wrangling, alongside business best practices, which I believe will help me in both QA Data and Data roles. I've already completed two projects based on real world examples and data, and am improving these skills daily

Regards
PJ Stock

Scenario:

Who would win a hypothetical 2024 match-up, Trump or Harris?

We'll look briefly at 3 data points to score this matchup:

1. National and swing state polling
2. Favourability
3. Historical precedence

National and swing state polling:

In the current [RCP polling average](#) , Trump leads Harris by 4.3 pts

Of the available 27 polls, the split is:

Trumps leads 23

Harris leads 3

One tie

This is stronger than the current Trump vs Biden [average](#) of Trump +1.1 pts, and certainly stronger than any Trump average leads of 2016 or 2020.

From these it seems unlikely that Harris would win the popular vote or presidency, although her Californian heritage should help her boost those numbers in the vote-rich state. In the swing states, the match-up seems to favour Trump even more.

Although there is no average polling at this time, the recent and much talked about [NYT/Siena](#) poll compares Trump vs Harris in 6 swing states:

Arizona = Trump +5 (Trump +5 vs Biden)
Georgia = Trump +3 (vs Trump +3 vs Biden)
Michigan = Harris +2 (Trump +5 vs Biden)
Pennsylvania = Trump +4 (Trump +4 vs Biden)
Wisconsin = Trump +2 (Biden +2 vs Trump)
Nevada = Trump +8 (Trump +11 vs Biden)

An interesting takeaway would be Harris does little to no worse than Biden in the swing states, while losing significant ground nationally in the popular vote, which might indicate suppressed voter turnout in heavily blue areas. This leads onto favourability:

Favourability

Harris has been noted to have had the lowest favorability of any Vice-President in history, and is currently lower than both Biden and Trump:

[Harris](#): -17.6

[Biden](#): -14.0

[Trump](#): -16.6

This doesn't necessarily mean a loss for Harris - Trump had much lower favorability than Clinton on election day 2016, however Clinton had significantly better polling.

Harris' -17.6 favourability can also be compared with Biden's at the time of the 2020 election, which was slightly positive at around +2.

In the last 20+ years, the only presidential candidate to enter an election with such low favourability ratings is Trump himself, meaning he would have the advantage of being in a position he has both been in before, and no other presidential candidate has experienced.

Historical Precedence

This assumes a Harris - Trump match-up is the result of Harris taking office during 2023/2024 due to the death, resignation, or removal under the 25th amendment of POTUS

9 Vice Presidents have taken the office of POTUS during their term as Vice-President. Of these, none went on to become President at election, the most recent to try being Gerald Ford.

Overall, 19 Vice-Presidents have run for President, with 6 winning. The most recent of these being Joe Biden.

A Vice-President turned POTUS has also never run against a former President. The closest match to this would appear to be the 1968 election , where former Vice-President Richard Nixon ran against, and defeated, incumbent Vice-President Hubert Humphrey. This election also featured a large third party vote, similar to the expected 2024 field.

The most recent Vice-President turned POTUS to run for President, Gerald Ford, gives some more insights into what could happen. Ford was defeated by Carter, weighed down by the legacy of Nixon, Vietnam, and infighting within his own party.

Similarly, Harris on taking over from Biden would find herself already in a hole with favourability, would continue to have the Ukrainian and Israeli wars to deal with, and could find herself dealing with rebellion in the party over these issues

Conclusion:

None of the above factors seem favourable for Harris. A large polling deficit, historically low unfavourability, and an attempt to do what has never been done, transition a Vice-Presidency made Presidency into a full term.

Based on these factors, I would expect Trump to win a Trump - Harris match-up.

Scenario 2

What is Labour's route to power in the UK?

Labour's route to power in the next General Election will likely rest on two or three areas of improvement - the 'Red Wall' , 'Blue Wall' and Scotland. Shifting attitudes to Brexit in prioritisation could see the first two areas in particular swing back to Labour.

Red Wall
In the 24 Red Wall seats Conservative won in 2019, the average 2016 Leave vote was 64.1%, a testament to the strong Brexit emphasis of the 2019 election, when the UK had not yet left the EU. On the eve of the 2019 Election, 63% of adults cited Britain leaving the EU as the most important issue facing the country, as per YouGov. That figure is now 14%

Current polling average puts Labour at 45% in the forty Red Wall seats, vs 31% for the Conservatives. Based on this, the Electoral Calculus shows every one of the 24 lost seats swinging back to Labour in the next GE.

Blue Wall
Current polling by Redfield and Wilton put Labour at 34% here, vs 30% for the Conservatives.

Of the 41 polled Blue Wall seats, the current electoral calculus puts them at:

Labour +20
Lib Dem +9
Conservative HOLD 12, with a net Conservative loss of 29

Besides the 10 London constituencies already considered part of the Blue Wall, the Conservatives are also likely to lose another 6 London seats

Scotland

Current Scottish Westminster voting average has Labour and SNP tied at 32%. 'Scottish Independence / The Union' was considered the most important election issue by 18% of people. A Panelbase/Sunday Times poll just prior to the 2019 Election found this at 27%

Current Electoral Calculus polling puts Labour at +25 seats in the next GE.

Conclusion

The three areas mentioned provide a path for Labour to gain approximately 75 seats, combined with increases in other parts of the Midlands and North which would lead them to a majority.