

GETTING READY FOR A LEVEL POLITICS

Well done for choosing to study Politics—*has there ever been a time when politics has more clearly impacted all of our lives? Covid (and the government’s response) has affected all of us...* The politics department would love for you to use this time over the coming weeks and months to get interested in Politics. Start to develop your interest in the subject and build your general political knowledge. The following are suggestions, they are not compulsory, but we would **love** for you to engage in any that you find interesting.

The most important thing to do before we start is to become familiar with everyday politics, including the language and ideas we will be studying. Getting stuck into current affairs is essential! This booklet aims to give you a range of resources, information and tasks to get you started on your studies for A Level Politics. We hope you find it interesting and helpful and if you have any queries please email us: jcotton@bayhouse.gfmat.org

Getting Started:

1. Download the BBC News app on your phones/tablets & set up a few relevant topics to follow. As a minimum this should include UK Politics, US Politics & Parliament
2. Set yourself up on Twitter – even if it’s not your thing. It’s a brilliant tool to keep in touch with political issues, top trends, memes & breaking news. Follow @mrsjcotton for relevant links & people to follow. You can also follow politicians, journalists & news agencies on Snapchat & Instagram – but make sure they’re trustworthy and reliable.

Recommended Weekly Habits:

1. Fill in the template on the last page of this booklet for 2 stories a week. Copy and paste the story into the middle, and then think about how the story relates to different bits of the course using the boxes (they will not be relevant to all of them). Use reputable news sources: www.bbc.co.uk/news is a good place to start.
2. Listen to one podcast, choosing from the list on page 2 of your booklet.

Some optional suggestions for Summer preparation :

3. Watch the documentaries on page 2 of your booklet.
4. Choose one or two of the books suggested and read them.
5. Learn the vocabulary—see the bottom of page 3 for the link. Make a glossary and then get someone to test you.
6. Visit our Year 11 Preparation Google Folder here and try out some of the activities:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1csRXJf0JiOzeHZOzSdVOWMcst22E0vFB?usp=s_haring

There are extra things you can also do—look at the Open University courses on page 3.

How to Study Politics:

To be really successful in A-level Politics, the most important thing is to read and watch the news. Ideally, find **three** news sources that you are comfortable with and look out for political news on them every day. Get used to saving news stories and develop methods for doing this - screenshotting and adding to Google Keep is a good way to start.

Don't feel the need to read all or buy new - Google the books, **pick one** that appeals to you, try to buy secondhand from sites like Abe Books, or use the LRC at college in due course. These recommendations are for fun and helpful enrichment and wider reading relevant to your course.



Politics Podcasts, Radio Programmes & Videos:

Podcasts:	Videos:
<p>https://www.talkingpoliticspodcast.com/</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p05299nl/episodes/downloads</p> <p>https://soundcloud.com/thepoliticalparty</p> <p>The New Statesman Podcast</p> <p>https://www.spectator.co.uk/podcasts</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/politics/series/politicsweekly</p> <p>https://www.ft.com/paynes-politics</p> <p>https://www.lbc.co.uk/radio/presenters/iain-dale/for-the-many-subscribe-lbc-brand-new-podcast-now/</p>	<p>https://www.tutor2u.net/politics/blog/boris-johnson-political-profile</p> <p>https://labour.org.uk/people/keir-starmer/</p> <p>David Cameron documentary</p> <p>Knock Down the House - brilliant documentary about US politics</p> <p>Margaret Thatcher series</p> <p>Donald Trump series</p> <p>The Trump Show</p> <p>Can Biden Unite America?</p> <p>Biden Profile</p> <p>Obama Profile</p> <p>The Obama Legacy</p> <p>The House of Lords</p> <p>The Foreign Office</p> <p>The Home Office</p> <p>5 Days That Changed Britain</p> <p>The Rise and Fall of Tony Blair</p>
Radio Shows & Documentaries	
<p>Profile on Tony Blair</p> <p>Profile on Margaret Thatcher</p> <p>Profiles on US Presidents</p> <p>Profiles on 21st Century US Politicians</p>	

Creating Case Studies:

As explained on the first page, case studies of key events are vital. These will provide you with examples to help you exemplify key concepts in essays, or as we call it “your examples bank” – essential for good grades & understanding!

On the next page is a template you can use for recording your case studies. Paste the news story into the gap and tick the boxes to show which of the course themes it is related to.

Your viewing & listening habits. We’ve included a few optional suggestions to get you started on Page 2 and full lists of UK & US Politics TV shows & films are available [here](#):

Your reading habits: Keep up to date with relevant news websites – BBC, ITN, Sky News, Vox, Politico

OPEN LEARN

The Open University has a huge number of free online courses that you can study. They tell you how long they take and give you an outline of what is included. You also get a free statement of participation on completion. Take a look and see if any take your interest.

Course Information

The Edexcel Politics course at Bay House Sixth Form consists of the following units:

Unit 1 – UK Politics + Core Ideologies:

Liberalism, Conservatism & Socialism

Unit 2 - UK Government with additional ideology - Feminism

Unit 3: Comparative Politics—the politics and government of the USA.

Note: we do **not** do the Global unit.

[Link to specification](#)

[Exam board resource list](#)

Useful Tasks:

Learn the key terms and definitions

Appendix 2 in the [specification](#) (p64-92) contains a glossary of key words and definitions relating to the course.

Committing these to memory would be an excellent use of your time.

Read up on recent elections

You will be expected to know about recent elections in the UK and the USA. The Pearson website has case studies of the [2019](#) and [2017](#) UK General Elections to get you started.

Find out about your MP

Use the website [TheyWorkForYou](#) to find out about your local MP. You can look up their voting records and find out more about how they represent your constituency.

POLITICS

Democracy

Human/Civil Rights

The Conservative Party

The Labour Party

Other political parties

The Media

**WHAT DOES THIS NEWS STORY
TELL US ABOUT...**

GOVERNMENT

The Constitution

Parliament

The Executive
(Prime Minister and Cabinet)

The Judiciary (courts)

The EU