

Politics: Top Tips for Success at A Level

Teachers' tips:

- Follow quality news feeds and blogs on Twitter & the internet: Telegraph, Guardian, Times, Independent, BBC etc. www.huffingtonpost.co.uk is excellent and an easy read.
- Relate your interests to the political world & find issues that interest you, e.g. immigration, racism, tuition fees, healthcare, education, tax and spending or simply Boris Johnson's latest gaffe or the latest row at PMQs.
- Watch the news, debate issues with your friends and families, watch The Last Leg, Dispatches, Panorama, Question Time, Marr, Mock the Week, Have I Got News for You – all current affairs shows will help your vocabulary & subject knowledge.
- Use your learning ladder to assess where your strengths & weaknesses are – and how to improve – set yourself targets to reach on a regular basis.
- Get organised, set up one folder for each teacher with dividers for each topic. File regularly so you don't lose any valuable notes!
- Explore the Library and VLE – The Week is fantastic & summarises all of the issues from elsewhere and copies are available in the Library, as are specialist journals like the Spectator and the New Statesman. Politics Review is also a great read.
- **Ask for help if you need it, that's what we are here for!**
- Try not to miss lessons but if you must, then catch up on work missed – including home learning..
- Read your textbook independently without being reminded. It is such a great resource.
- Look up unfamiliar words and phrases, start and keep a glossary, learn the key terms in each chapter of your textbook
- From the start of the course, build up an "Examples Bank" of real-life political examples to use in your answers, such as data, dates, quotes, facts and figures and keep adding to it throughout the year.
- Understand what a good a) b) and c) style answer looks like & practise PEEL paragraphs using "examples, examples, examples". 'A' grade answers compare and contrast examples.

Students' tips on how to succeed in Politics

- Don't get flustered at the start of the year, it all comes together!
- Keep up to date on current affairs by following political pages on social media such as PoliticsUK on Facebook.
- Think about your own political opinions. Even trivial points become engaging when you can be outraged about them!
- Know the exam mark scheme well; this will help you gain knowledge to write better essays.
- A clear structure will help you to not miss out on marks.
- Learn key terminology early on to boost your marks.
- Learn examples such as referendums early on and make sure you have up to date ones too.
- Do past papers over & over till you've memorised essays and can see patterns
- Turn up to all lessons and avoid going on holiday.
- Actually do work in study periods & watch documentaries like Andrew Marr on YouTube.