

Welcome year 11!! I am really excited to see you all come September and getting into some great political discussions. 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. There is so much going on in the world of politics today that makes the subject more living and breathing than ever. The following are suggestions, they are not compulsory, but we would love for you to engage in any that you find interesting.

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Book Recommendations

It is vital that you are accustomed to completing wider reading around topics you will cover during your A levels.
As a starting point, we recommend the following titles:
(remember, you can add these to your wider reading log in September!)

Textbook:

McNaughton Neil, Edexcel: **Government and Politics for AS, 5th Edition.**
ISBN-13: 978-1471889318



Jones B- *British Politics: The Basics* (2015)

Brazier R — *Constitutional Reform* (Oxford University Press, 2008)

Jones B and Kavanagh D (editors) — *British Politics Today, 6th Edition* (Manchester University Press, 2010)

Hardman I- *Why we Get the Wrong Politicians* (2018)

Wright Y – *British Politics: A very short introduction*



Film/ Documentary Recommendations

There are a number of useful films and documentaries that will develop your wider understanding of the topics covered.



Some material on BBC teach for citizenship is also great on Politics:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/citizenship-gcse-exploring-the-house-of-commons/zfjh8xs>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/citizenship-gcse-how-government-works/zbpdf4j>

	<p>Stitcher – A-level politics podcast Beyond Westminster BBC politics podcasts The Westminster Hour Politics.co.uk podcasts</p>	<p>Guardian ‘politics weekly’ podcasts Going the way of the dodo 10 of the best podcasts Takes from the lobby Learn out loud podcasts</p>
	<p>iPlayer Climate Change Playlist World economic forum videos Politics Live – BBC iPlayer The Andrew Marr Show The Politics Show</p>	<p>Question Time BBC Parliament Cabinet Confidential Globalisation if Good – Johan Norberg Dateline London (this is a favourite of mine) https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006m93g</p>

Research Activity

Using the internet and books, complete the following task. You should produce notes using the Cornell Note Taking System (<http://lsc.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Cornell-Note-Taking-System.pdf>) on the following topic(s). Make sure you have your notes with you for your first lesson in September.

1. Your research task is to choose one of the following parties: Conservative & Unionist Party or Labour Party. You need to research the history of the party, their ideology and policy beliefs (including their most recent election manifesto), their electoral performance (are they currently in government? How well did they do at the last election (Dec 2019)?) and finally key figures in that party (include photos and descriptions of who they are). This should be about one A4 page of typed work. You need to turn this into some sort of leaflet/flyer about that party including pictures, not just a set of notes.
2. Conduct some research into the role of your local MP.
 I would like you to find out who your local MP is and the following details about them:
 MP's name:
 Political party:
 Constituency (the area they represent):
 Areas they have a particular interest in:
 And finally, look at their voting record (found here <https://www.theyworkforyou.com/> by clicking ‘voting record’) and jot down some ways in which they've voted in parliament.

Pre-Knowledge Task

You should really have a good knowledge of the below:

Find out the names of the following and maybe find out a bit about them:

The Prime Minister, The Chancellor of the Exchequer, The home secretary, the foreign secretary

Find out who the leader of the opposition is and the shadow chancellor is etc.

Who are the leaders of the following parties: Conservatives, Labour, Liberal Democrats, SNP, Plaid Cymru, Green Party

What is the current state of the House of Commons?- Find out how many MPs each party has, how big the government majority is, what % people voted for each party in the last election.

Who are the leaders of the following countries: USA, China, France, Germany, Russia, India, Brazil, Japan, Head of the European Commission.

Ideas for Day Trips

Visiting some of the places in the list below could be fun AND educational....

Houses of Parliament

A surgery of your local MP

Brussels (see the EU parliament)

Social Media and Websites

A who's who of who to follow on social media.....

For the purposes of keeping up to date and factoring in different views open yourselves a Twitter account. Follow:

-BBC news night and BBC news

-Pick a left wing newspaper to follow e.g. the Guardian, Observer, Independent, News Statesman

-Pick a right wing newspaper to follow e.g. The Telegraph, Daily Mail, the Express

-Pick a centrist newspaper to follow e.g. The Times, The Financial Times

-Pick a left wing commentator to follow e.g. Owen Jones, Yasmin Alibhai-Brown

-Pick a right wing commentator to follow e.g. Julia Hartley Brewer, Ian Dale

It is very important that you listen to a variety of views from people who you both do and do not normally agree with.