

Politics A Level: Ideas for summer reading

There are countless relevant resources that you can access to further your political understanding. The selection below outlines some ideas **but should not be seen as an exhaustive list**. Due to the 'up-to-date' nature of the subject it is important to keep on top of the latest political developments. The best place to start is by developing your knowledge about an area of the course that particularly interests you. The suggestions below are mainly for UK politics as this is the paper you will be working towards first.

This reading list has been written shortly after the June 2017 UK General Election. It would be a good idea to keep an eye out for newspaper articles, documentaries and books on the election; particularly as the result was unexpected.

General tips for success

- Read a serious newspaper **at least** twice a week (reading a selection is useful as you will see different political perspectives)
- Read relevant magazines whenever possible – the library has the Politics Review magazine (designed for A Level students) with extra copies available in H16. You can also subscribe to your own weekly political magazine (or join up with friends to spread the cost), such as Prospect, the Spectator, New Statesman etc. You can get past copies of the Economist from Mr Forder and Mr Bashford.
- Watch political programmes. Question Time and This Week are on every Thursday night. Newsnight is also excellent. For American Politics you can watch the weekly 'Meet the Press' programme on the NBC website <http://www.nbcnews.com/meet-the-press>.
- Why not buy a box set of some classic political comedy / satire. Yes (Prime) Minister and The Thick of It are two of many examples. The West Wing would be great for the unit on the USA.

Useful websites for keeping up with the latest political developments:

- BBC News: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news>
- The Guardian (useful for UK and US politics): <https://www.theguardian.com/uk>
- The Economist (you can get 2 free articles per week): <http://www.economist.com/>
- Politics Home (for detailed UK political news): <https://www.politicshome.com/>
- Politico (for up to date in depth articles on US politics): <http://www.politico.com/>
- The Financial Times has launched a scheme to allow free access to its online paper for teachers and 16-19 year old students at school. Use this link to sign up: <https://join.ft.com/86a6a698-b7d0-47f6-a609-6cb411f22e2e>

- LSE online public lectures are very useful and go into a wide variety of political and related issues. There is a large catalogue of previous talks, which can be downloaded and listened to on music players. There is also a LSE YouTube channel. The catalogue can be found at: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/website-archive/newsAndMedia/videoAndAudio/channels/publicLecturesAndEvents/Home.aspx>

Resources for Paper 1

- British Politics: A Very Short Introduction by Tony Wright
- The British Constitution: A Very Short Introduction by Martin Loughlin
- Cameron at 10: The Verdict by Anthony Seldon and Peter Snowdon (A very detailed history of David Cameron's premiership from 2010 to 2016)
- Why the Tories Won: The Inside Story of the 2015 Election by Tim Ross
- Corbyn: The Strange Rebirth of Radical Politics by Richard Seymour
- Five Year Mission: The Labour Party under Ed Miliband by Tim Bale
- Unleashing Demons: The Inside Story of Brexit' by Craig Oliver (A fly-on-the-wall account of the Brexit referendum from David Cameron's Director of Communications)
- Politics: Between the Extremes by Nick Clegg (A view of the Coalition and Brexit referendum result from a Liberal Democrat perspective)
- How Parliament Works by Robert Rogers and Rhodri Walters
- By Royal Appointment: Tales from the Privy Council - the Unknown Arm of Government by David Rogers
- Anywhere but Westminster (An outstanding series of short films where journalist John Harris goes to speak to people across the UK to find out what they think about politics. It covers the Brexit Referendum campaign and fallout, developments in local politics and the 2017 General Election campaign. Probably the best place to start if you want to try make sense of the political shocks of the last few years)
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/series/anywhere-but-westminster>