

GETTING AHEAD



Start to develop skills that are relevant to your course before you join HSDC this September!

Politics – A Level

Well done for choosing Politics—*has there ever been a time when politics has more clearly impacted all of our lives?*

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.

Activity

There are some things you should do every week:

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

There are some things you should do over the rest of summer to really get ahead:

3. Watch at least one of the documentaries indicated
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.

Have fun working on this—it will be a huge help next term. Stay safe and we look forward to seeing you all!

Prepare for A level Politics

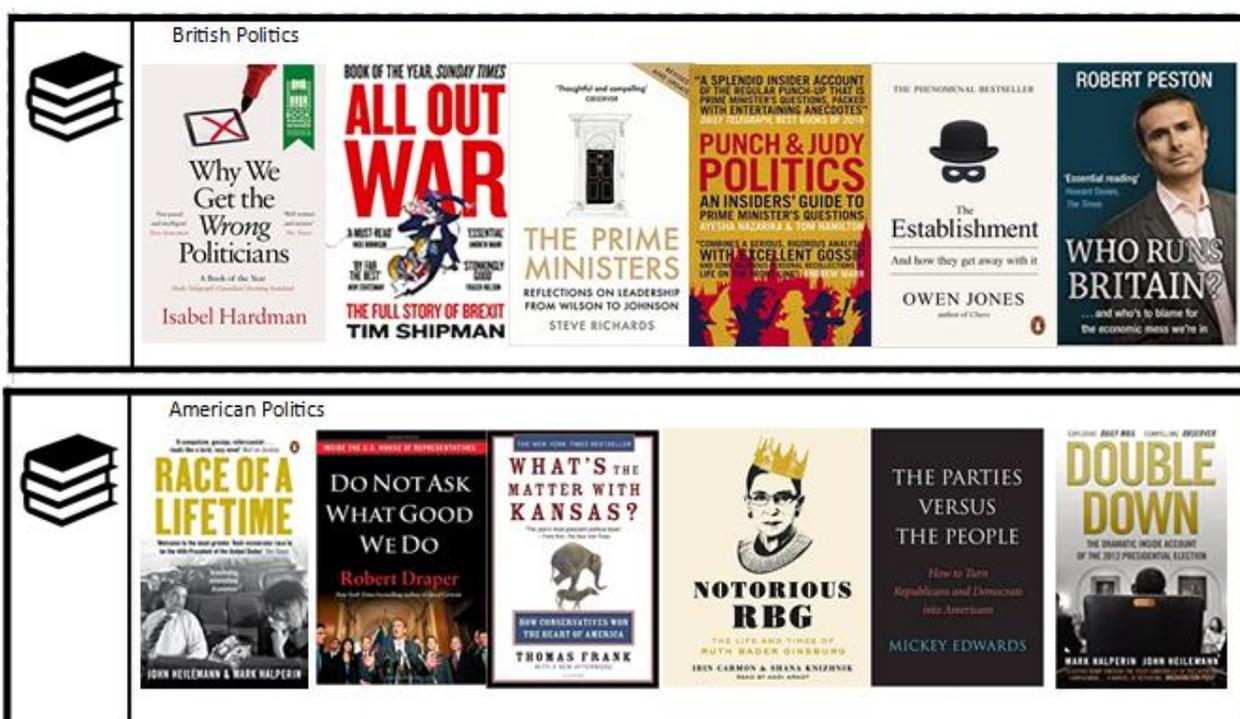
To be really successful in A Level Politics, the most important thing you can do is **start making news consumption a daily habit**. Ideally, find **two** news sources that you are comfortable with and look out for political news on them every day. Get used to saving news stories and develop methods for doing this—screenshotting and adding to a Word document or Google Keep is a good way to start. You could

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choose a mixture of written and broadcast news. Add in news from other sources, such as weekly periodicals or politics entertainment sources such as the News Quiz (Radio 4), Have I Got News For You (BBC) or Private Eye.

Don't feel the need to read all or buy new—Google the books, **pick one** that appeals to you, try to buy second hand from sites like Abe Books. These recommendations are for fun and helpful enrichment and wider reading relevant to your course.



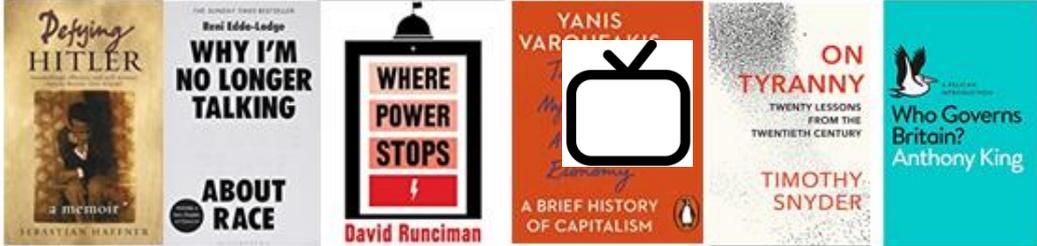
 Politics Podcasts:

- [Talking Politics](#)
- [The A-Level Politics Show](#) (Spotify link)
- [Revolutions](#)
- [FiveThirtyEight](#)
- [This American Life](#)

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	<p>UK Politics</p> <p>Dominic Cummings documentary—iPlayer</p> <p>Margaret Thatcher series - iPlayer</p> <p>Yes Minister (UK politics—a classic)</p> <p>US Politics</p> <p>The Daily Show with John Oliver</p> <p>Knock Down the House—Netflix</p> <p>The West Wing (US politics—a classic)</p> <p>Politics Websites</p> <p>Simple Politics (also on Instagram)</p> <p>They Work For You—find out about your MP</p>
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	<p>Other relevant books you might find interesting</p> 
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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. On the next page is a template you can use for recording your case studies. Add the news story into the gap and tick the boxes to show which of the course themes it is related to. Add comments into these boxes as to how these relate to the news items.

Course information

The Edexcel Politics course at HSDC Alton consists of the following units:
 Unit 1: UK Politics with core ideologies—liberalism, conservatism, socialism.
 Unit 2: UK Government with additional ideology—anarchism.
 Unit 3: Comparative Politics—the politics and government of the USA.

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We will be using this textbook for the full two years:
“Pearson Edexcel A level Politics” by Sarra Jenkins, David Tuck, John Jefferies

[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 [They Work For You](#) to find out about your local MP. You can look up their voting records and find out more about how they represent your constituency.

OPEN LEARN

The Open University have 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 certificate / statement of participation on completion. Take a look and see if any take your interest.

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Make as many copies as you want of this page. You should also try to look at US politics at least once. Replace PM with President and Parliament with Congress

Politics	WHAT DOES THIS NEWS STORY TELL US ABOUT...	Government
Democracy		The Constitution (Rules for how the country is run)
Human rights / civil liberties		Parliament (House of Commons / Lords)
The Conservative Party		Prime Minister and Cabinet
The Labour Party		The Judiciary / Courts
Other political parties		Relationship between Europe and UK
The Media		

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