

A – Level Politics suggested Reading and Preparation

The key aspect of Politics to bare in mind if you are preparing for the course is that the content is constantly evolving. Below are recommended resources for you to use, read and watch, but without a doubt one of the best ways to prepare yourself for the course is keep up to date with current affairs! **The current events in the world at the moment are having a significant impact on the UK's government and political system like never before.**

Outline of the course - The AS course is divided into 2 sections: 'UK Politics' and 'UK Government'

- Edexcel AS level 'Politics 2017-' Follow the link for an outline of the specification:
<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Politics/2017/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/AS-Politics-Specification.pdf>

Suggested Text books

- Follow the link to get access to an online copy of an AS/A-level text book:
<http://fliphtml5.com/geqt/oiew/basic>
- *Edexcel Pearson AS & A level Politics*
- *Student Guide: Edexcel UK Politics* Neil McNaughton
- *Student Guide: Edexcel UK Government* Neil McNaughton

News Sources (Relevant for UK Politics and UK Government)

- BBC News Download the app – keep a journal note of current events or simply keep up to date following <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/politics>
- Some online newspapers are free to read and no subscription required, such as
 - *The Guardian* <https://www.theguardian.com/uk>
 - *The Independent* <https://www.independent.co.uk/>
- Weekly shows that take a more in depth look at the issues of the week are also well worth a watch, in particular the BBC's *Question Time* is very good at looking at different sides of the debate on certain issues : Question Time
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b006t1q9/question-time>

Weekly papers are also well worth a look at as they tend to delve deeper into a specific news story of the week. A couple of examples include *The Spectator* and *The New Statesman* (Free to read online with some article limits)

Various social media pages related to political parties and political leaders may also be worth following, just to be careful to follow the 'official pages'.

Various podcasts provided by the BBC (such as 'Newscast') and newspapers are also worth a listen.

It may be worth keeping a small notebook of key events taking place, recording the date and the key event.

Political Parties (UK Politics)

The 3 main parties that are studied are the following

- The Conservative Party <https://vote.conservatives.com/>
- The Labour Party <https://labour.org.uk/manifesto/>
- The Liberal Democrats <https://www.libdems.org.uk/>

Follow the links to the websites and find out who the party leaders are, what does each party stand for in terms of main policies – the manifestos from the 2019 General Election are a great way to find this out.

The course also focuses on smaller political parties and their impact on UK Politics as well, so it may be worth researching the policies of these political parties as well: The Scottish National Party (SNP) The Green Party, UKIP and the Brexit Party.

The Functioning of Parliament and the Supreme Court (UK Government)

- Function of UK Parliament website <https://www.parliament.uk/about/>
- A bit of a dated look at the House of Commons BBC 2014: <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6o8rtl>
- BBC 'Meet the Lords' – An inside look into the workings of the House of Lords <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6nz0qx>
- House of Lords Reform 1999 Doc BBC : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7RKngalaxK0>
- UK Supreme Court BBC: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZtYENfNa7k>

The 2019 General Election (UK Politics)

With the UK having recently had a General Election, and overall 3 elections in past five years(!), it is worth familiarising yourself with the election process and also looking at the events of the 2019 General Election, including the televised debates and party election broadcasts.

- Official UK government guidance for UK Elections: <https://www.gov.uk/elections-in-the-uk>

Follow the links below for the party election broadcasts, including Boris Johnson's take on *Love Actually*

- YouTube accounts: Conservative Party https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=conervative+party+
- YouTube: accounts Labour: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=labour+party+

It is worth considering the reasons for the Conservative Party managing to win such a large majority in the House of Commons, i.e., was it the policy of 'Get Brexit Done'? Was it the personality of Johnson or was it issues the electorate had with the Labour Party?

Further viewing:

- Dominic Cummings (One of the Boris Johnson's key advisors) Doc (behind the scenes of power and 2019 election). [Taking Control The Dominic Cummings Story - YouTube](#)