

## Preparing for A-Level Government & Politics

We are delighted that you are interested in studying Government & Politics for A-Level. The world has become a complex and confusing place, with issues such as the Covid 19 pandemic, Brexit, climate change and the election of Donald Trump of US president meaning there has never been a more important time to study the subject. To help prepare you for the A-Level, please make use of these resources to explore a range of topics. There is no expectation of you producing any pieces of work for these, but each will help to develop your understanding of the period and give you a solid foundation for success at A-Level.

### Specification

We study the Edexcel specification. You can find this on the Edexcel website on this link;

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/politics-2017.html>

From this, all students will study;

Unit 1- UK Politics and Core Political Ideas

Democracy and Political Participation, Political Parties and Ideas, Electoral Systems, Voting Behaviour and the Media, Liberalism, Conservatism and Socialism

Unit 2- UK Government and Non-core Political Ideas

The constitution, Parliament, Prime Minister and executive, Relationships between branches and Feminism

Unit 3- Comparative Politics, Government and Politics of the USA

US Constitution and federalism, US Congress, US Presidency, US Supreme Court and civil rights, US democracy and participation, comparative theories

### Recommended Resources

We recommend that you follow current issues relating to the above as much as possible. This is easy to do by using any of the following;

- **See the attached resource list from Edexcel with a full range of recommended resources**
- Find out more about your own political beliefs by taking this ideology test on Political Compass; <https://www.politicalcompass.org/test>
- Reading a broadsheet daily newspaper. These include the Times, Daily Telegraph and the Guardian. These also have websites, though many are locked unless you subscribe (except the Guardian which is free).
- Following the news online is easy. The BBC website and Sky News are good starting points. You can keep updated with US issues also on these, in addition to US providers such as CNN, USA Today and Reuters.
- Follow political commentators on their podcasts, blogs and/or social media. The New Statesman's Morning Call from Stephen Bush, their political editor, is highly recommended. Also check out Robert Peston, Andrew Marr and Andrew Neil to name but a few. Laura Kuenssberg is the BBC's chief political correspondent.

- Other good websites include politicshome.com, tutor2u.com and senecalearning.com (great for covering course content).
- Watch Politics shows on TV. Daily news on BBC One, ITV, Channel 4 and Sky News are broadcast several times a day, usually at 1pm, 6pm and 10pm.

If you have anything specific that you want to find out more about or want more recommendations, please get in touch with Mr Thompson at [a.thompson@watfordgirls.herts.sch.uk](mailto:a.thompson@watfordgirls.herts.sch.uk)