

politics.

A Level Preparation Pack



Overview

Politics is a dynamic and exciting subject offered at College. Politics is taught by Jane who is an enthusiastic and experienced teacher who will help you settle into College and is looking forward to welcoming you in September.

To help you step up to sixth form study, we have set out a range of resources

for you to have a look at over the next few months so that you feel confident that you have chosen a subject that you will enjoy.



Jen Ludwig

Head of Law, Politics,
Languages & Economics

Activities

Are you left wing or right wing?

Find out where you are on the Political Compass:

<https://www.politicalcompass.org/test>

If you have a printer at home you could print out your certificate, showing where you sit on the political compass. You may not understand all the questions, but don't worry. Answer as best as you can.

TV

There are so many great documentaries related to UK and US Politics available on BBC iPlayer, Netflix, All4 and My5 that it is difficult to narrow them down. Here is a list of a few:

My5:

- Paxman: Why are Politicians so Crap?
- Portillo: The Trouble with the Tories

Available on All4:

- Tories at War
- Dispatches: Puppet Masters
- Dispatches: Battle for the Tory Party
- The Invention of Boris Johnson

Netflix (Mostly related to American politics):

- Thirteenth
- TIME: The Kalief Browder Story

Available on BBC iPlayer:

- The Cameron Years
- Extinction Rebellion
- Panorama Britain's Brexit crisis (downfall of May)
- Taking Control: The Dominic Cummings Story
- Thatcher: A Very British Revolution

Film



- Brexit: The Uncivil War (All4)
- Official Secrets
- Pride (provides context to Britain during the Thatcher years)
- Final Year (about Obama's foreign policy; available on Netflix)
- Vice (about Dick Cheney, George W Bush's Vice President)

Suggested Reading & Podcasts



Books

- All Out War: The Full Story of Brexit by Tim Shipman
- The People Vs. Tech by Jamie Bartlett
- Radicals by Jamie Bartlett
- A Journey by Tony Blair
- May at 10 by Anthony Seldon
- Unspeakable by John Bercow

Podcasts

There are a range of free podcasts available on Matte Forde's website. Stand-up comedian, TalkSPORT host and former political advisor, Matt Forde presents THE POLITICAL PARTY, a monthly celebration of politics and its big personalities recorded live at the St James Theatre every month.

- <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/the-political-party/id595312938?mt=2>

- Honourable Friends? by Caroline Lucas

And if you are interested in American Politics:

- Becoming by Michelle Obama
- What Happened by Hillary Rodham Clinton
- Fire and Fury by Michael Wolff (about Donald Trump)

Here is one with former Prime Minister Tony Blair, recorded just before the 2019 General Election:

- <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/show-133-tony-blair-election-special-21/id595312938?i=1000459100444>

There is also The Coronavirus Newscast BBC: Every day, Adam Fleming, Laura Kuenssberg, Fergus Walsh and Chris Mason bring you the latest on the coronavirus pandemic.

- <https://podcasts.apple.com/nz/podcast/brexitcast/id1234185718?mt=2>

The Media



To be a great politics student you really need to keep up-to-date with the news. You can read any newspaper (except The Sun and The Daily Mail) and watch any news programme but these are our recommendations:

The Today Programme on Radio 4 is excellent for detailed news analysis (Radio 4 6.00-9.00am weekdays and 7.00-9.00 on Saturdays.

Channel 4 News: 7.00-8.00pm weekdays

The Guardian: www.theguardian.com/uk

Course Specifications



A Level - [Download Edexcel Politics Specification](#)

www.bsfc.ac.uk/newstarters

