

Thanks for choosing A level politics

Lively, relevant, controversial... there are many ways to describe A-level Politics. There's no denying that it's one of the most interesting and engaging qualifications you can choose.

Covering news and current affairs from the UK and US, it helps you understand how the UK country is run and develops research, written communication and debate skills. It also helps grow your confidence.

It's ideal if you're considering studying politics, sociology, ethics, advertising or journalism at university and is highly regarded by employers in industries including politics, international organisations, the media, government and the civil service.

What you will study is;

- Politics in the UK
- Politics in the US and comparative politics
- Political ideologies

What you can do between now and starting is follow the news – please read a quality newspaper – the Telegraph, The Times, The Independent, The Guardian (the last two are free)

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/>

I would also advise starting reading political science texts – there are plenty out there, also consider political autobiographies. The following is not an exhaustive list but would be decent starting points – all of this will be helpful for contextualising the political world.

Here is a simple starting reading list;

1. "23 Things They Don't Tell You About Capitalism" by Ha-Joon Chang
2. "Whose Crisis, Whose Future?" By Susan George
3. "Value of Nothing" by Raj Patel (or "Stuffed and Starved")
4. "The Shock Doctrine" by Naomi Klein (or "No Logo")
5. "Injustice" by Danny Dorling (or "So you think you know about Britain?")
6. "The Vote" by Paul Foot
7. "The Enigma of Capital" by David Harvey (or "13 contradictions of Capitalism")
8. "The Spirit Level" by Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett
9. "Capital in the 21st Century" by Thomas Piketty
10. "Who owns England?" by Guy Shrubsole
11. "The precariat" by Guy Standing

You also might like a more historical view of politics

1. "Britain's Gulag" by Caroline Elkins

2. "King Leopold's Ghost" by Adam Hochschild
3. "Guns, Germs and Steel" by Jared Diamond
4. "Fossil Capital" by Andreas Malm
5. "Chavs, The Demonisation of the Working Class" by Owen Jones
6. "The many headed Hydra: The hidden history of the revolutionary Atlantic" by Peter Linebaugh and Marcus Rediker
7. 'Late Victorian holocausts' by Mike Davis

Or you might like a more literary version;

1. "The Ragged Trousered Philanthropist" by Robert Tressell
2. "Germinal" by Emile Zola
3. "Animal Farm" by George Orwell
4. "The Gulag Archipelago" by Alexander Solzenhitsyn

There are plenty of other texts. Happy reading!