



Specification:

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

The course will help you to develop knowledge and understanding of the role politics plays in relation to current local, national, and global issues, as well as studying key thinkers and political ideas. Each topic in the specification is fully detailed, providing you with the full range of breadth and depth to learn.

Below is a list of preparation tasks that you should be doing over the summer.

1. ESSENTIAL

Write an essay on the following theme – ‘Why is it important for people to understand Politics’?

Please bring this essay with you on Sixth Form Induction Day.

2. ESSENTIAL

Understanding how Parliament works. Please read the explanation on the structure of Parliament <https://www.parliament.uk/about/how/role/system/> and then produce a document answering the following questions:

- What are the three parts that make up Parliament?
- How are members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords selected?
- How does a bill become a law?

There are lots of good online videos on these, as well as many websites with easy to follow explanations.

Make sure that write accurate notes and bring what you have produced with you on Sixth Form Enrolment Day.

Other recommended activities

Websites -

There are some excellent newspaper websites. Probably the most comprehensive are telegraph.co.uk (Daily Telegraph), theguardian.com (The Guardian) and independent.co.uk (The Independent). The BBC has an excellent politics section. ukpollingreport.co.uk is an excellent site that shows the most current opinion polls for the main political parties. Finally Politics.co.uk is a good new site on political issues.

Lectures –

Have a look at TED talks on Politics: <https://www.ted.com/topics/politics>



Subscribe to the following podcasts –

The Rest is Politics - <https://play.acast.com/s/the-rest-is-politics>

The New Statesman Podcast - <https://play.acast.com/s/newstatesman/>

Coffee House Shots from The Spectator - <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/coffee-house-shots/id1101754136>

Newspapers -

It is very important that politics students are up to date with issues in British Politics and over the summer you should read a broadsheet newspaper at least once a week, either a paper copy or via the website. Keep cuttings or add to your favourite's articles and stories that you find politically interesting.

TV Programmes -

Essential: Question Time most Thursdays BBC1 at 10.35pm

Recommended: Newsnight - BBC 2, Channel 4 News.

Visit the Houses of Parliament: <http://www.parliament.uk/visiting/visiting-and-tours/>

Debate -

There is no better way of developing an interest in Politics than having an enquiring and questioning nature. Do debate topical issues with your friends and family but always make sure that you are willing to listen to the views of others as well.

At Sixth form I have run a highly successful debating club; this is a real opportunity for any Politics student to have their opinions heard. Over the Summer, you might like to think of topics to suggest for next year's debates.