

## Year 12 Government & Politics Reading and Research List

Edexcel Politics is a new linear course. There are 3 key aspects which make up the A – Level.

### Component 1: UK Politics

This unit examines in detail how people and politics interact. You will explore the emergence and development of the UK's democratic system and the similarities, differences, connections and parallels between direct and indirect democracy. You will learn about the role and scope of political parties that are so central to contemporary politics, including the significance of the manifestos they publish at election time and their relevance to the mandate of the resulting government. You will also learn about the role of the media in politics.

### Component 2: UK Government

This unit is fundamental to understanding the nature of UK government, since it enables you to understand where, how and by whom political decisions are made. You will learn about the set of rules governing politics in the UK, the UK constitution, which is different in nature from most of the rest of the world. You will also study the specific roles and powers of the different major branches of the government – legislative, executive, and judiciary – as well as the relationships and balance of power between them, and decide where sovereignty (power) now lies within this system.

### Component 3: Comparative Politics – American Politics.

You will begin by studying the US Constitution and the arguments surrounding this guiding document of US democracy. In learning about the key institutions of government in the USA and analysing the manner in which they achieve this power and exercise it over their citizens, you will judge ultimately whether 'liberty and justice for all' has been achieved in the USA. You will compare and contrast politics and institutions in the US with those in the UK.

### Hot off the press books.

These are in the school library but in case you can't get hold of these I have put slighter older texts below which might be cheaper and easier to get hold of.

In case you can't get hold of texts lots of links and other sources below.

In the Ruins of Neoliberalism (The Wellek Library Lectures) Paperback – 16 Jul 2019

We Were Eight Years in Power, [Ta-Nehisi Coates](#) , 2018

Crashed: How a Decade of Financial Crises Changed the World, 2019

Where Power Stops: The Making and Unmaking of Presidents and Prime Ministers Hardcover, 2019, [David Runciman](#)

Heroic Failure: Brexit and the Politics of Pain, 2019 [Fintan O'Toole](#) (Author)

[Feminism for the 99%: A Manifesto](#) by Nancy Fraser and [Tithi Bhattacharya](#)

Invisible Women: Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed for Men, [Caroline Criado Perez](#) | 7 Mar 2019

Truth to Power: How to Call Time on Bullsh\*t, Speak Up and Change The World, 2019 by [Jess Phillips](#)

How We Get Free: Black Feminism and the Combahee River Collective, 2019 [Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor](#)

Why We Get the Wrong Politicians Paperback, 2019 [Isabel Hardman](#) (Author)

May at 10, 2019, Anthony Seldon

### **Other UK Core Texts**

- B Coxall, L Robins and R Leach: Contemporary British Politics (Palgrave Macmillan, 2003)
- J Kingdom: Government and Politics in Britain: an Introduction (Polity, 2003)
- P Cocker and A. Jones: Contemporary British Politics and Government (Liverpool Academic, 2002)
- D Watts: British Government and Politics: A Comparative Guide (Edinburgh University 2006)
- B Jones (ed): Politics UK (Pearson Education, 2010)
- D Butler and G Butler: British Political Facts Since 1979 (Palgrave Macmillan, 2006)
- R Heffernan, P Cowley and C Hay: Developments in British Politics 9 ( Palgrave MacMillan 2011)
- B. Crick: In Defence of Politics (Continuum 2005)
- G. Stoker: Why Politics Matters (Pgrave 2017)
- M. Mandelbaum: The Ideas that Conquered the World (Public Affairs 2002)
- N. Cohen: What's Left? How Liberals Lost Their Way (Harper Perennial 2007)
- F. Fukuyama: The End of History (Penguin 2012) (Good for History + Politics)
- K. O'Hara: After Blair: David Cameron & the Conservative Tradition (Lawrence & Wishart 2007)
- A. Sampson: Who Runs This Place? The Anatomy of Britain in the 21st Century (Hodder 2005)
- J. Rentoul: Tony Blair: Prime Minister (Little Brown & Company 2008)

### **Newspapers and Magazines**

It is essential that you read reputable broadsheet newspapers in order to keep up-to date with current affairs. You can look at articles on their websites:

- The Times: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk>
- The Independent: <http://www.independent.co.uk>
- The Guardian: <http://www.guardian.co.uk>
- The Telegraph: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk>

Another useful website for up to date political news stories is:

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/politics/>
- <http://www.tutor2u.com>

Many useful articles on current political debates can be found in the following magazines:

- The Economist: <http://economist.com>
- Politics Review Magazine: <http://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/Product-LandingPages/Magazines/Magazines-extras/Politics-Review-extras> Resources

### **Unit 1 Topics Participation and Democracy**

- D Denver: Elections and Voters in Britain (Palgrave, 2006)
- Information on voting patterns: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk>
- Information on opinion polls: <http://www.ipsosmori.com/political/trends.shtml>

### **Elections**

- D Kavanagh and P. Cowley: The British General Election of 2010 (Palgrave, 2010).
- The Electoral Reform Society: <http://www.electoral-reform.org.uk>

### **Parties**

- S. Ingle: The British Party System (Routledge, 2008).
- Conservative Party Website: <http://www.conservatives.com>
- Labour Party Website: <http://www.labour.org.uk>
- Liberal Democrat Party Website: <http://www.libdems.org.uk>
- UKIP Party website: <http://www.ukip.org>

### **Pressure Groups**

- G Jordan and W Maloney: Interest groups and democracy (Palgrave, 2007)
- Greenpeace website: <http://www.greenpeace.org.uk>
- Unlock Democracy website: <http://unlockdemocracy.org.uk/>
- Liberty's website: <http://www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk>
- 38 degrees website: <http://38degrees.org.uk>

## **Resources for Component 2 Topics**

### **The Constitution**

- J Jowell and D Oliver: The Changing Constitution (Oxford University Press, 2004).
- The Constitution Research Unit at UCL website: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit/>

### **Parliament**

- P Norton: Parliament in British Politics (Contemporary Political Studies, 2013)

- Parliament website: [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk)

The Executive

- Cabinet Office website: <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk>
- Prime Minister's Office Website: <http://www.number-10.gov.uk>
- R Rose: The Prime Minister in a Shrinking World (Polity, 2001)

The Judiciary • Ministry of Justice website: <http://www.justice.gov.uk>

- J. A. G. Griffith: The Politics of the Judiciary (Fontana Press, 2010)

### **TV Recommendations:**

Starting soon on Britbox Spitting Image- have a look at old episodes and ask a parent or carer if they remember ever watching it.....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UeoMef43tjM>

- BBC 6 o'clock or 10 o'clock news
- Channel 4 news • Question Time (BBC)
- Daily Politics Show (BBC)
- Newsnight (BBC)
- Have I Got News For You (BBC)
- Mock The Week (BBC) Research activities for Independent learning (A\*/A in italics)

Suggested activities to get you to get ready for 2020 A Level government and politics Studies

- Research Labour and Conservative policy in the following areas (create a comparison table)
  - o European Union
  - o Voting age
  - o Scotland
  - o Constitutional reform
  - o Education
  - o The Economy
- Create a table showing the election results from 2017 and compare to the general election in 2020. Ensure you include:
  - o Number of seats for each party
  - o Percentage of the vote & seats each party received
  - o Statistics for the number of female / ethnic minority / nonuniversity / non-Oxbridge / went to state school
- Research and define the following key terms: Get examples to support (make sure they are UK based and related to the constitution)

- o Constitution
- o Codified
- o Uncodified
- o Entrench
- o Judicial review
- o Unitary constitution
- o Federal constitution
- Create an A3 information sheet, with facts and images, of the following British Prime Ministers: Margaret Thatcher, John Major, Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, David Cameron, Theresa May and Boris Johnson.
- Find at least 5 newspaper articles about British Politics – create 5 bullet points which summarise each article and annotate to identify the bias in each article.

Further suggested activities:

- Draw a timeline showing the main events in British Politics since 1997 – you need to include the British Prime Ministers, key events such as 7/7 terror attack, referendums, date & result (including turnout) of elections 2)
- Create a summary of the 2020 manifestos of the 3 main parties (Conservative, Labour, Lib Dem). Include their policy on welfare, economy, foreign policy and law and order. 3)
- Create a diagram showing how laws are passed. Include an example of a recent law.
- Create a diagram showing how Parliament works.
- Briefly explain: The role of the Queen and the PM in British politics?
- Research your local MP and create a fact file on them – include when they became an MP, their majority, their party and what they have done to improve their constituency. Make use of <https://www.theyworkforyou.com/>

Going even further:

Write a summary set of arguments on the following debate question-: Should the monarchy be abolished?

1. Should we hold more referendums?
2. Is the UK truly democratic?
3. Make up a question that interests you and you would want the class to debate.