

## POLITICS – READING LIST

An understanding of current affairs is absolutely crucial for any aspiring student of Politics, and so you should be ensuring that you read the news every day as well as reading books that will give you a deeper understanding of what is going on in the world of politics. In the second year of the course we study political ideologies, which will require you to understand why it is that politics provokes such intense conflict and debate. Listed here are some introductory texts as well as some wider reading, although this list is not exhaustive.

### Keep up to date with the news

The Week (<http://subscription.theweek.co.uk/subscribe/>)

The Economist (<https://subscriptions.economist.com>)

The Guardian <http://www.guardian.co.uk/>

The Telegraph <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/>

The Independent <http://www.independent.co.uk/>

The Times <http://www.thetimes.co.uk/>

BBC News <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/>

PoliticsHome <http://www.politicshome.com/uk/>

Labour List <http://labourlist.org>

Conservative Home <http://www.conservativehome.com>

### Be aware of your sources

Try to read accounts of the same event from more than one source, to get a sense of different interpretations. A good one is to start with the Guardian, and then compare with the Telegraph coverage of the same stories.

### What do you think?

Think about what you read. Looking at one issue more in depth i.e. reading about it in different newspapers and 'comment is free' – what do you think?

### General Reading:

Anthony King *The Blunders of Governments*

Bernard Crick *In Defence of Politics*

Gerry Stocker *Why Politics Matters: Making Politics Work*

Heffernan, Cowley & Hay *Developments in British Politics*

Julian Knight *British Politics for Dummies*

Kenneth Minogue *Politics: A Very Short Introduction*

Paul Kelly *The Politics Book*

Tony Wright *British Politics: A Very Short Introduction*

Paul Collier 'The Bottom Billion'

### The UK constitution

Anthony King *Who Governs Britain?*

Martin Loughlin *The British Constitution: A Very Short Introduction*

### British Politics & History:

Andrew Marr *A History of Modern Britain*

Andrew Rawnsley *The End of the Party*

Ben Pimlott *Harold Wilson*

Boris Johnson's *The Churchill Factor: How One Man Made History*

Charles Moore *Margaret Thatcher: The Authorised Biography (Vol. 1)*

Dominic Sandbrook *Never Had It So Good: A History of Britain from Suez to the Beatles*

*Seasons in the Sun: The Battle for Britain, 1974-1979,*

*State of Emergency: The Way We Were: Britain, 1970-1974*

*White Heat: A History of Britain in the Swinging Sixties 1964-1970*

John Campbell *The Iron Lady*

John Murray and Anthony Sampson *Who Runs This Place?: The Anatomy of Britain in the 21st Century*

Jeremy Paxman published a book on the First World War and he also made a documentary based on it, *Great Britain's Great War*

Jonathan Powell's memoir about the Blair government is very entertaining, *The New Machiavelli*

### Web Links

- BBC – Politics section – [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk\\_politics/default.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/default.stm)
- Democracy live – <http://news.bbc.co.uk/democracylive/hi>
- The Guardian – <http://politics.guardian.co.uk/>
- History Learning Site – [www.historylearningsite.co.uk/gbpolitics.htm](http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/gbpolitics.htm)
- Tutor2u – [www.tutor2u.net/revision\\_notes\\_politics.asp](http://www.tutor2u.net/revision_notes_politics.asp)
- UK Parliament – [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk)
- 10 Downing Street – [www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page1.asp](http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page1.asp)
- Wikipedia – [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org) – particularly for various elections
- The Conservative Party – [www.conservatives.com/](http://www.conservatives.com/)
- The Labour Party – [www.labour.org.uk/home](http://www.labour.org.uk/home)
- The Liberal Democrats – [www.libdems.org.uk/](http://www.libdems.org.uk/)
- UK Polling Data <http://ukpollingreport.co.uk/>

### BBC TV and Radio Programmes

- BBC Parliament
- Daily Politics
- The Politics Show
- Question Time
- Andrew Marr Show
- The Westminster Hour
- Beyond Westminster
- The Week in Westminster

### Journals and Magazines

There are a number of magazines and journals which may contain articles relevant to all units of the specification. These include:

- Politics Review. Published by Philip Allan. [www.philipallan.co.uk](http://www.philipallan.co.uk)
- Total Politics. [www.magazine-group.co.uk](http://www.magazine-group.co.uk)
- First Past the Post (digital magazine). [www.tutor2u.net](http://www.tutor2u.net)
- The New Statesman. [www.newstatesman.com](http://www.newstatesman.com)
- The Spectator. [www.the-spectator-magazine.co.uk](http://www.the-spectator-magazine.co.uk)
- Standpoint. [www.standpointmag.uk](http://www.standpointmag.uk)
- The Economist. [www.economist.com](http://www.economist.com)
- Global Politics. [www.global-politics.co.uk](http://www.global-politics.co.uk)
- Prospect <http://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/>
- This Week <http://www.theweek.co.uk/>

P Fairclough, R Kelly and E Magee's 80-page *UK Government and Politics Annual Survey* (Philip Allan Updates), published each January, provides a comprehensive overview of the main developments in UK government and politics during the preceding year.

*Politics PAL*, the long running A5-format annual UK political update, provides another take on the year's major developments and debates.

### **Political Parties & Polling:**

The Conservative Party <http://www.conservatives.com/>

The Labour Party <http://www.labour.org.uk/>

The Liberal Democrats <http://www.libdems.org.uk/>

UK Polling Data <http://ukpollingreport.co.uk/>

UKIP <http://www.ukip.com/>

### **Podcasts**

<https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/alevel-politics-podcast>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/search?q=politics&suggid=>

<http://www.politics.co.uk/podcast/>

[https://www.learnoutloud.com/category\\_podcast.php?cat=0&catid=26&level=0&id=26&](https://www.learnoutloud.com/category_podcast.php?cat=0&catid=26&level=0&id=26&)

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/series/politicsweekly>

<https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2018/jun/17/political-podcasts-10-of-the-best>

Click the following links for BBC Political Reviews of [2014](#), [2015](#), [2016](#) and [2017](#)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0b5stvx>

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures-and-events/the-conservative-party>

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures-and-events/the-labour-party>

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures-and-events/the-liberal-party-and-the-liberal-democrats>

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeFjVyYvhAviwGv\\_1ZXTjwQ/playlists?disable\\_polymer=1](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeFjVyYvhAviwGv_1ZXTjwQ/playlists?disable_polymer=1)

<https://lgspolitics.wordpress.com/>

<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/>