

## A Level Politics

### Resources and expectations

Politics is a fascinating subject and now is a great time to be studying it! It is also fast-paced and you will be expected to show that you are engaging with the news and current affairs between your lessons. Students often find this challenging and don't really know where to look for information. The resources outlined below should help you with this!

To cover the core fundamentals you will be expected to buy textbooks which will give you the basic foundation that you need across the specification. In addition, we will ask you to make a contribution to an online learning resource called Pre-Chewed Politics which has worksheets, handouts and videos that cover the whole of your course. Your parents and carers will be sent a letter about this, explaining what you need and what the costs are, in September.

We will also expect you to follow the department Twitter account @swchs\_politics. We have found this to be a very efficient way of drawing your attention to important stories and developments and sharing commentary and analysis by top political journalists and other successful school Politics Departments.

Below are some other, very good, sources of information that will help you with the course.

The A Level Politics Show by Nick D'Souza, which is produced specifically for students of Politics and covers key debates across the specification [The A Level Politics Show | Podcast on Spotify](#)

The Rest is Politics by Alastair Campbell (influential figure in Tony Blair's Labour governments) and Rory Stewart (former Conservative MP and leadership candidate in 2019) [The Rest Is Politics on Apple Podcasts](#)

The News Agents by Emily Maitlis, Jon Sopel and Lewis Goodall, a team of top political journalists [The News Agents on Apple Podcasts](#)

BBC Newscast, which is a roundup of the day's main events [BBC News - Newscast](#)

Westminster Hour on BBC Radio is a great listen as a roundup of big events that week. [BBC Radio 4 - Westminster Hour](#)

Question Time is an iconic politics and news show which involves member of the public posing questions to a panel of politicians. It can get quite heated! [BBC One - Question Time](#)

Newsnight is fab and gives up-to-date analysis of domestic and international news - [BBC Two - Newsnight](#)

A Sunday news programme worth watching is Laura Kuenssberg's interview show [BBC One - Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg](#)

Political Thinking by Nick Robinson. Nick Robinson is a senior political journalist with the BBC and this series is based on interviews with political figures [BBC Radio 4 - Political Thinking with Nick Robinson](#)

Talking Politics, by David Runciman and Helen Thompson. This is great once you have a bit more political knowledge and understanding under your belt and will really challenge you! [What's Talking Politics? — Talking Politics \(talkingpoliticspodcast.com\)](#)

History of Ideas by David Runciman. Again, this will be a challenging listen once you have started to learn about political ideologies. Great for those also doing philosophy and interested in studying these subjects at uni. [History Of Ideas — Talking Politics \(talkingpoliticspodcast.com\)](#)

Americast – in Year 13 you will study US politics. To develop your knowledge and understanding of politics across the Atlantic, this is a great podcast to listen to! [BBC Sounds - Americast - Available Episodes](#)

### **Will I need any specific equipment for Politics?**

Yes! Organisation and effective notes are key to success at A level in all subjects. You will need the following stationery items before starting the course in September.

- 1) Lever-arch file with file dividers to allow you to store your notes and keep different modules/units separated and easier to find
- 2) File paper as this is not provided by school
- 3) IF you think this won't work for you, you will need to invest in A4 exercise books and you will do your work in these. If this is the case, you will need separate ones for UK Politics (taught by Dr Mills or Mr Lockhouse) and Political Ideas (taught by Mr Collins or Mr Everard)
- 4) Pens (blue/black plus some different colours for annotation and feedback work, especially on essays). If your handwriting is not easy to read, please consider investing in handwriting pens – they don't suddenly make your writing beautiful, but they do make it easier to read.
- 5) A pack of highlighters – ideally around 6 different colours. We do a LOT of reading in Politics and sometimes we do highlighting as a way of helping you pick out different types of information and different ideas.
- 6) Pencil and ruler – sometimes we ask you to create tables or diagrams and you will need a pencil and ruler for these activities.
- 7) **GLUE STICKS** – we will sometimes give you resources that need to be stuck onto A3 paper or into your notes/books. This is a VITAL part of your sixth form stationery kit!!

### **Written work in Politics**

All your formal written work for Politics (paragraph work, essay plans, 9-mark questions and essay questions) will be done in an assessment book which you will be given by your teacher. You will also use this book in which to record whole-class feedback and complete some CTG (close the gap) tasks. You will have separate assessment books for UK Politics and Political Ideas. This is so you can easily find your assessed work and refer to previous feedback. It also helps your teachers see if you are acting on feedback and making progress. You will be expected to handwrite all your assessment work UNLESS you have use of a laptop as part of your examination access arrangements. If you are allowed to type your work, you will need to print it off and stick it into your assessment books. The same will apply to any class feedback and CTG work, which you will be able to type but which will need to be put in the assessment book.

### **Financial support**

We are aware that the resources needed for this course are expensive and we don't want any students to feel that they cannot do this A level for financial reasons. If you are in receipt of a bursary, support with textbooks and other resources can be provided through school. If the purchase of any resources is a problem for you, please discuss this with Dr Mills so we can come up with a plan!