

Emmanuel College A Level Politics

Welcome Booklet

Politics department curriculum intent statement:

- **Students will learn** a thorough understanding of the key political ideologies and concepts that underpin both UK and global politics. They will also learn about the structural apparatus and workings of the UK government and global governance.
- **Students will be able** to synoptically draw on a body of precise and specific political knowledge to analyse and evaluate key concepts and arguments and develop substantiated judgements.
- **Students will become** active global citizens, aware of national, regional and international politics, who think critically and communicate views with factual accuracy, passion and respect.

Welcome to A Level politics! The A Level course is divided into 3 units, or papers. You will sit three 2 hour exams at the end of Year 13, and each of these exams is 2 hours long and worth 84 marks each.

Paper 1: UK Politics

You will cover the following topics: democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems and voting behaviour and the media. You will also study the core political ideas of liberalism, conservatism and socialism.

Paper 2: UK Government

You will cover: the constitution, Parliament, the Prime Minister and the Executive and relations between the institutions. You will also study the non-core political theory of feminism.

Paper 3: Global Politics

You will study: the state and globalisation, global governance: political, economic, environmental and human rights, the EU and regionalism and comparative theories.

Here is a link to the syllabus:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Politics/2017/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/A-level-Politics-Specification.pdf>

Wider reading expectations and resources:

Harold Wilson famously said "a week is a long time in politics". As a result, even newly published textbooks can very quickly end up out-of-date. It is important, therefore, that we don't just rely on textbook resources.

You will be expected to not only keep up with the work set by your teachers, but you will also be required to keep abreast of current affairs. You can do this by reading a good quality newspaper, listening to good quality news reports and by watching the news and other political programmes.

It is crucial that you engage with current affairs and watch/read/listen to the news on a daily basis if you want to study A Level Politics. However, we have been living in unprecedented times. The news

can be frightening and upsetting. Sometimes, we need to switch off for the benefit of our mental health.

It is quite common for people to have news alert notifications on their mobile phones or other devices. We have 24-hour news channels and can access news online 24/7. If you feel that it all gets a bit overwhelming, I strongly recommend that you mute your notifications or even turn them off altogether. Keeping up with the news does not mean you have to be 'plugged in' constantly. Limit yourself to watching or listening to one news programme a day.

Television:

BBC, ITV, Channel 4 , Question Time, Politics Live, The Andrew Marr Show

Print media:

It is important to ensure that you read articles from a good quality, reliable source. I would recommend any of the following publications: The Times, The Telegraph, The FT, The Guardian, The Economist, the I. Some online versions of newspapers are behind a paywall, but often offer the option of reading a couple of articles for free each month. We have a school subscription to the FT and you will be able to access this free of charge when in college. I have a teacher subscription to The Economist and I scan and upload any useful articles to ITS Learning for you to access. It is important to note that the print media in the UK largely favours a more right-leaning, conservative view (the Telegraph, Times, FT). Left-leaning media favours a more liberal view (the Guardian, Channel 4 news). It is a good idea to read a mainstream publication that doesn't always align with your political views.

Audio:

I strongly recommend that you download the BBC Sounds app. This is a free app and is an easy way to listen to political programmes from the BBC.

Here are some links:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/schedules/p00fzl7j#on-now> Radio 4 schedule. Radio 4 is an excellent resource. They provide an in-depth analysis of the news and you can also find some very interesting programmes on more specific aspects of the course.

Online media:

Twitter

There are two main types of Twitter accounts that are useful for you:

- 1) Twitter feeds from traditional news sources (useful for the most up-to-date news and breaking stories).
- 2) Twitter feeds from political figures (useful for getting quotes and views of individuals).

UK	Global
House of Commons Library @commonslibrary	Al Jazeera @AJEnews

BBC Politcs @BBCpolitics	The Economist @TheEconomist
Guardian politics @Gdnpolitics	Financial Times @FT
UCL Constitution Unit @ConUnit_UCL	EU Council president @eucopresident
UK Prime Minister @number10gov	

WARNING:

There is a difference between interesting information and useful information. Of course, some news can be both. However, you should NOT be whiling away the hours (and your precious study time) randomly reading things online that will be of little to no use to you regarding your course. If I catch anyone in the study centre browsing news websites and passing it off as work, I will not be impressed! There is a difference between active reading of useful information, and passively reading interest pieces that are of no real substance or use.