

Preparing for A-Level Politics

Examining Body: Pearson-Edexcel.

Components studied:

- Paper 1: UK Politics & Core Political Ideas;
- Paper 2: UK Government & Non-Core Political Ideas;
- Paper 3: Comparative Politics - The Government & Politics of the USA.

The best preparation any potential A-Level Politics student could do is to develop a good grasp of current affairs both in the United Kingdom and United States. One of the simplest ways to do this is to follow the major news and political organisations in both countries on various social media platforms. There are also a great variety of podcasts worth listening to. Try to engage with what is happening and keep a weekly journal that sums-up what happened in both countries in the previous week. This way you will have a bank of case study material to draw upon once the course begins. Case study material is incredibly important in A-Level Politics: your points will need to be backed up with recent examples.

Wide-ranging and detailed reading around the subject also helps. You may want to consider purchasing and reading a few of the following texts:

British Politics: A Very Short Introduction.
Oxford. 2013. ISBN: 978-0-19-966110-7.

Essentials of UK Politics for AS & A-Level.
Heywood, A. Macmillan Palgrave. 2017. ISBN: 978-1-137-61144-4.

Political Ideas for A-level.
McNaughton, N. & Kelly, R. Hodder Education. 2017. ISBN: 978-1-4718-8946-2.

Political Ideologies: An Introduction.
Heywood, A. Macmillan Palgrave. 2017. ISBN: 978-1-137-60601-3.

The Politics Book.
Various Contributors. DK. 2013. ISBN: 978-1-4093-6445-0.

American Government 101.
Sears, K. Adams Media. 2016. ISBN-13: 978-1-4405-9845-6.

American Politics: A Very Short Introduction.
Valelly, R. Oxford. 2013. ISBN: 978-0-19-537385-1.

The Penguin Guide to the United States Constitution.
Beeman, R. Penguin. 2010. ISBN: 978-0-14-311810-7.

There are a variety of movies and television programmes worth watching. There is a large number of documentaries relating to British and American political history and current affairs out there. There is also a great selection of drama and entertainment films and shows that can assist you into getting to grips with the specification content. Get some popcorn and binge watch them.

Finally, engage with the specification and consider what you feel about the main issues we will be studying: are you in favour of the status quo or reform and why?