



We want you to be really successful and what it takes to be successful at GCSEs is different from being successful at A-Levels. Although you have fewer subjects there are different skills at A-Level and the volume of work is greater because the depth and detail is more demanding.

Bridging the Gap Work will reassure you that the subject you have selected is for you, or allow you time to change your choice of subject at enrolment, as long as there is space and you meet the entry criteria. We want you to study a course that interests you and you are sufficiently qualified to study.

Subject: Politics

Head of Subject: G Richards (Year 12) and C Norris (Year 13)

Aim of Bridging Work:

To gain an understanding of UK Politics ready for AS
To start developing the skill of independent research
Get yourself familiar with recent Prime Ministers and key political events.

Course Textbook for September:

'**Edexcel UK Government and Politics for AS/A Level**' (Fifth Edition Paperback – 28 July 2017) by Neil McNaughton. Available from Amazon (£24.99).

Revision guide

'**REVISE Edexcel AS/A Level Politics Revision Guide & Workbook**'. Available from Amazon (£17.99).

Further Reading List:

See attached sheet

Every week!

Stay up to date with Current Affairs and British Politics!

An essential element of success in Politics A level is the ability to keep up to date with current political events! This will form the basis of strong A-Level essay answers as you will need to provide relevant and recent examples to support your points.

Aim to find out about the latest political news **everyday** throughout the summer. This could include reading a newspaper, checking online for the latest stories, watching evening news reports or reading an article from a magazine.

Some informative daily news sources are:

- The BBC website (www.bbc.co.uk/news/politics) or App
- The BBC 1 or Channel 4 news every evening.
- News Apps and Websites. I recommend the Guardian for best quality Journalism

Comment and analysis TV programmes

- The Andrew Marr Show* and *Sunday Politics*, both BBC1 Sunday,
- Question Time* BBC1 Thursday,
- Week in Westminster* BBC Radio 4, Saturday.
- BBC Parliament Channel*

Broadsheet Newspapers:

The Times, The Guardian, The Observer, The 'I', The Independent on Sunday, The Telegraph.

Political/current affairs magazines:

Guardian Weekly, The Economist, The Week, The Spectator, the New European, Prospect, New Statesmen, Standpoint, etc.

(FYI, the *Economist Magazine* is available free via West Sussex Libraries electronic Catalogue: all you need is to sign up for a library card and download RB Digital Reader on your tablet).

Start listening to a politics Podcast!

This is definitely THE best way to pick up on high level discussion about the topics on our course. See the attached **reading lists** for a few of the best, all available through *Spotify* or *Podcast Addict*. Pick a random episode and start listening!

Task: Prime Minister Fact files:

Create a fact file for **Tony Blair**. 'Mr Charisma'; leader of the popular 'New Labour' Party and one of the most controversial PMs. He took the new style of leadership started by Thatcher and moulded it into a modern package for the new millennium. His reputation has been tarnished by the Iraq War and other scandals but is he perhaps the most successful PM we have had?

PM list

- Tony Blair (due 15th May)
- Gordon Brown (due 22th May)
- David Cameron (due 29th May)
- Theresa May and Boris Johnson (due 5th June. Do a separate fact file for each)

Use the **Fact File Template** to help you. **Full instructions** are included. Send each fact file to Mr Richards (grichards@sphcs.co.uk) on the due date.

How to research: use the internet but if you have access to any good books (biographies, autobiographies) that are relevant, use those as well! The following websites are a good start but your aim is to learn about past PMs and get better at research, so the more you can find for yourself (especially articles from the news sites I have recommend) the better.

- Wikipedia (each PM has a page with good detail and over view)
- No. 10 history page <https://www.gov.uk/government/history/past-prime-ministers>
Get stuck on key political terms or how UK politics work? Check out BBC bite size <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zwypxfr/revision/1>
- Tutor2u website. <https://www.tutor2u.net/politics/collections/prime-minister-in-focus-tony-blair>