**Politics extension work and additional reading**

It is absolutely crucial to success at A level that you read regularly. This will help develop your literacy skills and help you to master the mature and sophisticate style of writing which is necessary for reaching the top grades. Reading regularly will also help prepare you for university style learning when you may well be asked to read several books each week.

**What should I be reading?**

Firstly, make sure you read through the chapters in the textbook relevant to our course fully and on a regular basis. Then begin to branch out and read more. Here is a list of suggested reading which includes a range of sources as only reading textbooks will become unmanageable and very boring quite quickly.

High level newspapers:

* The Times
* The Telegraph
* The Independent
* The Observer
* The Financial Times

High level political journals:

* The Economist – in the library and available online with school log in. This includes regular in-depth articles which help develop your understanding of current political issues.
* New Statesman
* The Spectator
* Private Eye
* The Week

**Reading list**

The books listed below are short, interestingly written and very relevant to various aspects of the course. There are also a whole range of other reference books and textbook style books available for you to access.

* The English Constitution, Walter Bagehot, Oxford, ISBN: 0192839756
* After Blair: David Cameron and the Conservative Tradition, Kieron O’Hara, Icon, ISBN: 1840467959
* Who Runs This Place?: The Anatomy of Britain in the 21st Century, Anthony Sampson, John Murray, ISBN: 0719565669
* Who owns England? Guy Shrubsole 2019
* Whitehall by Peter Hennessey
* The Powers behind the Prime Minister by Seldon and Kavanagh
* A Short History of the Labour Party by Henry Pelling
* Stonewall breaking out in the fight for gay rights
* Michael Walzer (1981) ‘Philosophy and Democracy’, Political Theory 9(3): 379-399.
* Margaret Canovan (1999) ‘Trust the People! Populism and the two Faces of Democracy’, Political Studies47: 2-16.

**General interest Politics books**

Here are a few suggestions of books that will enrich your learning on relevant and contemporary issues

1. ‘We Should all Be Feminists’ by Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche
2. ‘Noone Too Small To Make A Difference’ by Greta Thunberg
3. ‘’I am Malala’ by Malala Yousafzai

**Readable biographies**

* **Boris by Andrew Gimson**
* **Margaret Thatcher by** Charles Moore (2013)
* Gladstone, Roy Jenkins, Pan, ISBN: 0330411713
* Harold Wilson, Ben Pimlott, Harper Collins, ISBN: 0006379559
* Tony Blair: Prime Minister, John Rentoul, ISBN: 0751530824
* The Blair Years: Extracts from Alastair Campbell Diaries
* Gordon Brown ‘My Life Our Times’
* David Cameron ‘For the Record’
* The Benn Diaries by Tony Benn (2005) - The political diarist’s diarist, beloved not just for his clarity and gentle humour but for sheer historical scope, wrote nine volumes spanning over half a century of British politics. The easiest place to start, however, is with this abridged version providing highlights from his schooldays in the 1940s through to Margaret Thatcher’s defenestration in 1990
* **Disraeli by** Robert Blake (1966)
* William Pitt the Younger: A Biography, William Hague, Harper, ISBN: 0007147201

**Things to watch**

Sometimes you may be fed up of reading but fear not! There is a whole range of excellent films and documentaries which you can watch. It is often really useful watching about political issues as they can reveal the full extent of a situation and help you develop empathy and strong opinions on issues.

**Film list**

* Belfast (2021)
* The Iron Lady
* Brexit: The Uncivil War
* The Queen
* The Darkest Hour
* In the Loop
* Suffragette
* Scandal (1989 about the Profumo affair)
* The Crown TV series

**Documentaries**

* Andrew Marr’s History of Modern Britain
* BBC Documentary ‘Meet the Lords’
* BBC Documentary ‘The Great Offices of State’
* BBC Two ‘Expenses: the Scandal that Changed Britain’
* BBC Documentary ‘Inside the Commons’
* Taking Liberties
* The Great Hack (Netflix)

**Reading Lists for the study of Core Political ideas**

You will begin to study these texts at the end of year 12. There are some high level books on this list that will be excellent for those looking to interview at Oxbridge. However, we will learn the key ideas of these thinkers together in lesson so give it a go if you are interested in philosophy or aiming high!

The Communist Manifesto and The Prince are two which are easier to read and much shorter for a starting point.

1. Leviathan, Thomas Hobbes, Oxford, ISBN: 0192834983
2. On Liberty, John Stuart Mill, Oxford, ISBN: 0192833847
3. Second Treatise of Government, John Locke, Hackett, ISBN: 0915144867
4. Utilitarianism, John Stuart Mill, Oxford, ISBN: 019875163X
5. The Communist Manifesto, Karl Marx, Oxford, ISBN: 0192834371
6. The Prince, Niccolo Machiavelli, Oxford, ISBN: 019280426X
7. The Republic, Plato, Penguin, ISBN: 0140449140
8. The Social Contract, John-Jacques Rousseau, Penguin, ISBN: 0140442014