

A-Level Politics / IBS Global Politics summer reading

This is very much a 'real' subject and one that depends upon you reading up to date topical news regularly. The world of politics changes daily and so it is essential that you are up to date with what is going around you as you will be asked to provide up to date examples in your work. A lot is happening at the moment, hopefully beneath the Covid19 news you will be able to keep track of what else is going on in the world of Politics :

Read a series of articles from **quality** newspapers on topical political issues (Times, Telegraph, Guardian, Observer etc.) For example articles might be on:

- What were the results of the 2015, 2017 and 2019 elections?
- The EU referendum – what were the causes? What was the outcome? What have the consequences been so far? (for the economy, government, political parties, foreign relations, science and technology)
- Why was 2019 been such a turbulent year for British Politics?
- What is the current state of the parties?
 - What is happening in the Conservative Party?
 - Who will be the next Labour leader? Should Labour have had a clearer policy on Brexit? Did they lose the December 2019 election or did the Conservatives win?
 - Who are the DUP, why were they so important in 2019?
- What can / should European states do about migrants?
- What are the current controversies in Parliament?
- What impact has the Trump Presidency had on US foreign policy?
- What does Russia want from Ukraine?
- What are the greatest threats to humanity this year ... or within the next fifty years?
- What is happening in the Israel-Palestine conflict?
- Can the Communist Party continue to control China's growth and the social change it brings?

Interesting Reads:

[Why are elections bad for democracy?](#)

[Brexit: a disaster decades in the making](#)

[How remain failed: the inside story of a doomed campaign](#)

[What you need to know about the election result](#)

TASK: Write a summary of at least 4 different stories from a range of sources and explain how it relates to your understanding of the term Politics. At least one of these stories must be on an international issue. However, try to look at the same story from at least two different sources, e.g. a newspaper and a television programme or a website, or two different newspapers.

Other sources which you could also consult are:

The *Economist* (politics pages at the front)

www.tutor2u.net and look at the Politics Blog

Watch the politics shows on TV, such as Newsnight on BBC2, 10:30 pm weekdays or Channel 4 News, 7:00 pm weekdays, or the Andrew Marr Show at 9:00 am on BBC1 on Sundays.

The most important thing is that you have engaged with the subject during the summer holidays. For those of you who would like to read up a bit more about the courses the following two sites might be useful:

[Politics 2017 specification](#) (A-Level course content)

<http://www.ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme/curriculum/individuals-and-societies/global-politics/> (IBS course content)

http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/british_politics.htm (useful revision guide)

If you want to get ahead and think more deeply about the discipline of Politics sign up to and complete this OpenLearn course, it is free and you will get a certificate of completion to show your teacher, it requires a bit of a time commitment, but the tasks and activities are very varied and it is an excellent starting point for both A-Level and IB Politics courses. <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/society-politics-law/what-politics/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab>

We look forward to seeing you in September and teaching you one of most interesting subjects in the Sixth Form.