

## Politics Preparing for A Level

Politics is an exciting but challenging A level subject which involves the study of the Politics of the UK, USA and Political ideas. It is also a 'new' subject and as a result you won't have the background knowledge and understanding gained from a course at GCSE. It is therefore perhaps particularly useful to spend some time over the summer developing a background knowledge of the subject, as well as keeping up to date with current political events. To do this you should;

- Follow political news in the media – this could include TV shows such as Newsnight, The Politics Show, Question Time, Daily Politics, as well as following Parliament on the Parliament channel. You should also try and read a quality newspaper such as The Times, Guardian, Independent or Telegraph. All can be accessed online but the Guardian has the most open access.
- Watch some TV documentaries- any political documentaries covering the UK's political history would be valuable, such as 'Labour – Cast into the Wilderness' / 'Thatcher: A very British Revolution' / 'The Blair Years' / 'Boris Johnson: The Irresistible Rise' / 'The Secret World of Whitehall' / 'Andrew Marr: The Making of Modern Britain'. Virtually all episodes of these programmes are available on YouTube. There are many more, including those covering General Elections and Politics in the USA which you might like and would give you a flavour of what it is to come next year.
- Helpful things to watch for the USA would be The Context, CNN news and Fox News. Also follow coverage of US politics in the broadsheet newspapers, especially with an election round the corner.