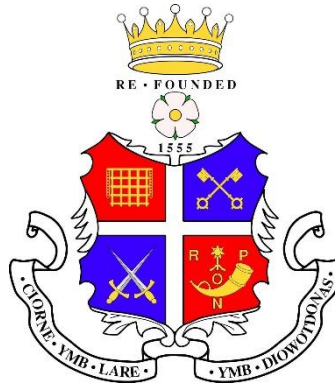


A-Level Politics – Induction guide

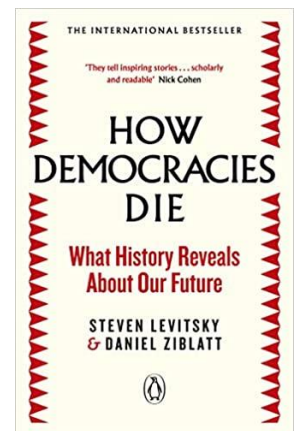


Recommended spicy reading to get your teeth into:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/How-Democracies-Die-International-Bestseller/dp/0241381355/ref=sr_1_1?crid=PHEQLVHHPS3Q&dchild=1&keywords=how+democracies+die&qid=1620717943&srefix=how+democ%2Caps%2C659&sr=8-1

There is a copy in the library – if you want to know why the world is so politically chaotic at the moment this is an outstanding and thought-provoking book!

Politics Review: [https://ripogrammarcouk.sharepoint.com/library/SitePages/RGS-Online-Resources\(1\).aspx](https://ripogrammarcouk.sharepoint.com/library/SitePages/RGS-Online-Resources(1).aspx). Available electronically through the library!



USA Politics

Read 'O Bennett 2017 CH1 Comparative Intro'; you will be expected to discuss this in the first lesson of next term. This will give you an introduction not only to the Political system of the United States of America, but also to the key areas in which you will be expected to compare its workings to that of the British equivalent.

And, start following CNN / Fox news (and the news in general!) plus key US political figures on your social media platform of choice!



British Politics

My biggest single piece of advice would be to *start following the news if you don't already*. Start with the BBC (website, Radio 4, TV) and perhaps try to add in more opinionated commentary from as many different viewpoints as possible. *Private Eye* magazine is excellent for satire, gossip and serious investigative reporting. *The Spectator* and *The New Stateman* are the best-known political magazines of right and left respectively. All the above publications have free and regular podcast series associated with them – subscribing to a few of them via your app of choice can be an excellent way to stay up-to-date and gradually pick up a lot of crucial knowledge in a fairly painless way.

Wider reading: If you fancy delving further into British government, the following are all excellent reads and likely to be available for either the school or local library.

- For a nuts-and-bolts introduction to the various, not-always-perfect limbs of British government and society today, try either *Who Governs Britain?* by Anthony King or *How Britain Really Works* by Stig Abell.
- For a fast-paced account of the many eccentric personalities and unlikely accidents involved in the frenetic Brexit campaign of 2016 and its consequences (serving as great context for current events) try either *All Out War* or *Fall Out* by Tim Shipman.
- For some modern historical context on the political world we live in today, try Andrew Marr A *History of Modern Britain* (an excellent documentary series is based on this).



Political IDEOLOGIES

We will begin our study of ideologies with an exploration of Liberalism:

Introductory tasks: Watch the Introduction to Political Ideas and the Introduction to Liberalism available here (the other titles in the playlist will also be useful for the course, but are not essential yet!):

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxfttBNCh5q7Ow-sdT-0aGFhkmu5HIPcF>

We will be examining the ideas of Liberal political philosophers, starting with John Locke – to prepare for this:

1. Watch POLITICAL THEORY: John Locke, available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZiWZJgJT7I>
2. Listen to the first 2 episodes of the BBC Podcast British Liberalism: the Grand Tour, available here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06r4gpj> (John Locke vs Arbitrary Power) and <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06r50wn> (Adam Smith and the Whigs)
3. Read the article from Britannica online <https://www.britannica.com/topic/liberalism> (up to and including Liberalism and Utilitarianism) and answer the following questions in note form:
 - a. Which Western ideas underpin liberalism as a political philosophy?
 - b. How is liberalism related to democracy?
 - c. How is liberalism applied to economies?
 - d. What is utilitarianism?

