



Ripon Grammar School

Dear Student,

We look forward to welcoming you to our A Level classes in September. To help with the transition from Y11 into sixth form and ensure that you are well prepared for the A level Politics course we have set all students some preparation tasks.

Please email Mrs. Fell (Head of History and Politics) fellj@ripongrammar.com to introduce yourself, tell me which school you have studied at, what your reasons are for choosing to study Politics, and what part of the A level course you are most looking forward to.

Textbooks, reading materials and relevant podcasts/documentaries

We will provide you with a textbook for the British Politics (Unit 1) and US and Comparative Politics (Unit 2) in September, and although we occasionally use textbooks in class for the Ideologies unit (Unit 3), we do not issue you with one. If you wish to purchase one, please ensure that you choose the edition that contains the section on feminism, our chosen fourth ideology: *Political ideas for A Level: Liberalism, Socialism, Conservatism, Feminism, Anarchism 2nd Edition*, by Richard Kelly, Maria Egan, et al., 28 Apr 2023.

We will also use a variety of documentaries and podcasts over the course of study, and there is a wealth of relevant wider reading/listening/watching available, both academic and current affairs. Some suggestions and further details can be found here: [Politics Induction](#) Online wider reading resources.

Online wider reading resources

As a school we subscribe to both Modern History Review and Politics Review. These are magazines aimed at A level students, and they cover many relevant topics and debates found in the A level course, as well as lots of general interest articles. You can access the magazines using the library SharePoint (login details on the page). We also subscribe to the Economist magazine (login: fellj@ripongrammar.com, password: JMKeynes).

A Level trip to the USA

We run a joint History and Politics trip to the USA every other year. The next trip will take place in 2027 and will be open to both Year 12s and 13s. The cost of the trip is generally around £2000, and over the course of a week we visit sites and museums around Washington DC, Gettysburg battlefield, either Monticello (Jefferson's home) or Mount Vernon (Washington's home), Arlington Cemetery and various other sites. Further details will be published in the Spring Term 2026.

Founded in Saxon Times, re-founded in 1555

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Transition work

In order to introduce students to the course, please read and make notes on [Politics Bennett Intro](#), which will offer an introduction to the themes you will be exploring in both the GB and US/Comparative units. For the Ideologies unit, although there are no specific transition tasks to complete before September, there are some useful introductory suggestions on the [Politics Induction](#) page. We would also recommend watching/listening to the news regularly, as well as relevant podcasts such as '[The Rest is Politics](#)'.

If you have any questions, please email Mrs. Fell.

Kind regards,

Mrs. J Fell
Head of History and Politics

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