

Politics

The first topics we study which you could begin to research yourself;

1. UK Democracy (including participation levels, suffrage debates, role of non-party political groups such as pressure groups, lobbyists, and corporations)
2. Political Parties (what they do, how they work, how successful they've been, what they stand for, the historical development of the parties, their current leaders)
3. Electoral Systems (which ones do we use, why are they good or bad?)
4. Voting Behaviour and the influence of the media (why people vote the way they do (or not at all) and how important different forms of media are in impacting peoples' choices)

All the articles/documentaries/advice below relate in some way to the topics above.

Follow the news closely – particularly the 'politics' sections from a range of news outlets/broadcasters. If you find a story, try to learn about it from a few different places across the political spectrum; for example, the BBC, Guardian and Times will all probably cover the same issue in different ways.

Most news outlets now have their own free apps you can download. Currently, topics and issues of particular note include;

- The Coronavirus Pandemic including the failures and successes of the government in responding to it as well as how our political system has facilitated those failures and successes
- Brexit including the reasons for the 2016 referendum and the result, as well as the political and economic impact of that decision
- Black Lives Matter including the reasons for, and impact of, their protests
- The results of the 2021 elections (devolved assemblies in Scotland and Wales, Mayoral and council elections, and the Hartlepool by-election)

Reading

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2019-50291676> (a brief overview of the main political parties manifestos from the 2019 election)

<https://labour.org.uk/> - <https://vote.conservatives.com/> (look at the main political parties' policies/ideas on their websites > you could also look at other political parties)

<https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/voting-systems/types-of-voting-system/> (a look at the systems used to elect our representatives)

Watching

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0005br9/thatcher-a-very-british-revolution-series-1-1-making-margaret> (an introduction to Margaret Thatcher's role as Leader of the Conservative's and Prime Minister)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3A_nChO1G8 (V. brief Labour Party History – up to 2015)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3fi-lhelrY> (V. brief Conservative Party History – up to 2015)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000kxvz/the-rise-of-the-murdoch-dynasty-series-1-1-kingmaker> (an introduction to the importance of the newspaper industry on British politics)