**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)
3. Electoral Systems (which ones do we use, why are they good or bad?)
4. Voting Behaviour and the influence of the media (including a look at 3 specific general elections – 1979, 1997, 2010 > additionally, being able to draw upon recent elections such as 2017 and 2019 is recommended)

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

**General**

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 with differing opinions.

Most news outlets now have their own free apps you can download.

**Reading**

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

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2014/aug/26/the-establishment-uncovered-how-power-works-in-britain-elites-stranglehold> (an article looking at who has power in the UK)

<https://labour.org.uk/> - <https://vote.conservatives.com/> (look at the main political parties policies/idea 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.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m000dsfg/acts-and-facts> (episodes on 1911, 1876, 1832, 1975 and devolution are good small introductions to various topics)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000ggnm/taking-control-the-dominic-cummings-story> (a look at a man with power behind the scenes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_3A_nChO1G8> (Labour Party History – up to 2015)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3fi-IhelrY> (Conservatie Party History – up to 2015)