

KS5 Reading List for Politics

TITLE & AUTHOR

Key Texts on UK Politics

1. **"The British Constitution: A Very Short Introduction"** by Martin Loughlin
 - a. An accessible and engaging overview of the UK's uncodified constitution.
2. **"The Politics Book"** by DK Publishing
 - a. A visual and easy-to-read guide to political theories and thinkers, including British political developments.
3. **"Prime Ministers: Reflections on Leadership from Wilson to Johnson"** edited by Iain Dale
 - a. A collection of essays analyzing the leadership styles and legacies of post-war UK prime ministers.

Reading list for ideologies

1. "Political Ideologies: An Introduction" by Andrew Heywood

- **Overview:** This is one of the most popular and comprehensive books on political ideologies. It provides clear, accessible explanations of major ideologies such as liberalism, conservatism, socialism, anarchism, feminism, and nationalism.
- **Why Useful:** It is aligned with the AQA specification, providing in-depth yet understandable content for students.

2. "The Politics Book" by DK

- **Overview:** This book offers a visual and simplified guide to major political ideologies and thinkers. It's a great introduction to the field of political theory and is particularly useful for visual learners.
- **Why Useful:** It covers key ideas from political thinkers and presents them in a format that's easy to follow.

3. "An Introduction to Political Theory" by John Hoffman and Paul Graham

- **Overview:** This book is an excellent resource for understanding the foundational concepts of political theory, including discussions on justice, liberty, democracy, and authority.
- **Why Useful:** It is often recommended for A-Level students due to its clear explanations and concise approach to complex political ideas.

4. "AQA A-Level Politics: Political Ideas" by Steve Haines

- **Overview:** Tailored specifically to the AQA A-Level Politics course, this book focuses on political ideas such as liberalism, conservatism, socialism, feminism, and nationalism. It's written with the AQA exam structure and content in mind.
- **Why Useful:** Directly matches the syllabus, and it's written specifically for students studying A-Level Politics.

5. "Political Ideas: A Reader" edited by Andrew Vincent

- **Overview:** A collection of essential texts from political theorists, including primary sources from thinkers such as John Locke, Karl Marx, and Mary Wollstonecraft.
- **Why Useful:** This is an essential reader for students looking to explore primary texts and understand the historical development of political ideas.

6. "The Oxford Handbook of Political Theory" edited by John S. Dryzek, Bonnie Honig, and Anne Philipps

- **Overview:** While this is an academic resource, it covers a wide range of political theories and thinkers, and it provides students with a deeper understanding of political concepts.
- **Why Useful:** This book is for more advanced students, offering a comprehensive overview of political thought across various ideologies.

7. "Feminism: A Very Short Introduction" by Margaret Walters

- **Overview:** This concise book is perfect for students exploring feminist political ideas, offering a thorough but accessible introduction to feminist theory.
- **Why Useful:** A focused and clear approach to feminist theory, which is a key part of the AQA curriculum.

8. "Theories of Political Economy" by James A. Caporaso and David P. Levine

- **Overview:** This book focuses on the economic aspect of political ideologies, providing insights into how political ideas are influenced by and influence economic structures.
- **Why Useful:** It's particularly helpful for students interested in the connections between economics and politics, especially within socialism and liberalism.

9. "The Communist Manifesto" by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels

- **Overview:** Essential reading for understanding Marxism, this short, foundational text outlines the principles of communist theory and critiques capitalist society.

- **Why Useful:** A crucial primary text for understanding socialist thought, particularly relevant to AQA's focus on political ideologies.

10. "A Short History of Political Thought" by Jon Roland

- **Overview:** A broad historical survey of key political ideas and thinkers, from ancient to modern times.
- **Why Useful:** It's an excellent resource for understanding how political ideas evolved over time, with clear explanations of complex ideas.

11. "The Politics of Equality: A Marxist Analysis of Welfare Policy" by Philip Harvey

- **Overview:** This book explores the concept of equality, an important issue in political theory, through a Marxist lens.
- **Why Useful:** For students exploring socialism and the critique of liberal capitalism, this is a useful book that digs deeper into political issues.

12. "Liberalism" by John Gray

- **Overview:** A thorough analysis of liberalism, examining its core principles, evolution, and various strands.
- **Why Useful:** A crucial text for understanding the ideological underpinnings of liberalism, one of the major ideologies in the AQA curriculum.

13. "Conservatism: A Very Short Introduction" by Sir Roger Scruton

- **Overview:** This book offers a succinct and insightful overview of conservative political thought, examining its key principles, evolution, and implications.
- **Why Useful:** Provides an excellent introduction to conservatism, which is essential for A-Level students studying political ideologies.

14. "Introduction to Political Philosophy" by Jonathan Wolff

- **Overview:** This is an accessible yet deep dive into political philosophy, covering key concepts like justice, freedom, and authority, which are central to understanding political ideologies.
- **Why Useful:** It offers a philosophical grounding in political ideas, ideal for students looking to deepen their theoretical understanding.

15. "The Social Contract" by Jean-Jacques Rousseau

- **Overview:** A key text for understanding social contract theory and its influence on modern political thought.
- **Why Useful:** Essential reading for understanding key concepts of political authority and governance.

Current Affairs and Analysis

1. **"The Road to Somewhere: The Populist Revolt and the Future of Politics"** by David Goodhart
 - Explores the divide between "Somewheres" (rooted in their communities) and "Anywheres" (global citizens) and its implications for UK politics.
2. **"Why We Get the Wrong Politicians"** by Isabel Hardman
 - A candid look at the challenges faced by MPs and how the political system can fail them and the public.
3. **"The Secret Barrister: Stories of the Law and How It's Broken"** by The Secret Barrister
 - A critical examination of the UK's legal system and its intersection with government policy.

Historical and Foundational Texts

1. **"Reflections on the Revolution in France"** by Edmund Burke
 - A cornerstone of conservative political thought with relevance to UK governance.
2. **"On Liberty"** by John Stuart Mill
 - A foundational text in liberal political philosophy, influencing UK political tradition.
3. **"Leviathan"** by Thomas Hobbes
 - An exploration of authority and governance that underpins much of British political theory.

Podcasts to Listen To

1. **The A Level Politics Show**
 - Hosted by Nick de Souza, this podcast covers UK and US political systems, ideologies, and A-Level exam tips.
2. **The Rest is Politics**
 - Alastair Campbell and Rory Stewart offer engaging discussions on UK and global politics from contrasting perspectives.
3. **Political Thinking with Nick Robinson**
 - BBC journalist Nick Robinson interviews leading political figures, delving into their motivations and thoughts on key issues.
4. **The Week in Westminster**
 - A Radio 4 program that breaks down UK parliamentary politics, with insights from MPs, journalists, and analysts.

TV and Online Shows to Watch

1. **BBC Question Time** (BBC One/iPlayer)
 - A weekly debate show with politicians, public figures, and audience interaction discussing current political topics.
2. **Politics Live** (BBC Two/iPlayer)

- A daily program focusing on the latest political news and discussions with cross-party guests.
- 3. **Sunday with Laura Kuennsberg** (BBC One/iPlayer)
 - A Sunday roundup of the week's political events, featuring interviews with prominent politicians.
- 4. **Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs)** (BBC Two/iPlayer)
 - Weekly live debates in Parliament, providing insights into parliamentary procedures and pressing political issues.