



A-Level Politics at RGS

Recommended initial reading and listening:

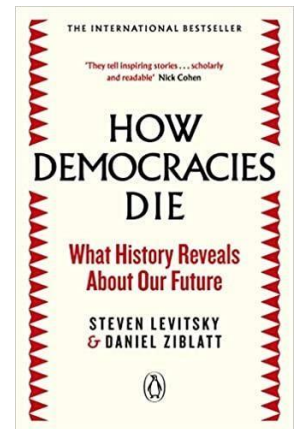
https://www.amazon.co.uk/How-Democracies-Die-International-Bestseller/dp/0241381355/ref=sr_1_1?crid=PHEQLVHHPS3Q&dchild=1&keywords=how+democracies+die&qid=1620717943&srefix=how+democ%2Caps%2C659&sr=8-1

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/RGSOnline-Resources\(1\).aspx](https://ripogrammarcouk.sharepoint.com/library/SitePages/RGSOnline-Resources(1).aspx). Available electronically through the library!

The Rest is Politics podcast



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 Statesman* 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).



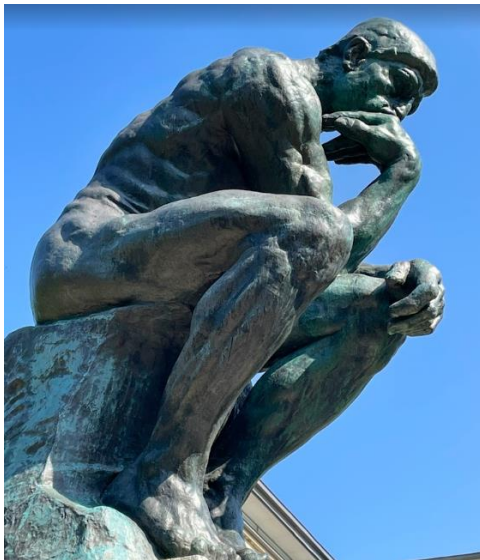
USA Politics

Read '0 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!



Political Ideologies

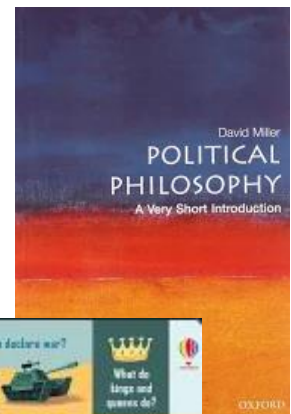


We will begin our study of ideologies exploring the roots of political philosophy:

[What's Philosophy? \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) is an excellent starting point – it is quite lengthy at 2 ½ hours, so not one to watch in one sitting!

This article [Ancient Political Philosophy \(Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy\)](https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ancient-political-philosophy/) is also an excellent, if a little dry, summary of ancient political thought that should help get you thinking along the right lines.

For useful introductions, the 'A Beginner's Guide' series is excellent, and has books on the key ideologies of liberalism, conservatism, socialism and feminism that make up Unit 3, as well



as more general texts like the one pictured here.

There are a range of great books designed to make the sometimes complex ideas of political philosophers accessible for younger readers, and this Usborne book has some great visual prompts for discussion.



There are also some great podcasts, particularly:

- **BBC R4 In Our Time** – huge range of thinkers, including Classical and later political philosophers
- **BBC R4** – British Liberalism: The Grand Tour, British Socialism: The Grand Tour; British Conservatism: The Grand Tour
- **BBC R4** – Public Philosopher
- **BBC R4** – Political Thinking with Nick Robinson
- **BBC R4** - The Invention Of... (great series looking at historical development of nation states from all over the globe)