

Preparation for Politics A-level: JMF6

Summer Work and Post-GCSE Extension work

Units in A-level

- Government and Politics of the UK
- Government and Politics of the USA (and comparative politics)
- Political ideas

Please find below a menu of work you can complete. Each task has been allocated a number of "points". You should aim for a minimum of 120 points.

<p>Complete an Open University free online course in any area of historical interest to you. https://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue</p> <p>The following courses are likely to be of particular interest to A-level politics students:</p> <p>From Brexit to the break-up of Britain? The law-making process in England and Wales The politics of devolution The USA, power and international order: Foreign policy under Obama</p> <p>However do feel free to explore any politics-themed courses of interest to you; just ensure it is politics-related!</p> <p>Points = 10x recommended hours. E.g. if 2 recommended hours = 20 points, if 12 hours = 120 points.</p>	<p>Reactions to the Coronavirus.</p> <p>The big story this summer is likely to be the continued reaction to Coronavirus and recovery. The political decisions and implications are huge:</p> <p>Which countries' health systems cope well and how do they manage this? What do countries define as essential industries and how do they reach these decisions? What restrictions do countries put on the freedoms of their citizens? How do they react to these and why do they make different choices? What are the economic implications and solutions?</p> <p>The politics of many nations are thrown into stark relief here as we see what their governments can do, can't do, and want to do and how their citizens react.</p> <p>Complete a comparative analysis of how two or more countries have handled, and continue to handle, the coronavirus and what it tells you about their political systems. Divide your analysis into themes (e.g. "healthcare", "restrictions" ... you pick the others).</p> <p>Points: 10 per country analysed.</p>	<p>Non coronavirus news!</p> <p>Pick an issue that emerges in the news and follow it over several articles. The "issue" must last at least a week and involve reading at least 5 articles.</p> <p>Once the issue drops out of the news summarise: What made the story newsworthy? Which groups were involved in this issue – what was their stake/position/opinion? Why was the issue of interest to a politics student? Was the issue well-handled? Why do you think that?</p> <p>Your summary should be no more than a page long and should include links to the articles you read.</p> <p>Points: 15 points for an issue in the British news, 25 for an issue in international news from any other country.</p> <p>A good resource to use is the BBC News website https://www.bbc.co.uk/news This has a "World" section broken down by regions and countries.</p>
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The following concepts are foundational in political thinking and understanding. For each concept research what it means and produce a succinct summary (ideally a sentence or two) with an example of where you would see it in the world today:

Democracy
Dictatorship
Autocracy
Human Right
Civil Right
Pressure Group
Written Constitution
Unwritten Constitution
Devolution
Multi-National Organisation
Feminism
Liberalism
Nationalism
Marxism
Libertarianism
Referendum

Points = 5 per concept.

Reading *The Economist* this is probably the single most useful publication for an A-level or university politics students to read regularly. You don't have to read the whole thing and they have a mixture of small articles, opinion pieces, in-depth analysis and extended briefing pieces, so you can ease in. Material from any section would be great, but obviously the sections on Britain and America will be most directly useful.

My understanding is that you can access The Economist through rbdigital.com (see link: <https://www.rbdigital.com/oxfordshire/service/magazines/landing?>). Oxfordshire libraries subscribes to rbdigital along with a wide range of other public information and news services.

All you need to do is join your local library and you can use your membership number to access the material online:

https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/leisure-and-culture/libraries/reference-online/news-magazines-and-research?utm_term=nil&utm_content=

I have used this with students before without great difficulty, for other publications, so anticipate it being easy. However let me know if this does not work or you need any further help.

For each article, summarise: the key issue, the editorial position of the newspaper (if any), their prediction of what will happen next (if any), a key fact/piece of data, your view on the issue. You should use no more than 5 bullet points.

Points = 1 per bullet point, maximum of 5 for a single article.