



# 5 hours in Politics

Research shows that the most successful students (i.e. those that make the most progress and get the highest grades) are doing between 20 and 25 hours of independent study per week by the end of Year 13. That may seem a lot, but it's something that you would build up to over the course of your A-Levels. In Year 12, we're talking something more like 15 hours per week. This equates to roughly 5 hours of independent study per A-Level per subject.

Remember that your independent study is divided into three types – **Consolidation, Reactive and Proactive**. How this is divided may vary from week to week or between subjects but one approach could be:

## Consolidation - 45mins

Straight after a lesson, or that evening / the following day you should reread your notes, talk a topic through with somebody, write summaries, mindmaps, flashcards e.g. for equations, definitions, facts you need to recall etc. Look at the consolidation section in Teams for additional ideas.

## Reactive – 3hrs

This is your 'homework'. Each of your teachers should give you at least 1 hours' worth of homework each week. This could be linked to any upcoming exams. Include any self quizzing, retrieval practise and up to date examples – use web sites suggested below.

If you find this takes more than 1 hour, that's fine, you can take this from the proactive phase (not from the consolidation phase though). Equally, if you find you finish your reactive work quickly, spend more time on your proactive work.

## Proactive – 1hr 15mins

This is the section that will broaden and deepen your overall understanding of the subject you are studying. It will not necessarily involve work that has been set by your teacher, but instead it is about you doing the extra practice questions, reading articles, watching videos, TED talks etc. In politics is might contain some of the following:

- Complete a set of practice past paper questions – available from the exam board website and Teams (1 hour)
- Use Parliament and Congress websites to research current key politicians
- Look at the voting records of the local MPs and the front benchers
- Use the specification checklists in Teams to check understanding (20 mins)
- Look through Aiming for an A Guide in Teams for tips to improve answers (30 mins)
- Creation of your knowledge organisers (1 hour)
- "Read, Cover, Write and Check" sections of Knowledge organisers (30 mins)
- Watch a TED talk/You tube on a relevant topic (20 mins)
- Listen to a podcast on UK and/or US politics
- Check BBC or similar for the latest politics updates to use for examples – news items are the best

### Useful links

<https://www.tutor2u.net/politics>

<https://www.parliament.uk/>

<https://www.congress.gov/>

<https://www.hoddereducationmagazines.com/topic/extra-reading/>

<https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/the-news-agents/id1640878689>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/p07h19zz>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news>

