



POLITICS

Level of Study: A-Level

Description of Course

“Politics is the art of choosing between the disastrous and the unpalatable” – John Kenneth Galbraith.

Studying Politics at A-Level is your opportunity to learn about and fully understand the world around you. With huge shifts happening in UK Politics, the exit from the EU and America there has never been a better time to study the fascinating decisions and structures that impact our day to day life.

We study the Edexcel specification which is the most widely studied in the country. An advantage of this is that there are simply more resources available that can help our students in their learning.

All specifications currently contain three distinctive topic elements:

- UK Politics
- US Politics (with a comparative element)
- Political ideas and ideologies

UK Politics

- The British Constitution
- The role and structure of Parliament
- The Prime Minister and Cabinet
- The Judiciary
- Devolution
- Democracy and Participation
- Elections and Referendums
- Political Parties
- Pressure Groups
- The European Union

US Politics and comparative politics

- The US Constitution
- Congress
- The Presidency
- The Judiciary
- The Electoral Process and Direct Democracy
- Political Parties
- Pressure Groups
- Civil Rights
- A comparison of UK and US constitutional arrangements, legislatures, executives, judiciaries, electoral and party systems, pressure groups and civil rights



Political ideas and ideologies

- Liberalism
- Conservatism
- Socialism
- Anarchism

Skills Required

An enquiring mind which likes to argue and debate opinions in an informed manner and **the need to take an interest in and keep up to date with current affairs is essential**. Government and Politics is not a subject which can be learned through the use of a single textbook. Indeed one of the exciting challenges posed by the subject is the requirement to use as many contemporary examples in your written answers as possible. **As such you must be willing to spend time reading quality newspapers and up to date books around the topics studied as well as researching using the Internet or watching political news programmes as and when necessary.** In order to contextualise up to date events you must be prepared to fill in any gaps in your own knowledge. In order to help with these demands there are a range of options available for extending your knowledge outside of normal lesson time.

Entry Qualifications

General GCSE requirements for A-Level courses. We would expect students to have gained grade 6 in English and to have studied a Humanities subject at GCSE also to a grade 6 (especially History).

Method of Assessment

Politics is assessed entirely through examination. There is no coursework element. There are three examinations, which are worth equal weighting. These include essay questions and source questions.

Contact Name

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Educational Progression and Career Opportunities

Politics is highly regarded as an academic subject by university admissions tutors. Using similar skills of evaluation and analysis to the other Humanities subjects, it fits well into the A-Level profile. Success in Politics reflects the ability to debate and conclude arguments, interpret information and write fluently and articulately, all of which are skills important to universities regardless of the degree course you may apply for. It is pleasing to note that several recent students have been excited enough by the subject to go on to study Politics related courses at university.