

Politics A Level

Examination Board:
Edexcel

Entry Requirements:
Grade 5 in English Language.
Grade 5 in History is helpful
but not essential

Potential Career Opportunities:

Following completion of the Politics A Level, a number of possibilities are open to you. It may be that you decide to extend your knowledge of politics by taking a University degree in the subject, or in a related area such as international relations. This might lead you to become involved in politics in a practical way - by working for a political research organisation or as an assistant to an MP, or possibly even by seeking election to local government or Parliament.

At A Level you will have learned essential skills which complement a great variety of career paths, including Law, Journalism, the Media and the Civil Service. And of course you will never look at the news in the same way. You will have a deeper understanding of the stories behind the headlines, and be much better equipped to play your part as an active citizen in the world you are about to enter.

Course Overview:

Year 12

Component 1: UK Politics

1. Political Participation includes democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media.
2. Core Political Ideas: conservatism, liberalism, socialism.

Component 2: UK Government

1. UK Government, includes the constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, relationships between the branches.
2. Non-core political ideas: one from a choice of anarchism, ecologism, feminism, multiculturalism, nationalism.

Year 13

Component 3: Comparative Politics: The USA

You will study the US Constitution, Congress, presidency, and Supreme Court; civil rights, democracy and participation, and theories which compare the US and UK.

Assessment:

There are three examinations taken at the end of the course.

Why would this course suit me?

Politics, perhaps more than any other A Level subject, explains the society in which we live. Politicians are responsible for the public services we use and how they are organised and funded. The decisions that affect our schools and colleges, our health service, and armed forces are all political decisions. Our rights and responsibilities as citizens - the power of the state over us, and our ability to choose and influence those in authority - also form part of politics. How fair and representative is our voting system? How do people organise themselves to put pressure on government? How powerful is Parliament? If you are interested in these and similar questions, then this is the subject for you.

How does this course link to other subjects?

Politics links well to other subjects which explain our society, particularly History, Economics and Sociology, as well as Philosophy. It requires a good standard of written and spoken English as it requires you to write essays which display your critical thinking skills.