



Entry Requirements:

Five grade 9–6 at GCSE. 9–6 GCSE English and History are recommended.

A genuine interest in Politics and current affairs.

A-level Course Summary:

Paper 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas

You will examine Democracy and Participation, Political Parties, differing electoral systems, as well as the political basis of Conservatism, Socialism and Liberalism. **Two-hour written exam, 33% of qualification – taught over Years 12 and 13.**

Paper 2: UK Government and Non-core Political Ideas

You will examine the processes of government by evaluating the UK Constitution, Parliament, the Prime Minister and the non-core political idea of Anarchism. **Two-hour written exam, 33% of – taught in Year 12.**

Paper 3: Government and Politics of the USA

This paper not only examines the processes of American government and politics, but also requires you compare and evaluate them against UK processes of government. **Two-hour written exam, 33% of qualification – taught in Year 13.**

Other Course Information:

Edexcel's A-level Politics textbook costs £35 and covers the entire course. There will also be an opportunity to travel to Washington DC and visit the Houses of Parliament in Westminster.

Politics

Exam Board: Edexcel

Politics is all around you; in the workplace, in schools, even in your own home. Everyday, decisions are being made that will affect the lives of millions of people in this country and around the world. Yet what is Politics? What do politicians do when they do politics? Similarly, what is Democracy? Is Britain a democracy?

The aim of this course is two-fold. Firstly, to provide students with a sound understanding of how our system of government works, the 'actors' that influence the political process and the political ideas behind them as well as to consider current issues and potential reforms. Secondly, to develop your skills of independent investigative research and your ability to critically analyse information; thereby enabling you to express your thoughts and ideas clearly, concisely and construct a logical and forceful argument both verbally and in writing.

The course makes full use of a wide range of teaching methods including student presentations and debates as well as opportunities to attend seminars and conferences. The course will seek to maximise opportunities of ICT and trips to Parliament and visiting speakers.

Politics is a very well regarded subject for the following University courses and careers: Journalism, Banking, Finance, Economics, Law, Business Studies, European Studies, History, Philosophy, Sociology, the Media and other Social Studies courses including Public Administration.

Who is the course for?

- Students with a willingness to work hard and put effort into this challenging yet rewarding subject.
- A willingness to engage in political discussion and contribute to class debates as well as learn from others.
- An ability to work independently and research new topics.
- An ability to present a reasoned and balanced argument both verbally and in writing.



Politics

Topics

In Year 12 you will focus on the British political systems. You will examine how people interact with politics on a daily basis, the impact of electoral systems on the outcomes of elections and how the media can influence election results and the agenda of the government. We will also scrutinise the inner workings of Parliament.

In Year 13 we then shift our focus to Political ideologies and American politics. You will compare the American and British political systems and examine the ways in which they are similar, but also very different! Exploring the political ideologies of Conservatism, Socialism, Liberalism and Anarchy can also help you to make sense of your own political beliefs.

What are lessons like?

Reading and guided classroom learning await you in A-level Politics and a lot of subjects to debate!

Where can Politics lead?

An A-level in Politics lends itself to multiple career pathways from law, media and journalism to management, the civil service and both local and national government. The skills you develop as part of the programme open the doors to plenty of subjects post A-level.

Trips

There is an annual trip to the Houses of Parliament and the UK Supreme Court, which also provides the opportunity for you to put some questions to our local MP as part of an education session. We have also previously run trips to Washington D.C to visit the US Congress building, the US Supreme Court, Lincoln memorial and the ultimate photo opportunity outside the White House.

