



A Level Government and Politics

Is Government and Politics the subject for you?

If you love to debate, discuss and argue, then Politics is for you! People disagree about many things such as 'How should people live?' 'What rules or principles should guide our behaviour?' 'How should power and resources be distributed?' 'How should society be organised?' In this subject you will consider all these questions and many more.

This subject is suited for you if you have an interest in the world around you; if you want to know more about the society you live in and the institutions that have ruled your life ever since you were born.

Politics is not a subject of absolute rights or absolute wrongs; it is a subject of rival viewpoints and competing opinions. The challenge of politics is to develop your own views and opinions in light of the viewpoints and perspectives available to you. This means, above all, thinking for yourself.

Course content

In Year 12 students study two broad themes; UK Politics and UK Government. In UK Politics, you will study Democracy and Political Participation, Political Parties, Electoral Systems and Voting Behaviour. In Governing the UK you will study The Constitution, Parliament, The Prime Minister and Executive and Relations between Institutions. After AS Exams, we will study Conservatism, Liberalism, Socialism, (Core Political Ideas) and then either Feminism or Multiculturalism (Non Core Political Ideas)

In Year 13 students will study either American or Global Politics. The US unit includes the US Constitution, US Congress, US Presidency and comparative theories. The Global Unit includes Sovereignty and globalisation, Global governance regionalism and the EU and comparative theories.

Methods of study

Students will learn through teacher led sessions as well as student presentations. Discussion and debate will be at the very heart of lessons, so student input is vital to the running of a successful lesson. Students will learn how to critically analyse articles and journals from broadsheet newspapers such as The Times, The Guardian and The Independent, as well as reading Politics Review. Students will also learn to objectively scrutinise political television programmes such as Panorama, Question Time and The Daily Politics Show as well as listening to Westminster Hour on Radio 4. Essay writing practice will be integral to this course; you will learn how to write clear, well structured essays in order to ensure you achieve your very best in this subject.

How will it be examined?

AS Level at the end of Year 12 will be on UK Politics and UK Government. Two Exams of 1 hr 45 minutes. Each exam counts for 50% of the AS Level. This does not count as part of A-Level.

A-Level at the end of Year 13, will be on UK Politics and Core Political Ideas, UK Government and Non Core Political Ideas, and Component Politics (either US or Global Politics). Three Exams of 2 hours which each count for 33.3 %. This will make up the entire A-Level.

Career opportunities

According to the official UK statistics, last year 'property development, renting, business and research activities' recruited the highest number of Politics graduates, with 'public

administration, defence, and social services' second. Politics is particularly useful if you are considering a career in Law, Business/Retail Management, the Media or Civil Service. However the knowledge and skills which the study of Politics will give you, will be welcomed by any employer. Do not just consider the usefulness of the subject, you may simply be interested in learning about Politics and attracted by a new challenge.
