



POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

Intent – What do we learn and why?

The A-Level Politics course enables students to develop their knowledge and informed understanding of contemporary political structures and issues in their historical context, both in the UK and globally. They are able to develop a critical awareness of the ever-changing nature of politics and the relationships between political ideas, institutions and processes. Students gain an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of individuals and groups. Key skills include the ability to critically analyse, interpret and evaluate political information to form arguments and make judgements. Studying the course allows students to develop an interest in, and engagement with, contemporary politics and the world around them.

"Everything is Politics."

Thomas Mann

Implementation – How is the curriculum planned?



We follow the Edexcel A-Level Politics specification [Edexcel AS & A level Politics \(2017\)](#) | [Pearson qualifications](#). In Year 12, students study elements of UK Politics including Democracy and Participation, Political Parties, Electoral Systems and the influence of the media. Alongside this, they learn about elements of UK Government – the Constitution, Devolution, role of the Prime Minister and the relationship between the three branches of politics; the executive, legislature and judiciary. Students also study core and non-core political ideas; Socialism, Liberalism, Conservatism and Feminism, Anarchism or Nationalism, for example. In Year 13, students will study Global or US Politics, comparing and contrasting what they have learned in Y12. Learning throughout the course is underpinned by some of the current debates within politics, for instance, how healthy is democracy in the UK? Should the UK have a codified constitution?

Assessment – How do we assess student understanding of Politics & Government?

A range of formative, summative and diagnostic marking and feedback are used to assess student's level of knowledge, understanding and skill. In addition to the work in their workbooks and folders, students complete a range of formal assessments, with a focus on source skills and extended essay writing. These assessments are closely linked to the Assessment Objectives – Knowledge and Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation.

Students have regular assessments using real exam questions and mark schemes to give the best possible practice for the exam style assessment they will face at the end of the course. Mock exams, both classroom based and in a formal setting, replicate the exam experience as closely as possible.

Home Learning

Learning outside of the classroom is an essential part of the Politics A-Level. As Politics is constantly changing, students need to independently keep up to date with current affairs; through newspapers, reliable internet sources or podcasts. All students complete a 'Politics Example Log' of current developments; for instance, Party Conferences, By-Elections or developments in Europe and regularly utilise these in their writing and assessments. Students complete a weekly Politics quiz and take it in turns to deliver a roundup of current news and developments. In addition to this, students can expect formal tasks to be set weekly as Home Learning and Directed Study, through Class Charts. These might be wider reading or research, practice exam questions or exercises to develop understanding. The Politics Department staff are always available should any students need additional help, support or discussion.

