

Politics

COURSE CODE

AS Level 8PLO

A Level 9PLO

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 6 or above in English Language.
- 6 or above in History, Geography or English Literature.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

Politics is a dynamic subject that offers students the opportunity to develop an insight into current affairs as they unfold. Political developments are studied in their historical context and combined with an understanding of political concepts, ideologies and systems. Students critically examine contrasting political positions and use rigorous analysis to develop their understanding. Students are encouraged to put their ideas to the test in classroom debate and independent study. There are 3 components:

1. **UK Politics:** Considers democracy and participation in the UK, exploring the foundations of democracy and the opportunities to participate that exist in the UK; the role of political parties in the political system, communicating political views and shaping ideas; the impact of different voting systems, the media and the behaviour of voters at elections
2. **UK Government:** Focuses on aspects of governing the UK and the key institutions involved. Students examine Britain's unique constitution and look at the structure, role and powers of Parliament, the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. In addition, students will consider the relationship between the different institutions in the UK and with the EU. Students also consider the core political ideologies that underpin the political system, liberalism, conservatism and socialism. In addition, they have the opportunity to explore in greater depth the ideology and thinkers associated with one of the following anarchism, ecologism, feminism, multiculturalism or nationalism.
3. **Government and Politics of the USA:** Concentrates on the USA; students study the US Constitution, its foundations, principles and the arguments surrounding its operation today; the role, membership and powers of the three branches of government, Congress, the Supreme Court and the President. Students also examine democracy in the USA; presidential elections, political parties and pressure groups. In addition, students study civil rights in the USA, setting this in a historical context and considering the implications for modern US society. Throughout this component students make comparisons with the UK and analyse the strengths and weaknesses of each.

ASSESSMENT

AS Level

- UK Politics and UK Government are assessed in two 1 hour 45 minutes written examinations in June. Both exams are a mixture of shorter questions and essays. (The results from these examinations will not count towards the final A2 result).

A Level

- UK Politics, UK Government and the Government and Politics of the USA are examined in three written examinations of 2 hours in June (each worth 33.3% of the total A Level). All exams are a mixture of shorter questions and essays.

NEXT STEPS

The Politics course provides students with the analytical skills to evaluate a broad range of political developments. Most students are keen to continue their studies to A2 and then onto university to study a variety of courses including Politics, Law, International Relations, PPE, History, Economics Journalism, and Criminology.

CAREER INFORMATION

Politics is highly regarded by leading universities as a subject that develops analytical skills and encourages independent thought; these abilities can be adapted to a wide range of subjects and enable students to follow a wide range of professional career paths for example politics, journalism, law, business and economics. Many students undertake work experience with a Member of Parliament; this provides them with a unique insight into the way politics operates in this country.

