



Politics

Exam Board: Edexcel

Contact teacher: Ms J Wilkie, Mr J Valente

Why study Politics?

Do you have an interest in contemporary politics? Do you want to learn about the forces which contributed to the recent UK election results? Do you want to understand how international challenges, from terrorism to environmental degradation, are being addressed by global political activity? If so, Politics is the course for you. Politics provides an opportunity to develop understanding of the local, national, and global dimensions of political activity. Politics looks at the working of the political system in the UK and investigates the underlying structures of government, the ideologies that underpin it, and the interaction of people within the political process.

The emphasis is on contemporary politics, so information is constantly being updated and views changed.

Areas of study/Course details

The course is divided into three components:

- **Component 1**, UK Politics, covers the nature of politics and how people engage in the political process including the role of political parties, election system and participation. The political ideologies of socialism, liberalism and conservatism are also explored.
- **Component 2**, UK Government, covers the structure of the UK political system including the constitution, the role of Parliament, the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Judicial system as well as the relationships and balance of power between them. The history and development of feminism as a political ideology is also studied.
- **Component 3**, Global Politics, covers comparative theories of global politics and how the interpretation of these perspectives can be applied to the process of globalisation. Global government is studied along with its impact on the area of global poverty, human rights and the environment.

How is the course taught and assessed?

All the content will be taught in lessons, with opportunities to discuss how current events shape the details and content of the course. It is expected that students will also make time outside lessons to keep abreast of current events in the news including awareness of current political debate in the media. Lessons will cover awareness of the three assessment objectives (knowledge, analysis and evaluation) and how to structure essays in order to meet these objectives. There will be some practise questions during lessons, but the majority of consolidation time will be outside lessons, with arising addressed during subsequent lessons.

Assessment is entirely examination based and there is no course work. There are three examinations covering the three components and each examination is two hours long. All questions, on each of the three papers, are essays based.

The course covers the Edexcel examination board specification.

Entry Requirements

Students need to have gained at least a grade 6 in English Language GCSE. It is beneficial if students have studied History GCSE, but not essential.

Career routes and popular combinations

Many students go on to study Politics at university, either on its own or in combination with other subjects such as Philosophy and Economics. The subject also supports a broad range of application as a understanding of the contemporary world opens many other options at university. Politics is one of the subjects which is highly regarded by universities and is particularly useful for students wanting to pursue careers in the legal profession, the civil service, teaching, local government, politics, the police and when working in think tanks, pressure groups and other charity sector.

A Level Politics is often studied alongside History, English Literature, Religious Philosophy, Economics, Law and Sociology.