



Politics A Level (Edexcel)

Why study this subject?

If you enjoy current affairs, learning about UK and US politics and have an interest in political ideas, an A Level in Politics will both interest and challenge you.

Entry Requirements

Please see the entry requirements page on the school website.

Content

Unit 1 – Government and Politics of the UK

You will study how UK Parliament works; the relationship with Prime Minister and Cabinet; our constitution including devolution; the judiciary; elections and referendums; pressure groups; political parties and our changing relationship with the EU.

Unit 2 – The Government and Politics of the USA and Comparative Politics

You will study how the US constitution works; the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government; democracy; pressure groups and civil rights. Comparative politics involves comparing US and UK political systems through structural, rational and cultural theories.

Unit 3 – Political Ideas

You will study four political ideas: conservatism, liberalism, socialism and feminism. Your study will include these ideologies' views on human nature, society and the role of the state. You will explore the ideas of key thinkers such as Hobbes and Locke and investigate internal tensions within each set of political beliefs.

Assessment

All three units are assessed by a two hour external examination. There is no coursework component. The exams consist of three short answer questions, a source-based question and an extended essay question.

Future courses and possible careers

Recent students of Government and Politics A Level have gone on to study a range of subjects including Politics, Law, History, and Politics, Philosophy and Economics at a variety of prestigious institutions, such as the London School of Economics, Warwick University, Manchester University, Nottingham University, Durham University and more. Others have gained places on competitive apprenticeships programmes, such as those with Transport for London.