

A-Level Politics

Exam Board: Edexcel

What does the course cover?

Component 1: UK Politics (33.3 % of the qualification)

In this option students will study the core political ideas of Conservatism, Liberalism and Socialism as well as the ideas of political participation- democracy, electoral systems, voting behavior and the role and impact of the media.

Component 2: UK Government (33.3% of the qualification)

In this option students will study aspects of the UK Government including the constitution, parliament, the role of the Prime Minister and executive power and the relationships between these different branches of government. Students will also study one political idea from the following: anarchism, ecologism, feminism, multiculturalism or nationalism.

Component 3: Comparative Politics (33.3% of the qualification)

In this option students will study the US Constitution and federalism, US Congress, US Presidency, US Supreme Court, democracy and participation and civil rights **OR** Global Politics which includes globalization, regionalism, the European Union and global governance.

What skills will the course help you develop?

Studying politics will help you develop your analytical skills and ability to construct an argument as well as giving you a deep understanding of how events and the parliamentary process and political ideas have shaped Britain. The course will help you gain important knowledge and understanding of how government of our country works including the political institutions, processes, concepts and issues. You will learn how to critically appraise and evaluate different aspects of politics and political information. With an emphasis on written communication, personal research and discussion, Politics A-Level will help you develop a range of important skills.

How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed through 3 external exams in Year 13, all 2 hours in length and equally weighted. The papers are a mixture of essays and source based questions. Paper 1 covers UK Politics, Paper 2 covers the UK Government and other political ideas such as anarchism, multiculturalism or feminism, and Paper 3 covers either American Politics or Global Politics

What do students who study this course go on to do?

Politics A-Level is a suitable preparation for a wide range of university degree courses and employment opportunities. This subject is widely applicable to many different areas, such as Law, the Sciences, Anthropology, and other Arts based subjects. Politics A-Level particularly complements History A-Level.

What are the entry requirements?

Students wishing to study Politics should have 5 A*-C GCSEs, including a grade B in GCSE English.

Who is the staff contact for Politics?

Ms Riches is the Head of Department, working with Ms Bunn as part of the A-Level Politics team.