



Politics

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Qualifications and Qualities Needed

A genuine interest in contemporary political developments is absolutely essential: students will need to commit to following the news and reading good quality newspapers each week.

As a subject rooted in extended written work, essay writing, and extensive reading it is essential that students have a very good standard of written English and communication.

You should have a grade 6 in a Humanities subject and grade 6 in GCSE English. This will help you to analyse complex material and to complete extended writing tasks on a regular basis.

Course Structure

Edexcel (9PL0)

A-level:

- Unit 1: UK Politics
- Unit 2: UK Government
- Unit 3: USA Government and Politics

In Year 12 the focus is on UK Government and Politics:

Politics of the UK:

- Democracy
- Political Parties
- Pressure Groups
- Elections

Government of the UK:

- The Constitution
- The Executive (Prime Minister and the Cabinet)
- The Legislature (Houses of Parliament)
- The Judiciary

In Year 13 the focus is on the USA Government and Politics. This involves a similar range of topics as for the UK, but there is also the additional expectation that you will make comparisons between the political systems in the final exam.

Complementary Subjects

Politics complements many subjects such as Economics and Sociology, however, it is the ideal complement to students taking History.

Trips and Visits

There may be visits organised to the Houses of Parliament and the Supreme Court. There may also be speakers and debates organised.

Future Pathways

An A-level in Politics shows you have the ability to discuss, analyse and write extended pieces of work as well as indicating that you have an interest in the world around you. As a result, universities look upon Politics very highly. Politics students have gone on to have a wide range of careers. Some popular choices have been in law, politics, journalism and teaching.